

INDIGENOUS RELATIONS SPECIALIST

GREEN JOB FACT SHEET



Indigenous relations specialists build and maintain ongoing relationships with Indigenous communities. They work to create trust and provide a line of communication between Indigenous communities and government agencies or private companies engaged in development practices. They are often deeply rooted in an Indigenous community and bring in-depth knowledge of Indigenous culture, community issues, and governance. They work to create positive relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people.

THE BIG PICTURE

Indigenous relations specialists make sure that projects comply with environmental laws and protect historical sites and respected ways of life, by:

- Monitoring, analyzing, and communicating issues and opportunities.
- Sharing best practices and lessons learned among the groups involved.
- Developing project plans and permits that meet the needs of both Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities.

IS THIS CAREER RIGHT FOR YOU?

Indigenous relations specialists must be able to see things from other people's perspectives. They meet with communities to identify their needs and work toward compromises. They do research, write reports, plan community engagement activities, and study relevant laws and regulations. To succeed in this job, you need patience to build relationships and trust.

MOVING FORWARD



The road to working as an Indigenous relations specialist is different for everyone. Many people have training in a related field, such as forestry.

HIGH SCHOOL: Study a wide range of subjects and focus on developing your communication skills.

COLLEGE: Work toward a bachelor's degree in public administration, economic development, law, anthropology, natural resources, or related discipline.

For more about green jobs, visit www.plt.org/workingforforests

Are you good at finding common ground among different **PEOPLE**? Do you care how development affects local **COMMUNITIES**? If so, this might be the perfect career for you!

SALARY

U.S. salaries range from about \$36,000 to \$95,000 per year and average about \$56,000.

WHERE CAN YOU GROW?

A career in Indigenous relations can include work as a traditional ecological knowledge advisor, heritage interpreter, or conservation relationship consultant.

Some possible employers:

- Federal, state, or local government agencies
- Forest industry companies
- Research organizations
- Consulting firms

