

Department of Sociology, Social Policy and Criminology

What can I do with my Sociology Degree?

.....

The knowledge developed through a Sociology degree can be useful in a variety of careers

.....

Job options

Jobs directly related to your degree include...

- International aid/development worker
- Advice worker
- Social researcher
- Social worker
- Youth worker
- Community development worker
- Further Education teacher

Jobs where your degree would be useful include

- Charity fundraiser
- Actuarial analyst
- Detective
- Human resources officer
- Probation officer
- UX analyst
- Public relations officer
- Life coach

Remember that many employers accept applications from graduates with any degree subject, so don't restrict your thinking to the jobs listed here

Work experience

Practical skills and work experience are typically highly valued by employers in all careers. For some posts, a postgraduate qualification is also needed.

Part-time and voluntary opportunities can be combined with your course of job in order to gain experience, These include opportunities in schools, community education and social-work departments or with groups including young people, victims of crime or homeless people.

Think about the group or environment you are interested in. Narrowing down your preferences allows you to focus your approach to specific employers.

Securing work after your degree, with a relevant employer in a temporary or introductory role is worth considering in the short term, in order to gain experience and knowledge of the job. It could open up vacancies that are only advertised to existing staff.

Typical Employers

While many sociology graduates enter work in a social or welfare role, others go into a variety of jobs throughout the public and private sector. Some employers include:

- Local and central government
- Industry
- Commerce
- NHS
- Education authorities
- Further and higher education
- Charitable, counselling and voluntary organisations

Opportunities also exist in the Civil Service and graduate management training schemes. Sociology graduates work with a varied and diverse client group.

Skills for your CV

Skills gained as a sociology graduate include:

- Appreciating the complexity and diversity of social situations
- Applying sociological theory to society's organisations. including schools, hospitals and offices
- Researching, judging and evaluating complex information
- Making reasoned arguments
- Knowledge and understanding of research methods, analysis and statistical techniques
- Developing opinions and new ideas on social issues
- The ability to understand, scrutinise and re-assess common perceptions of the social world
- Relating sociological knowledge to social, public and civic policy

Further Study

For some career areas, it is necessary to undertake a vocational postgraduate qualification. However if you wish to study sociology related subjects e.g. social policy or social research, you can study for a masters degree with the possibility of then studying towards a PhD.

What do Sociology graduates do?

Popular areas of work for sociology graduates include welfare and housing, HR and industrial relations, marketing and youth and community.

6 months after graduating, UK first degree leavers from July 2019 were...

- 62.5% in work
- 20% in further study
- 7.1% working and studying
- 5.7% unemployed/due to start work
- 4.7% other