

Major Possibilities: Latin American Studies



Summary

- Many US government departments routinely hire graduates with a degree in Latin American Studies to handle American affairs with Latin American nationals and their governments.
- There are jobs in a variety of fields available for graduates who are specialized in Latin American Studies. Careers are offered not only in embassies and consulates, but also in the CIA and FBI, immigration offices, the Office of Homeland Security, the World Health Organization of the UN, the International Red Cross, and other governmental, humanitarian, and even corporate divisions.
- Many jobs would require relocation to another country or frequent traveling.

Latin American Studies major synopsis

The Latin American Studies major is an interdisciplinary program designed to increase the student's understanding of the region known as Latin America and the Caribbean. The program requires developing a high degree of proficiency in Spanish, and students are required to have the equivalent of six semesters of Spanish language courses. Study abroad for at least one semester is also required. Students will take courses in Latin American history, anthropology, art history, communication, philosophy, political science, etc.

Sample occupational areas

Government

Relations between the countries of Latin America and the United States have been prevalent since the founding of our country. People specializing in Latin American Studies can work in many areas of the government. The State Department offers jobs in embassies, consulates, and cultural exchange offices. The Departments of Justice, Commerce, and Defense, along with the Office of Homeland Security, also provide unique jobs for graduates of Latin American Studies. The CIA and FBI also offer exciting jobs that require levels of clearance.

International organizations

International bodies that work with world-wide human concerns such as nutrition, health care, goods production and education offer career positions to people with a degree in Latin American studies because of their distinct and localized knowledge of a large area containing many developing nations. The World Health Organization, which provides leadership on world-wide health matters, and other UN bodies provide some careers. Others can be found in the Organization of American States, which brings together the regions of the Western Hemisphere on the principles of strengthening democracy and promoting human rights, and the Pan American Health Organization, which is a division of the World Health Organization that deals with health issues between the countries of North and South America.

Humanitarian organizations

Latin American Studies graduates interested in providing humanitarian outreach are able to find jobs in the popular Peace Corps or AmeriCorps. Volunteers for the Peace Corps travel to aid foreign countries and work in education, health and HIV/AIDS, business, environment, youth, agriculture, and more. AmeriCorps enables people to help fellow Americans by teaching, fighting illiteracy, improving health care, and helping communities respond to disasters. Careers are also available with Oxfam America and the International Red Cross. Oxfam America tries to influence countries at the highest levels in order to improve human rights. The International Red Cross assures assistance for victims of wars or other situations of violence. If you wish to work within a religious affiliation, missionary work is an option. Environmental groups would also appreciate a specialized perspective.

Corporate

Latin American countries are important trading partners to the United States. People with degrees in Latin American Studies are uniquely qualified to provide trade experts with the social, political and economic background and the language expertise they may need to conduct business effectively in Latin America countries.

Sample job titles

Arts, Media, and Entertainment

Advertising Executive
Copy Writer
Critic
Cultural Arts Coordinator
Editor
Foreign Correspondent
Foreign Rights Manager
Journalist
International Media Planner

News Correspondent
Public Relations Specialist
Screenwriter
Travel Writer

Government, Service, and Education

Admissions Counselor
Anthropologist
Archivist

Attorney
CIA/FBI Agent
Civil Service Employee
College Professor
Community Affairs Specialist
Conflict Resolution Specialist
Counselor
Cultural Affairs Officer
Customs Officer
Drug Enforcement Agent

Foreign Service Officer
Historian
Historic Site Administrator
Immigration Officer
International Studies Advisor
International Education Specialist
Interpreter
Librarian
Linguist
Lobbyist

Sample job titles, continued

Missionary	Social Worker	Consumer Advocate	International Conference Planner
Museum Curator	Teacher	Corporate Trainer	International Health Care Analyst
Non-Profit Administrator	Tour Guide	Customer Relations Representative	International Marketing Analyst
Passport Examiner	Translator	Economist	International Relations Specialist
Peace Corps Volunteer	Travel Consultant	Employee Relations Specialist	International Trade Specialist
Physicians Assistant		Health and HR Director	Management Consultant
Politician	Industry and Commerce	Human Resource Specialist	
Public Administrator	Advertising Executive	Import/Export Specialist	
Public Information Officer	Business Manager	International Banker	
Public Policy Specialist	Consultant		

Sample internship employers of SU students

Center for World Indigenous Studies	North American Congress on Latin America (NACLA)
Council on Hemispheric Affairs (COHA)	Pace University
European Latinamerican Association (ELG)	South and Meso American Indian Rights Center (SAIIC)
Foundation for Sustainable Development (FSD)	UNICEF
Hispanic Association of Colleges & Universities	U.S. Agency for International Development
Justiça Global – Rio de Janeiro, Brazil	U.S. Department Of State
Institute for Policy Studies	Washington Internship Institute
International Service for Human Rights (ISHR)	Washington Office on Latin America (WOLA)
League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC)	The World Bank

Sample full-time employers of SU grads

Account Manager (Smiley Media)	Executive Assistant to CEO (Americon, Inc.)
Assistant Director (Language Stars)	Group Leader (The Experiment in International Living, Mexico)
Background Investigator (Omniplex World Services)	La Union del Pueblo Entero (San Juan, TX)
Broker's Assistant (Commercian Texas)	Refugee Resettlement Specialist (Caritas)
Casa Verde Builder (Americorps)	Regional Director (National Hispanic Institute)
English Conversation Teacher	Program Specialist (Office of the Governor)
ESCALERA Program Coordinator	

Professional associations

Asociación de Colombianistas: www.colombianistas.org
Brazilian Studies Association: www.brasa.org
Canadian Association for Latin American and Caribbean Studies: www.can-latam.org
Caribbean Studies Association: www.caribbean-studies.org
Latin American Studies Association: lasa.international.pitt.edu
Society for Latin American Studies: www.slas.org.uk

Additional Web resources

International Committee of the Red Cross: www.icrc.org/eng
Organization of American States: www.oas.org
Oxfam International: www.oxfam.org
Pan American Health Organization: <http://new.paho.org/hq/index.php?lang=en>
US Department of State: www.state.gov/careers/
World Health Organization: www.who.int/en/

Career Services' print resources

Careers for Foreign Language Aficionados	Great Jobs Abroad
Careers for History Buffs	Great Jobs for Foreign Language Majors
Careers in International Affairs	Great Jobs for History Majors
Careers in Travel, Tourism, and Hospitality	Inside a U.S. Embassy
Career Opportunities in the Nonprofit Sector	Inside Secrets to Finding a Career in Travel
Daedalus: America's Museums	International Job Finder
Federal Jobs: The Ultimate Guide	Opportunities in Foreign Language Careers
Graduate Programs in Humanities	Work Worldwide
Graduate School and You	Work Your Way around the World