

# Options with a Sociology Degree

Many Sociology graduates are attracted to careers that centre on the challenges and demands that members of a society face. While some will enter work in a social or welfare related role, there are also opportunities in a wide range of other occupations throughout the private and public sectors.

Studying this degree will provide you with the following skill sets: communication, interpersonal, problem-solving, presentation, reflective thinking and analytical skills. You will also gain skills in appreciating the complexity and diversity of social situations, researching, judging and evaluating complex information, as well as gaining the ability to scrutinise and reassess common perceptions of the social world. BA in Sociology can offer exciting career opportunities in social services, education, criminal justice, welfare services, government, counselling, charities and the wider voluntary sector, to name just a few. The degree creates additional opportunities to undertake further academic studies that could enable you to pursue careers in

- Social work
- Teaching and education
- Forensic science
- Solicitor or barrister

There is every opportunity for an interesting and challenging career ahead of you.

## What do Sociology graduates do?

Here are a few of the most popular career areas explicitly linked to a degree in Sociology:

- Social researcher (for example planning, designing and managing social research projects using a variety of methods, to help shape policy or examine effectiveness of existing policy)
- Social worker (Children and Families, young offenders, adult services, etc)
- Youth worker (in a variety of settings, including colleges, faith-based groups, youth centres, schools)
- Policy officer (researching and advising on issues, carrying out developmental work, campaigning for change)
- Police / Probation officer (and other roles within the Criminal Justice system)
- Public affairs consultant (providing clients with political and public policy advice, lobbying, etc)

## Where do Sociology graduates work?

Sociology graduates work in a variety of organisations including:

- Local / central government
- Charities and other third sector organisations
- Research agencies
- Higher Education institutes
- Civil Service
- Private companies and large corporations
- Specialist consultancies

### Go further with UEA Award

The Award can give you recognition from the University for academic and extra-curricular experiences, as well as providing you with brilliant opportunities to engage with employers, improve your CV and be involved in a wide range of activities. Visit [www.uea.ac.uk/award](http://www.uea.ac.uk/award).

## Wider Career Options

Some Sociology graduates go on to further study at Master's level in order to specialise in an area that interests them, such as social work, social policy, political sociology, law, education, international development, environmental science, economics or social research. This can lead to studying for a PhD, which opens up opportunities to work in a variety of settings including research. More generally, because your degree will help you to develop and demonstrate such a wide range of key skills, there is a huge range of possibilities open to Sociology graduates. These may include

- Journalist
- Public relations officer
- Housing manager / Officer
- Human resources
- Life coach
- Family support worker
- Teacher\*
- Marketing
- Business and finance
- Media and advertising
- Ethical business - social entrepreneurship
- Academic - further study to PhD and into research / teaching
- Special educational needs coordinator
- Welfare officer
- Property and housing

\* will require further study and qualifications

## Useful Information

The following resources are good places to find information about options, advice and sector news. It may be necessary (or perhaps just an added bonus to your development and to employers) to become a member of any relevant to you. Also consider that many of these organisations may offer opportunities such as employer networking events, conferences, discussion groups and useful information to aid your learning within your field of interest.

- [The British Sociological Association](#)
- [The British Sociological Association - General sociological interests](#)
- [The Local Government Association](#)
- [The Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development](#)
- [The Market Research Society](#)
- [The Chartered Institute of Marketing](#)
- [The British Association of Social Workers](#)
- [Civil Service Fast Stream - Government Social Research](#)
- [Solicitors Regulation Authority](#)
- [Bar Standards Board](#)
- [Government Social Research Summer Placement Scheme](#)
- [British Psychological Society](#)
- [College of Policing](#)
- [Police Now \(graduate scheme\)](#)
- [Unlocked \(Prison service graduate scheme\)](#)
- [National Probation Service](#)
- [TeachFirst \(graduate scheme\)](#)
- [Charity Works graduate scheme](#)
- [Chartered Institute of Housing](#)

Additionally, ask us about [Options with a Social Work degree](#) and [Options with a International Development degree](#) for more ideas.

## Where to look for opportunities

Your degree in Sociology can help you to compete for general graduate jobs and graduate schemes that are easily found on major jobs sites (see links on MyCareerCentral). As well as checking large company sites directly, try looking at:

- [MyCareerCentral](#)
- [Charity Jobs](#)
- [NHS graduate jobs](#)
- [British Sociological Society vacancies](#)
- [National Crime Agency](#)
- [UEA PGCE](#)
- [Prospects \(roles in public services and administration\)](#)

## How we can help

Sociology students can access a wide range of Careers support designed to help them tackle any career questions or challenges. You can meet with the Sociology Careers adviser for advice and support, take advantage of our "How To..." skills workshops, connect with mentors through the Mentoring Programme or take up an internship from our Internship Programme. Details of all of these – and the latest careers events and job vacancies – can be found at [MyCareerCentral](#).