



Money matters

Being savvy finance managers and knowing how society works puts graduate analysts in demand

Providing financial advice to the State Government involves a lot more than just crunching numbers. Bradley Rogers, a 31-year-old analyst with Queensland Treasury, says a typical day begins with government financial planning, but trickles down into many other areas of the state's infrastructure.

The work done by economic forecasters and analysts at Queensland Treasury affects how the economy and its growth are managed. Staff are connected with government agencies at all levels, as well as industry organisations, the business community and public servants.

Queensland Treasury's 2000 or so staff members are based mainly in Brisbane's George Street, with regional representation in Cairns, Townsville, Rockhampton and the Gold Coast.

And for someone who completed his Bachelor of Economics majoring in international trade and finance at the University of Queensland, it's a top job. "There are people here with qualifications from many different areas including accounting, economics, law, commerce, science and arts," Bradley says.

Graduate positions pay more than those in other industries. "The starting rate is \$44,000 per annum and then you need to apply for positions as they become available. In the second year most people are on about \$55,000."

Bradley says that as well as being passionate about the industry, graduates need strong tertiary results and as much experience as possible. "Study hard at university and try to get some summer work before you finish," he says. "And before attending an interview, graduates really need to research the job and the current issues."

Description // Economists study how society distributes resources. They analyse data, monitor trends, develop forecasts and research issues such as energy costs, inflation, interest rates, taxes.

Education level // OP8 to do a university course. Students who have not passed Mathematics B complete a basic maths course.

Skills // An understanding of business, markets, trade, government policies and international issues is necessary.

Roles // International consulting; infrastructure development; environmental management; public health and more.

Salary // This can vary, from around \$44,000 for a graduate job.

My way

Wayne Cooper 43
// fashion designer



Career highlights?

Opening our first store in 1991; our first show in New York; our first orders for overseas majors such as London store Selfridges, and Barneys in New York; and a funny documentary about my show at Fashion Week.

How did you get into the industry?

I completed a law degree, though I was always into fashion. I was going to open a store in London, but I decided to travel the world first and fell in love with Australia.

Do you have any qualifications?

I went to East Sydney Technical College at nights and studied pattern-making and dressmaking. The rest I learnt through trial and error.

Advice for getting into the industry?

Do a design course, choose the field of fashion that interests you most and pursue it with passion. Work for a bigger company first or a great designer to get a true understanding of the work involved. Then do a business plan and have a product you believe in.

Best career advice?

Know your customer, build your business slowly, and don't accept everyone's advice.

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