Canadian Studies
CAREER GUIDE

What to do with a degree in ... CANADIAN STUDIES

If you are questioning your career options or what others like you are doing with their degree, this guide is a good place to start. It will provide you with industry-specific information on careers, schools, associations, labour market information, and more.

Career & Leadership Development Centre

dal.ca/cldc
**Overview of Major and Job options**

**Why take Canadian Studies?**

Discover what makes Canada the country it is—and who its people are—in terms of history, politics, culture, and society. In this era of globalized economies and a growing sense of international citizenship and responsibilities, Canadian Studies programs are enjoying something of a renaissance. Knowing ourselves and in the world as Canadians remains a legitimate – even urgent – task for students and scholars alike. [Dalhousie Canadian Studies Department]

Like many degrees, Canadian studies does not prepare you for a single career path. Instead it provides you many options. The career options available to you will likely depend on what transferable skills you have developed, and your career interests and goals. When considering where to start keep in mind any significant projects you were involved in, internships, personal strengths, past employment, and other background information that may guide you.

Though you can end up in a variety of jobs with this degree the skills you have developed may make you especially competitive in the following areas:

- Law Enforcement  
- Parks Canada  
- Research  
- Politics  
- Tourism  
- Economics  
- Social Activism  
- Unions  
- Non-Profit  
- Foreign Service  
- Public Relations  
- Public Interest Groups

It is also important to identify positions outside of your field but within your skill set. In your studies you will have developed a number of transferable skills that can be used across multiple fields. These skills include:

- Cultural understanding  
- Political understanding  
- Interpersonal skills  
- Research  
- Persuasive writing  
- Teamwork  
- Critical analysis  
- Meeting deadlines  
- Giving presentations

Your options will be influenced by your level of education. If you pursue a Masters or PhD, your career opportunities directly related to the field will improve. Alternatively, individuals who complete additional graduate or certification programs may expand into other fields. Here are options available to a Canadian Studies graduate who has completed additional training:

- Demographer  
- Stock Broker  
- Lawyer  
- Government Administration  
- Counsellor  
- Market Analyst  
- Professor/Instructor  
- Economist  
- Librarian  
- Teacher  
- Real Estate Agent

With the plethora of options a Canadian Studies graduate can choose, it can be hard to know where to start when looking for a career. It would be of value to try out as many different jobs, positions, and experiences to help discover what you are good at and enjoy. This will help point you in the right direction when looking for a career path.
Opportunities in Your Program

CANA 3107.06 - An experiential learning course that will allow you to develop real world experience alongside classroom learning. Students are required to volunteer 60 hours each term.

CANDA 4001 - This class will provide you with the opportunity to conduct research and work in close consultation with a faculty member.

Opportunities at School

Involvement in extra curricular activities will make you a more competitive candidate for positions in your field. It will also give you the chance to focus on any specialties you are interested in. Consider joining a program like the ones listed:

- Dalhousie Canadian Studies Society
- DAL Action
- Dalhousie Collaborative Education Society
- DALConnects

The Dalhousie Co-curricular record (CCR) is a great way to track your extra-curricular involvement and display it for employers. Visit dal.ca/ccr to learn more.

Summer Jobs and Volunteer Work

Summer jobs and volunteering are great ways to gain experience, develop specialties, and discover what you like in a job. Check out these resources:

Federal Student Work Experience Program (FSWEP)
A program that provides post-secondary students with experience related to their field of study.

Talent Egg
This website provides postings for internships, co-ops, volunteer opportunities and entry level jobs.

Volunteer Halifax
A posting board where non-profits in Halifax post their volunteer opportunities and positions.

Fusion Halifax
A resource linking local organizations with young people.

Professional Associations & Conferences

Professional associations and conferences are a great way to network with professionals in your field. This is especially true for graduate students. Below is a sample listing of professional associations that may be worth examining.

Association for Canadian Studies
www.acs-aec.ca

International Council for Canadian Studies
http://www.iccs-ciec.ca/
Undergraduate

Knowing ourselves and our place in the world as Canadians remains a legitimate—even urgent—task for students and scholars alike, as we adapt to the many changes happening around us, both nationally and internationally.

Canadian Studies reaches across departments and faculties to allow you to understand Canada from many different perspectives, whether historical, economic, political, sociological—or even musical. The program has always been based on a very strong tradition of research and teaching in a wide range of disciplines, in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, the Faculty of Science, and other associated faculties and professional schools.

The flexibility of the Canadian Studies program lets you tailor your studies to your specific interests. At the heart of the program are four core or required courses that you build on by choosing from a long list of others that are approved cross-listings. Whatever your perspective, it will be broadened as you engage with students and cross-appointed professors from a wide range of other disciplines.

Program Options

Dalhousie's Canadian Studies program, with its various options, allows you to deepen your understanding of Canada in an exciting and coherent interdisciplinary context. Your program options are as follows:

- Concentration (3 years)  
- Major/Double Major (4 years)  
- Honours/Combined Honours (4 years)  
- Available as a second subject to BSc students

[ Dalhousie Canadian Studies webpage ]
There are many other established Canadian studies programs in Canada and abroad. A great resource for examining post-secondary programs is Career Cruising. Career Cruising can be accessed through your Dalhousie MyCareer profile or by visiting the Career & Leadership Development Centre. Below are some notable Canadian Studies Programs:

**University of Ottawa**
Location: Ottawa Ontario  
BA, MA, PhD  
Subject areas: History, Culture, Literature, Politics and Economy, Aboriginal Peoples, Geography, Religion, Language.

**University of Lethbridge**
Location: Lethbridge, Alberta  
BA, MA  
Subject areas: Aboriginal Peoples, Drama, Poetry, Literature, Culture, Politics, Western Canada, Geography, Gender, Art, French.

**Carleton University**
Location: Ottawa, Ontario  
BA, MA, PhD  

**University of Manitoba**
Location: Winnipeg, Manitoba  
BA, MA  

**Trent University**
Location: Peterborough, Ontario  
BA, MA, PhD  
Subject areas: Culture, Literature, The Arts, Environment, Heritage, Policy, Economy, Society, Identities, Women's Studies

**University of Prince Edward Island**
Location: Charlottetown, P.E.I.  
BA, MA  
Subject areas: Society, Culture, French, Economics, Arts Language, Literature, Canadian Institutions, History, Human Identity.
Labour Market Information

Given the broad array of directions you can take a Canadian studies degree it is difficult to choose a specific sector to analyze the job outlook. So to begin it is important to first identify the sectors that Canadian studies students work in. Looking at LinkedIn statistics for 3,500 Dalhousie Canadian Studies alumni, it appears that most alumni end up in the following fields:

- Finance
- Consulting
- Support
- Research

- Sales
- Education
- Entrepreneurship
- Community and Social Services

- Legal
- Operations
- Information Technology
- Media and Communication

Dalhousie alumni’s top employers for Canadian Studies graduates include:

- Nova Scotia Health Authority
- Canadian Armed Forces
- Canadian Universities

- Government of Nova Scotia
- Fisheries and Oceans Canada
- Banks

- Halifax Regional Municipality
- Department of National Defense
- Government of Canada

Projections

The following Labour Market Information (LMI) was taken from jobbank.gc.ca. It represents the 2013-2015 projection period in Nova Scotia. For jobs with a 4 digit number you can use that number on Job Bank to look up additional information on the field.

For more LMI on other jobs within your field click on 'Explore Careers'. If you search by occupations or education program then click on outlook for specific LMI.

Good Outlook  Low rate of unemployment, expected job growth

(3 out of 3 stars)

The best career outlooks for individuals with a Canadian studies degree are:
Financial Auditors and Accountants (1111), Retail Trade Supervisors (6211), Sales Representative and Wholesale Trade (6411)

Fair Outlook  Overall future employment is expected to be fair

(2 out of 3 stars)

Jobs for Canadian Studies majors in Nova Scotia with a fair outlook include:
Multiple Government Manager positions (Health, Social Policy Development, Economic Analysis and Program Administration) (0411, 0412), Mapping and Related Technology Technician (2255), Senior Financial Managers (0013), Sales, Marketing and Advertising Managers (0611) Financial and Investment Analyst (1112), Library Clerk & Librarian (1451, 5111), Economist and Economic Policy Researcher (4162), Business Development Consultant, Social Policy Researcher (4164), Authors and Writers (5121), Tour and Travel Guide (6441), and Travel Counsellors (6431).

Limited Outlook  Weak employment growth, some levels of unemployment

(1 out of 3 stars)

Jobs with a limited outlook within Nova Scotia a Canadian Studies graduate could pursue include: Government Program Officers (4168), which includes jobs such as Foreign Service Officer, Election Officer, and Federal-Provincial Relations Officer. Other jobs with a limited outlook include Senior Government Managers and Officials (0021), Mail and Postal Clerks (1461), K-12 Teachers (4141 & 4142), Conservators and Curators (5112), Technical Occupations Related to Museums (5212), and Journalists (5123).
Resources

Online

MyCareer - https://mycareer.dal.ca/
A resource for Dalhousie students to connect with jobs, employers and career related events on campus.

TalentEgg - tallentegg.ca
A great website to find internships, student jobs, and entry level positions. You can also find great advice and career guides. In addition to this, TalentEgg has challenges to help young people build transferable skills.

Tiger Society - https://tigersociety.dsu.ca/
This site lists all Dalhousie Societies and information about them. You can register to join a society through this site.

Career Beacon - careerbeacon.com
Provides job listings and corporate profiles with a strong presence in Nova Scotia and other Maritime Provinces. It can be a great resource for identifying what jobs are in your field and what skills employers are looking for.

Career Cruising - careercruising.com (log on available through MyCareer)
A comprehensive website that provides information to help you make informed choices about your career path.

Employment and Social Development Canada - National Occupational Classification
Contains occupational information and is used to find jobs that exist within Canada’s labour market.

Print

*All books are located in the Career and Leadership Development Centre on the 4th floor of the Student Union Building*

Comprehensive Guide to Canadian Police Officer Exams (2010). Deland Jessop


The Canadian Student & Grad Job Search Directry. Sentor Media inc.

What Color is your Parachute: A practical manual for job-hunters and career-changers (2014)

How to Find a Career With Your Humanities Degree in 126 Days (2009). James Mulvey

Other

Career Counselling - Dalhousie - Student Union Building 4th Floor
This free service is a confidential and collaborative process in which you work with a career counsellor who assists you in your educational and career decision-making

Career & Leadership Development Centre - Dalhousie - Student Union Building 4th Floor
This resource centre can provide you with all the career tools and resources you need. Drop in for assistance with resumes, cover letters, interviewing and more.

DALConnects - Leadership Program - dal.ca/dalconnects
This program will connect you with leadership opportunities and workshops.
Trade Development Associate

Position: Full Time  -  Salary: $ 45,000-50,000  -  Hours: 40

The successful applicant will work in the UK Trade and Investment (UKTI) Network with specific responsibility for the Defence, Security and Aerospace sectors, working with Trade Officers to assist British companies build and develop their business in Canada and help Canadian companies source British products, and services.

The main purpose of the job is to assist the UKTI Trade network in promoting the export of goods and services from the UK to Canada as well as identifying and exploiting business opportunities within the specific Defence, Security and Aerospace sectors.

Duties

- Conduct market research for use by British companies.
- Draft research reports, sector overviews and visit briefings.
- Extrapolate data to build and maintain a comprehensive picture of opportunities for British companies in Canada.
- Co-ordinate visits for British Industry into Canada.
- Organise trade activities, missions and visit programs.
- Identify and liaise with existing and potential contacts for lead generation and maintain a contacts database.
- Monitor business trends in Canada and the UK.
- Represent UKTI at networking events, trade shows and conferences.

Qualifications & Skills

- Knowledge of one or all of (i) the Canadian military, (ii) the Canadian defence, security and aerospace sectors, (iii) Canadian Government.
- Business experience and knowledge of the Canadian commercial sector.
- Knowledge of the Canadian business environment and UK/Canada commercial relations.
- Excellent written and oral communication skills including fluency in English
- Proficiency in MS Office Applications
- Proactive, a self-starter and a positive team player
- Ability to professionally communicate with all levels of representation from the public and private sectors.
- A proactive work nature and ability to work under limited day-to-day supervision and meet, sometimes tight, deadlines.
- Experience coordinating events and visit programmes will be valuable

Networking events and conferences can be valuable to attend as a student and can be helpful later when looking for employment.

Knowledge you will have gained during your education.

Can develop business knowledge in school or in a summer job.

Skills you will have developed throughout your education and can further develop at a summer job.

May want to join a society or varsity team to demonstrate this skill.

Skills you can develop in a society or Pub After Dark.
Example Resume

Charlie Canadian Studies
226 Vernon Street • Halifax, NS • B3R 5T9
Phone: (902)-472-9760 • Email: pascha.political.science@dal.ca

Skills Summary

• Demonstrates strong time management through never missing a deadline
• Proficient in Microsoft Word, Excel, PowerPoint, and Publisher
• Exceptional oral and written communication skills
• Team player: excels in collaborative and individual settings
• Shows initiative, reliability, and excellent problem throughout several leadership roles

Education

Bachelor of Arts, Major in Canadian Studies (Honours) 2012-2016
Dalhousie University, Halifax, NS
• GPA 3.6

Relevant Experience

Campaign Volunteer  Jul-Sept 2015
MP Candidate Paul Saccade, Halifax, NS
• Contacted 300 community members using telemarketing strategies to inform them about the campaign’s goals
• Participated actively in team meetings to discuss current poll standings and ways to promote community engagement
• Moderated social media websites with daily updates on current events, upcoming rallies, and up to date election statistics

Presenter  Feb 2015
Dal Lead, Dalhousie University, Halifax, NS
• Prepared and presented a 45 minute workshop to 40 university students on conflict management
• Listened and respectfully responded to student’s questions regarding the presentation
• Fostered a safe and inclusive environment in which students felt they were able to share personal stories

Sports Editor  2013-2015
Dalhousie Gazette, Dalhousie University, Halifax, NS
• Reviewed biweekly submissions to the Gazette for accuracy and grammar
• Collaborated with team of 8 other writers/editors to select an article to be the focus of the issue
• Mentored volunteer writers and assisted with editing operations online and in print
Head Leader - Orientation Week  Sept 2013-2015  
Leader - Orientation Week  Sept 2012  
DSU, Dalhousie University, Halifax, NS  
• Coordinated a diverse team of 6 orientation leaders where we created, organized, and implemented various strategies that were aimed to engage first year students which included inclusive house cheers and social gathering to promote a welcoming and respectful environment at Dalhousie  
• Communicated actively to students by developing a strategic marketing strategy involving the orientation leaders which resulted in an increasing number of students attending each event  

Law Firm Office Intern  2013-2014  
John & Smith Associates, Halifax, NS  
• Organized over 200 personal client files using Microsoft Office to ensure secure, quick, and easy access to client information  
• Shadowed multiple lawyers and observed daily activities to learn protocols and communication strategies  
• Researched information regarding casework and communicated the findings both verbally and through a written report  

Awards and Certifications  

Dean’s List  2012-2015  
Dalhousie University  

Change Agent Certificate  2015  
DALConnects, Dalhousie University  
• Volunteered more than 60 hours, attended workshops, and wrote a reflective assignment  

DSU Certificate of Distinction  2014  
Dalhousie Impact Award  
• Awarded based on demonstration of significant contributions to campus life
For more information, comments, or questions please contact:

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