



Career Options in **INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS**

Many college students are attracted to the idea of a job in international affairs. Such positions are indeed available, but it is difficult to get into an interesting career with only a B.A. degree. Either graduate education of some sort, direct job experience, or both are usually necessary. It is not uncommon for people in international affairs to move from one type of career to another, from government to business, for example. Globalization of economic, political, social and cultural activity has created new opportunities and challenges for tomorrow's leaders in international affairs. The events of September 11 have also made clear that we live in an uncertain world, one in which the need for increased international understanding and cooperation has been underscored. An international affairs degree prepares students for a wide variety of exciting careers in diplomacy and public service, business, security, conflict resolution, development and public health. Regional specializations equip students for careers requiring in-depth knowledge of a particular area of the world.

REGIONAL CONCENTRATIONS:

- Africa
- Asia
- Europe and Eurasia
- Latin America
- Middle East

SAMPLE OCCUPATIONS: Please note that this is not an exhaustive list of occupations related to this major. Specific requirements based on education level for each occupation may vary. For additional information and assistance, please speak with a Career Consultant.

Congressional/Legislative Aide
Diplomatic Officer
FBI/CIA Agent
International Broadcaster
Missionary
International Relations Specialist
ESL Teacher

Customs Inspector
Diplomatic Aide
National Security Agent
United Nations Worker
Foreign Travel Escort Officer
Foreign News Correspondent
Professor

SAMPLE WORK SETTINGS:

Colleges & Universities
United Nations
Business & Industry
Investment Firms

Foreign Service
Non-Profit Organizations
Public Relations Firms
Media

Government Agencies
Peace Corps
Travel Agencies
Import/Export Companies

RELATED MAJOR SKILLS & CHARACTERISTICS:

Curiosity and creativity
Oral communication
Organizational skills
Speaking in groups
Evaluating results

Problem solving
Team-worker
People skills
Clarifying ideas
Gathering information

Flexibility
Foreign Language
One-on-one interaction
Interpreting data
Assessing needs

SAMPLE GW RESOURCES

GW CAREER CENTER RESOURCES

GWork: <http://gwired.gwu.edu/career>

Career Search: <http://gwired.gwu.edu/career/StudentsAlumni/careerdevelopment/CareerSearch/>

GW DEPARTMENTAL INFORMATION: <http://www.gwu.edu/~elliott/>

SAMPLE WEBSITES:

International Affairs Career Planning Resources:

International Career Resources: <http://www.umich.edu/~icenter/overseas/>

US International Trade Statistics: <http://www.census.gov/ftp/pub/foreign-trade/www/>

International Affairs Job Search Resources:

Work Abroad Resources: <http://www.transabroad.com/frames/trwork.htm>

America's Job Bank: <http://www.ajb.dni.us/>

United Nations Jobs: <http://Jobs.un.org>

World Wide Employment Office: <http://www.employmentoffice.net/>

International Job Search: <http://www.international-job-search.com>

World Bank: <http://www.worldbank.org>

Idealist: <http://www.idealists.org>

International Affairs Professional Organizations & Associations:

The Federation of International Trade Organizations: <http://www.fita.org/>

The Office of Trade and Economic Analysis: <http://www.ita.doc.gov/tradestats/>

World Trade Organization: <http://www.wto.org/>

Amnesty International Homepage: <http://www.amnesty.org>

Commonwealth Secretariat: <http://www.thecommonwealth.org/>

Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development: <http://www.oecd.org/home/>

Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries: <http://www.opec.org/>

Organization of American States: <http://www.oas.org/>

Center for Immigration Studies: <http://www.cis.org/>

Council on Foreign Relations: <http://www.cfr.org/>

Region-Specific Resources:

- **Africa**

African Development Bank: <http://www.afdb.org>

Africare: <http://www.africare.org>

- **Asia**

Asia-Pacific Economic Corporation: <http://www.apec.org>

Association of South-East Asian Nations: <http://www.aseansec.org/home.htm>

Asian Development Bank: <http://www.adb.org/default.asp>

- **Europe and Eurasia**

Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe: <http://www.osce.org/>

European Educational Services: <http://www.eusa-edu.com/>

- **Latin America**

Career Frames: http://www.careerframes.com/links_main_intl/latin_links.htm

Latin World: <http://www.latinworld.com/centro/index.html>

- **Middle East**

AME Middle East Business Resources: <http://www.ameinfo.com/>

Career Middle East: <http://www.careermideast.com/>

Developed by:

The George Washington University Career Center

1922 F St, NW (Old Main)

202-994-6495

<http://gwired.gwu.edu/career>

Last revised: 3/20/2007