POLITICS FUTURE CAREERS

Politics at Goldsmiths: Some future career paths

The Politics Department offers a number of different courses at undergraduate level: BA Economics, Politics and Public Policy, BA International Studies (with or without Chinese), BA Politics, BA Politics and International Relations and BA Politics, Philosophy and Economics, as well as the option for joint honours with History or Sociology.

In addition to strengths in political theory, political economy and public policy, British and European politics, and international relations, the Department has unusual and unparalleled strengths in China, India, Japan and Africa. These countries and regions are now redefining our world, and in making them central to the study of politics the Politics Department aims to provide students with the skills and knowledge necessary for life in the 21st, rather than the 20th, century. Also, and almost uniquely, the Department looks at the way 'culture' plays into politics.

What do graduates from Goldsmiths' Politics Department do?

In 2013-14, the graduate level careers for Goldsmiths Politics graduates included:[1]
- Trainee Secondary School Teacher (Religious Studies)
- Policy Development Officer
- Immigration Caseworker
- Sixth Form Teacher (Business)
- Legal and Business Development Assistant
- Tax Consultant
- Web Content Assistant
- Civil Servant
- Policy and Process Officer
- Communications Officer

Employers included:[1]
- London Borough of Hackney
- Landwednack Community Primary School
- Selfridges & Co
- TCL Chartered Surveyors
- City Gateway (training provider)
- Silver Star Diabetes (charity)
- Yavneh College
- Council of the Baltic Sea States

A number of politics graduates choose to work in a field related to policy, government, research or analysis. A significant number (17.8% of 2014 graduates) go on to do postgraduate study on courses such as:[1]
- MA Television Journalism
- MA Nationalism Studies
- MA Development and Rights
- MA Politics
- Teaching with Qualified Teacher Status

[1] *Source: Destinations of Leavers from Higher Education.* This data is collected six months after graduation and shows where graduates start their careers.

What skills will I gain?

Studying politics at Goldsmiths will provide you with a variety of skills that are highly sought by graduate employers:
- an understanding of UK governance
- a cross-cultural insight into international politics

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- excellent research skills
- the ability to communicate both in writing and orally
- the ability to critically analyse and debate ideas

What kinds of graduate employers might be interested in me?

A wide range of employers will be interested in your skills and knowledge. Below are some ideas to get you started but you can relate your degree to many more areas.

Politics
You may have a commitment to a particular party or issue. You could work for a political party, MP, campaign or lobby group. A variety of tasks including research, drafting briefings, communications and developing relationships with key stakeholders are available. To get an idea of the job roles visit www.w4mpjobs.org

Business and Graduate Management Schemes
Many graduate schemes are open to graduates from any discipline. You find politics graduates working in banking, accountancy or general management schemes. Visit www.targetjobs.co.uk

Central and local government
The Civil Service Fast-Stream fast tracks graduates into policy roles. If you fancy local government there is a similar scheme called The National Graduate Development Programme (NGDP). You can also enter roles within central and local government by directly applying to a particular department or council.

Charities and non-governmental organisations (NGOs)
Your understanding and interest in international relations may lead you to work for an international NGO. Within charities and NGOs there are many roles from PR and communications, to fundraising, administration and research. There are also more hands-on roles managing projects in the field and conflict resolution.

Social research organisations and think tanks
The biggest employer is the Government Social Research Service (GSR) where you could be working on anything from community cohesion to gender equality. There are other organisations in this field of work ranging from university-based research institutes and think tanks to consultancies with one or two self-employed individuals.

Where can I find further information?

On the Prospects website, the 'What can I do with my degree?' section is a useful starting point. Here you can access detailed information about careers relating to politics. www.prospects.ac.uk/options_with_your_subject.htm

Development and charities
Bond (NGOs working in international development) - www.bond.org.uk
Citizens Advice - www.citizensadvice.org.uk
Third Sector Jobs - jobs.thirdsector.co.uk

Government and policy
Civil Service Fast Stream - www.civilservice.gov.uk/jobs/faststream
National Graduate Development programme for local government - www.ngdp.org.uk
Local government jobs - www.lgjobs.com
Working for an MP - www.w4mp.org

"I enjoyed my Goldsmiths' experience, especially the second and third years as I gained more confidence and was more involved in directing my studies. I found the course challenging, yet engaging and thought provoking.

Since finishing university I've started work for EDF energy as a Business Analyst. I plan to continue to pursue my interests in 'green energy' and environmental politics and economics."

Rosella, Business Analyst for EDF Energy graduated from BA Economics, Politics and Public Policy in 2013

Goldsmiths Careers Service

The Careers Service has a full programme of events – you can find out more at www.gold.ac.uk/careers

From the moment you arrive at Goldsmiths you can use us to help you plan your future – pop in and book an appointment with a careers consultant.

http://learn.gold.ac.uk (search 'Goldsmiths Careers Service')
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2/2

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