



Your Career with an Arts Degree

Careers in Political Science and Sociology



Political Science and Sociology graduates and the employment market

Sociology is a social science discipline that focuses on human behaviour and social interaction. Sociology graduates can find exciting career opportunities in many diverse areas and there is great scope for initiative and creativity to really make a difference in peoples' lives. Graduates have developed transferable skills in understanding, critically analysing, and explaining human relationships and social change. They are thus ideally placed to take up positions in public, private and not-for-profit organisations that involve analysing and communicating the origins of social practices to diverse audiences. A degree in Sociology also provides an ideal grounding for people who provide care, protection and support in society.

Likewise the study of Political Science enables graduates to enter careers that require investigative and problem-solving skills, good communication skills, the ability to critically evaluate issues, handle information from a variety of sources, and the ability to work with diverse groups. A degree in Politics equips graduates with skills, knowledge and perspectives that can be used in many areas of work, including journalism, public administration and political consultancy.



Typical jobs for Political Science and Sociology graduates

Political Science and Sociology graduates find employment in diverse fields. Here are some of the most popular career destinations for our graduates:

Social Work • Youth and Community Work • Human Resource Management • Public Relations • Politics • Social Researcher • Social Planning • Information Officer • Diplomat / Foreign Affairs • Trade Unions • Advice Work • Counselling • Education • Welfare Officer • Trainee Management • Teaching / Lecturing • Civil Service • Journalism • Political Science • Banking/Finance • Advocacy • Health Promotion • Probation Service • Prison Service • Occupational Therapy • Development Work • Local Government Administration • Mediation

Note: Further qualifications may be needed for certain positions. This list is a sample of positions available.

Career Destinations of our Political Science and Sociology Graduates

It is useful to know what fellow graduates have done after obtaining their degree at NUI Galway. The following are some of the roles our Political Science and Sociology graduates took up after graduation:

*Events Organiser and Fundraiser,
Amnesty International Dublin*

*Community Development Worker,
Galway Traveller Movement*

Journalist, The Irish Times

Garda Síochána Templemore

Stagiaire (Intern), European Commission-Brussels

*Legal Intern, Arab Thought Forum (Peace Process)
- Jerusalem, Israel*

Education Officer, Galway People's Resource Centre

Outreach work, Domestic Violence Response Connemara

Secretary, Refugee Centre

Children's TV Presenter and researcher, RTÉ

Youth Project Worker, SCP School Programme

Source: NUI Galway First Destinations Survey

Sample job adverts for Political Science and Sociology graduates

Some jobs advertised recently that may suit students / graduates (these jobs are not currently available and are shown here for illustration purposes only).

- Internship in Conflict Resolution Unit, Department of Foreign Affairs. 11 months. A first or second class honours degree in Politics or another relevant discipline is required. Strong interest in conflict resolution is desirable. High level of oral / written communication skills essential. Good interpersonal, administrative and organisational skills. Flexibility and capability to work independently and in a team.
- Internship UNICEF. Knowledge Community on Children in India. Suit postgrad in Sociology (among other subjects).
- Volunteer Free Legal Advice Centres (FLAC), for survey on social awareness and perceptions of Civil Legal Aid.



What Postgraduate Courses do Political Science and Sociology Graduates do?

For certain career choices, employers may look for candidates with further qualifications and training. Relevant postgraduate degrees at NUI Galway include:

MA (Community Development)	MA (Irish Studies)
MA (Social Work)	MA (Journalism)
MA (Public Advocacy and Activism)	HDip in Business Studies
MA (Environment, Society and Development)	LLB (Bachelor of Laws)
MA (Culture and Colonialism)	PhD by research



Other postgraduate programmes undertaken by previous graduates of Political Science and Sociology include:

PGDip Health Promotion, NUI Galway
 MA (Gender, Globalisation and Rights), NUI Galway
 LLM, NUI Galway
 MSc (Corporate Strategy and People Management), NUI Galway
 MA (Enterprise Systems), NUI Galway
 MA (European Union Studies), Leiden University
 MA (Public Relations), SPCD
 MA (Development and Globalisation), UCC
 MSc (Marketing), NUI Galway
 MA (Irish Politics), Queens University Belfast
 MA (European Integration), UL
 MA (International Studies), UL
 PhD Sociology, University of Manchester

For information on studying in Ireland and studying abroad with useful links for many countries worldwide visit: www.nuigalway.ie/careers

www.postgradireland.com also has useful information on postgraduate courses in Ireland,

www.prospects.ac.uk is an excellent site for researching opportunities in the UK and <http://ec.europa.eu/ploteus/> covers the EU.

What our students say...



Andrew Murphy

I am currently working for the Green European Foundation in Brussels, an organisation which encourages European-level political engagement and debate. When I completed my Arts Degree and LLB at NUI Galway I moved straight to Brussels for an internship with the European Commission, and when based in Brussels, got in touch with my current employers for an internship. That internship turned into a job, and two years later I'm still here! Doing a few internships seems to be required these days, but thankfully they were both paid and were more than just coffee-making and photocopying!

Getting a career that you really enjoy requires a lot of effort. You have to use your time in University to make contacts, build your skills and get experience where you can. But at the heart of it, you need a good degree. For me, a degree in Political Science and Sociology from NUI Galway was a fantastic foundation for my career, and the skills and knowledge that I learned are useful on an almost daily basis.

Looking back, what I think was really crucial was that the degree combined both theoretical and more practical aspects. I did two modules on European policy and politics, which of course are incredibly useful for a job based in Brussels, but which are increasingly useful in many different fields of work. There were also the more theoretical courses, which helped develop my analytical and writing skills. The smaller seminars were also incredibly valuable and are an essential part of the course.

My current role is as a Project Assistant for projects based in Brussels and across Europe. This requires good knowledge of Europe's political history, the ability to work with different political environments and an ability to think on your feet. All skills picked up from my time in NUI Galway!

Where can I find out more?

The following websites contain relevant, interesting information on career opportunities with a degree in Political Science and Sociology.

www.nuigalway.ie/soc/

Sociological Association of Ireland www.sociology.ie/

Economic & Social Research Institute www.esri.ie

Irish Social Policy Association www.ispa.ie/

Political Studies Association of Ireland www.psai.ie

Politics Forum www.politics.ie/

EUROPE

British Sociological Association www.britisoc.co.uk

Social Science Information Gateway www.intute.ac.uk/socialsciences/

European Sociological Association www.europeansociology.org

ABROAD

International Sociological Assoc. www.isa-sociology.org/

Sociology links <http://socserv2.mcmaster.ca/w3virtsoclib/>

American Political Science Association

www.apsanet.org/section_516.cfm

GENERAL STUDENT/GRADUATE WEBSITES

Career Development Centre, degree opportunities:

www.nuigalway.ie/careers/students/degreeopp.html

Gradireland www.gradireland.com

Prospects UK profiles

www.prospects.ac.uk/options_politics_international_relations_your_skills.htm and

www.prospects.ac.uk/options_sociology_your_skills.htm

www.jobs.ac.uk [for academic jobs, fellowships etc in the UK, Europe and worldwide]



NUI Galway
OÉ Gaillimh