

Career Ideas for Sociology, Social Policy and Criminology Graduates

Although across the UK over 60% of graduates enter employment which is open to 'any discipline', some Sociology / Social Policy / Criminology students are keen to explore career areas which relate more directly to their degree subject. The aim of this handout is to help you identify areas of interest and to signpost you to resources which will enable you to investigate further.

What do Sociology / Social Policy / Criminology Graduates do?

Students who have studied these subjects and who wish to use the knowledge and insight gained from their degree more directly are likely to be drawn to work in areas such as the public and 'not for profit' sector. Some of the key employers which this might include would be the Civil Service, Local Government, NGOs, Charitable and Voluntary Sector organisations, the NHS, Probation Service, Social Services, Housing Associations, campaigning and lobbying organisations, social research, the education sector and the legal system.

Typical Jobs

The variety of job roles undertaken in these sectors is wide and for some occupational areas further postgraduate training would be required. Typical job title could include social work, probation officer, social researcher, Civil Service administrator, youth worker, charity officer, charity fundraiser, volunteer co-ordinator, local government officer, advice worker, counsellor, community development worker, housing officer, education administrator, NHS manager, international aid worker and prison officer.

To find out more about the entry requirements, training routes and possible employers, refer to 'Types of Job' on the Prospects website:

http://www.prospects.ac.uk/types_of_jobs.htm

For a more detailed overview of the skills developed and common areas of employment for Sociology and Social Policy, refer to 'Careers with My Degree' on the Careers Service website you may wish to refer to 'Options with....' on the Prospects website:

<http://www.shef.ac.uk/careers/students/degree/scs>

http://www.prospects.ac.uk/options_criminology.htm

http://www.prospects.ac.uk/options_sociology.htm

http://www.prospects.ac.uk/options_public_administration_social_policy_your_skills.htm

You will also find it useful to look at the 'Job Sectors' for Charities and Voluntary Work, Public Sector, Health and Social Care on the Prospects website. These provide a comprehensive career guide to jobs in the employment sector, with articles, news and features, as well as information on recruitment, postgraduate courses and practical information on finding a job in your chosen area.

<http://www.prospects.ac.uk/sectors.htm>



What do Criminology Graduates do?

Criminology graduates move into a diverse range of related roles. A recent longitudinal study of Criminology Graduates undertaken by University of Lincoln in 2010 with funding from the Higher Education Academy, found their graduates to be working in a wide range of roles and included below is a selection of these:

Police anti-social behaviour officer; compliance officer; drugs intervention projects officer; intelligence officer for the British Racing Society; civilian jobs in the police force; police officer; sexual violence adviser; National Policing Improvement Agency analyst; forensic psychologist; crime analyst; foreign office; security services; high risk support worker; prison officer; probation officer; sexual violence and honour based violence co-ordinator; university lecturer; primary care mental health worker; prison governor; housing charity project worker; waste crime adviser for the Environment Agency; project manager for Victim Support; watch scheme support officer; support worker in pupil referral unit; police research officer; principal policy officer for community safety; police force vetting officer; open access and aftercare worker; youth justice worker.

Getting Relevant Work Experience

With recent cutbacks in public sector funding the competition for a more limited number of jobs has increased and therefore it is even more important than previously to build up relevant work experience either on a paid or unpaid basis. Unlike in the business and commercial fields, you are less likely to see internships and work experience schemes advertised however, it's always worth checking on the Careers Service database 'Career Connect' for any opportunities which are available, access via MUSE or <http://www.shef.ac.uk/careers/students/jobs>

The onus is on you to do your research and to make speculative approaches to organisations to enquire as to whether there is a possibility of you undertaking a paid or unpaid placement, or conducting a piece of project work e.g. your dissertation, in conjunction with the them. Use any contacts which you have and try to develop your networking skills. Set up a profile for yourself on the LinkedIn website www.linkedin.com which is a professional social networking site. For advice on how to best utilise this resource to make useful contacts, download a copy of our hand-out 'Social media and digital footprints'

<http://www.careers.dept.shef.ac.uk/pdf/socmedanddigfootprint.pdf>

Make sure that you have a strong CV which highlights your skills and elaborates on the relevance of your degree programme. This should be accompanied by a tailored covering letter, ideally addressed to a named individual. Refer to the Careers Service website for advice on updating your CV and drafting a covering letter www.shef.ac.uk/careers/students/gettingajob/cvs

Voluntary Work

If you have any interest in eventually working for a charity, or find difficulty in gaining paid work experience, it's a good idea to explore ways of getting involved as a volunteer. This will not only give you an insight into different working environments and roles, but will also provide you with the opportunity to develop your skills and confidence. Within the Students' Union at the University of Sheffield there are a wide range of options to participate in various student led projects through Sheffield Volunteering:

<http://www.shef.ac.uk/union/get-involved/volunteering/>

You can also search for suitable voluntary work via the following websites:

Community ServiceVolunteers
Do It
Timebank

<http://www.csv.org.uk;>
www.doit.org.uk;
<http://timebank.org.uk/>

Worldwide Volunteering
Volunteering England

www.www.org.uk;
<http://www.volunteering.org.uk/>

Sociology / Social Policy Related Websites

Although this is not a comprehensive list, below you will find links to websites for a wide range of related organisations:

Academic Jobs in the UK <http://www.jobs.ac.uk>

Association for Qualitative Research <http://www.aqr.org.uk/>

British Association for Counselling & Psychotherapy <http://www.bacp.co.uk/>

British Association of Social Workers <http://www.basw.co.uk/>

British Overseas NGOs for Development <http://www.bond.org.uk/>

British Sociological Association <http://www.britisoc.co.uk/>

Charity Job <http://www.charityjob.co.uk/>

Chartered Institute of Housing <http://www.cih.org/>

Chartered Institute of Public Finance <http://www.cipfa.org>

Chartered Institute of Public Relations <http://www.cipr.co.uk/>

Citizens Advice Bureau <http://www.citizensadvice.org.uk>

Civil Service Jobs Online <https://www.civilservicejobs.service.gov.uk/csr/index.cgi>

Community Care <http://www.communitycare.co.uk/Home/>

Community Development Foundation <http://www.cdf.org.uk>

Community Service Volunteers <http://www.csv.org.uk>

Criminal Cases Review Commission <http://www.justice.gov.uk/about/criminal-cases-review-commission>

Crown Prosecution Service <http://www.cps.gov.uk>

Directory of Development Organisations <http://www.devdir.org/>

Drugscope <http://www.drugscope.org.uk>

Economic & Social Research Council (ESRC) <http://www.esrc.ac.uk>

Education Department – ‘Get Into Teaching’ <https://getintoteaching.education.gov.uk/>

Ethical careers <http://www.ethicalcareers.org/>

Government Communications HQ <http://www.gchq.gov.uk>

Government Jobs Direct <http://www.governmentjobsdirect.co.uk/>

Government Social Research Service <http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/networks/gsr>

Home Office <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/>

How to be a Civil Servant <http://www.civilservant.org.uk/>

Inside Housing <http://www.insidehousing.co.uk/>

Institute for Employment Studies <http://www.employment-studies.co.uk/main/index.php>

[Type here]

[Type here]

[Type here]

Institute of Fundraising <http://www.institute-of-fundraising.org.uk/events-and-training/jobs-and-careers/>

Institute for Public Policy Research <http://www.ippr.org/>

Intelligence Service <http://www.sis.gov.uk/output/careers-1.html>

International Public Affairs & Government Relations <http://www.publicaffairsjobs.com/>

Jobs Go Public <http://www.jobsgopublic.com/>

Jobs in Charities <http://www.jobsincharities.co.uk/>

Jobs in the Justice System <http://www.justice.gov.uk/jobs/hmps/noms-vacancies.htm>

Local Authorities Research & Intelligence Association <http://laria.org.uk/>

Local Government Association Jobs <https://www.jobtrain.co.uk/liberata/lga/>

Market Research Society <http://www.mrs.org.uk>

Municipal Yearbook Online <http://www.localgov.co.uk/index.cfm?method=directory.home&mid=5.1>

NACRO <http://www.nacro.org.uk>

National Centre for Social Research <http://www.natcen.ac.uk/>

National Council for Voluntary Organisations <http://www.ncvo-vol.org.uk/>

National Housing Federation <http://www.housing.org.uk/>

National Policing Improvement Agency <http://www.npia.police.uk/>

NHS Careers <http://www.nhscareers.nhs.uk>

NHS Graduate Management Training Scheme
<http://www.whatcanidowithmydegree.nhs.uk/TrainingScheme.aspx>

NHS Authorities & Trusts <http://www.nhs.uk/NHSEngland/thenhs/about/Pages/authoritiesandtrusts.aspx>

Oxfam <http://www.oxfam.org.uk/>

One World <http://uk.oneworld.net/>

Office for National Statistics <http://www.statistics.gov.uk/hub/index.html>

Police Service <http://www.policecouldyou.co.uk/>

Policy Studies Institute <http://www.psi.org.uk/>

Prison Service <http://www.justice.gov.uk/about/hmps>

Probation Service <http://www.justice.gov.uk/about/probation>

Public Relations Consultants Association <http://www.prca.org.uk/>

Regeneration Jobs <http://jobs.regen.net/>

Skills for Care <http://www.skillsforcare.org.uk/home/home.aspx>

Social Research Association <http://www.the-sra.org.uk/>

Teach First <http://graduates.teachfirst.org.uk/>

Trade Union Congress <http://www.tuc.org.uk/>

United Nations Development Programme <http://www.undp.org/>

The Voice <http://www.voice-online.co.uk/>

Victim Support <https://www.victimsupport.org.uk/>

Voluntary Service Overseas <http://www.vso.org.uk/>

Working for a Charity <http://www.wfac.org.uk/>

Youth Justice Board <http://www.justice.gov.uk/about/yjb>

Youth Offending Teams <http://www.justice.gov.uk/contacts/yjb/yots>

