Options With Your Sociology and Criminology Degree
If you are studying Sociology, Criminology or both as your degree, you are more likely to be the type of person who is intrigued by the structure of society and its major functions as well as liking to question and challenge its conventional rules.

Unlike vocational courses, you are not being trained for a specific job; there are many career options suited to Sociology and Criminology graduates and this booklet will give you some ideas to help you think about your future possibilities and career goals.

There are often traditional career routes that social science students take after graduation: roles in the charity and voluntary sector; teaching; social work and social justice; community; youth and outreach, as well as further study. However, this is not always the case. Studying a social science equips students with a range of skills to progress in many more sectors. Some students also decide to choose roles within business; government; marketing and public relations; journalism; law, finance, and the private sector.

Questions to consider when reading this:

- What are your strengths?
- What matters to you about work – your interests, priorities and values?
- Who do you want to work with – e.g. a certain type of client?
- Which organisations are doing the type of work that interests you?
- What are the ways in - will you need to do a specialist post-graduate course or will relevant work experience/volunteering be enough?
- Have you logged into My Career Hub to search for vacancies?
- Have you made an appointment to talk through your ideas with one of our Careers and Employability Consultants?

**How will my social science degree make me employable?**

Social science teaches students not to accept things on face value and to look at the reasoning behind key issues in society. Among appreciating the complex diversity of various social patterns, situations and occurrences in crime and social life, other notable skills gained are:

**Sociology:**

**Researching, judging and evaluating complex information** - opens up possibilities for working in data analysis, information management, intelligence gathering (MI5), law enforcement, risk management (insurance, financial advice), genealogy and the legal and accountancy professions.

**Have empathy, insight and ability to take on board others’ views** - crucial in any job but essential skills for advice and guidance, health and social care and counselling roles.

**Making reasoned arguments in a concise and persuasive manor** - useful if you consider training as a solicitor or barrister, working in marketing, sales or advertising accounts management.

**Knowledge and understanding of social research methods, analysis and statistical techniques** - essential for social policy or research roles as well as numerical and statistical roles such as merchandising.
Working collaboratively, organising work and meeting deadlines - essential transferable skills for any role and strong skills to sell in an interview setting.

Criminology:

Knowledge of the legal system, crime and victimisation – underlying knowledge of law is essential for roles such as a Probation Officer and useful for roles in the Police, victim support organisations and the legal sector.

Making reasoned arguments in a concise and persuasive manor - useful if you consider training as a solicitor or barrister as well as working in marketing, sales or accounts management.

Think creatively, critically and independently, identifying, absorbing and sifting complex information - highly valuable in policy and research roles.

Have empathy, insight and ability to take on board others’ views - crucial in any job but essential skills for advice and guidance, health and social care and counselling roles.

Working collaboratively, organising work and meeting deadlines - essential transferable skill for any role and strong skills to sell from your degree in an interview setting.

General skills gained at University level include:

- Prioritising and managing your time effectively;
- Initiative and self-motivation, drive and determination to get things done;
- Planning and researching written work, finding relevant information from a range of resources;
- Understanding and explaining complex theories and arguments;
- Critically analysing and evaluating evidence and arguments
- Ability to work independently;
- Recording and summarising information efficiently;
- Gain a good understanding of the uses of information technology and develop a range of IT skills;
- Lead and participate in discussions and develop confidence in your own opinions.
- Project management;
- Use judgment when weighing up different options and alternative perspectives;
- Work towards a solution using negotiation skills;
- Work with others when presenting ideas, information and practical work;
- Making presentations/public speaking
Job options related to your Languages degree include:

Jobs directly related to your social science degree could include:
- Advice worker
- Charity worker
- Community development worker
- Family support worker
- Probation Officer
- Further, Primary, or Secondary Teacher
- International aid/development worker
- Social researcher
- Social worker
- Youth worker

Other sectors where your social sciences degree would be useful include:
- Legal
- Policing
- Housing
- Human Resources/Business
- Marketing/ Public Relations

Other employment sectors to consider

All the suggested careers found in this guide are open to social science graduates and there are many more besides. For many opportunities, you will find that employers don’t specify any particular degree subject. Therefore, it’s key when career planning not to limit your thinking to jobs that only relate directly to your degree. For example, large companies who specialise in industries such as engineering also have roles for non-engineers in HR, sales, management, logistics, project management etc. You can research different job sectors at: www.prospects.ac.uk/jobs-and-work-experience/job-sectors

Accountancy and consultancy: you need a good GCSE in maths and a competency with numbers. For example RSM are a professional services firm offering risk management, tax, recovery, financial management and business advisory services. Minimum entry requirements 112 UCAS points (new tariff) across 3 A Levels or 104 (new tariff) across 4 Highers/Advanced Highers; UCAS points and 2:1 degree projected in any subject.

Advertising, marketing and PR: entry is very competitive but digital marketing, including writing copy for blogs and social media is a growth area. Most companies advertise that applicants need to demonstrate a reasonable understanding and experience of digital marketing activities as well as copywriting and exceptional English language skills. Although you may not study marketing as part of your social sciences degree, developing these skills in other areas such as involvement in aAH! Magazine: https://www2.mmu.ac.uk/artshumanities/students/aah-magazine/, volunteering through the Students’ Union or a work placement with Futures Xchange all count.
Banking and finance: AON, an insurance broker based in Manchester, recruits graduate trainees from any discipline for some of its roles. For example, to apply for their Health & Benefits Broking and Consulting Stream, you must be educated to degree level with a 2:1 or equivalent qualification in any discipline.

Business and management: many of the UK’s largest companies offer graduate schemes where you can specialise in different areas of business. Bentley Cars, based in Crewe, have a Graduate Development Programme offering trainee roles in sales and marketing, HR, finance, purchasing and logistics.

Community and Voluntary Sector: although there are relatively few graduate trainee posts, you can train as a youth and community worker, or move into paid administrative or fundraising roles (usually when you have experience gained in other industries or have already been a volunteer). IntoUniversity and Charity-works are some examples of graduate schemes in this sector.

Government and public administration: although this sector has seen a reduction in jobs, the public sector is still a big recruiter and encompasses jobs in the Civil Service, regional and devolved government, NHS management, local government, law enforcement and intelligence services. The NHS Graduate Management Training Scheme prepares recruits for management roles in HR, finance and general management.

Health and social care: this is a huge sector, which is changing rapidly in the way it is structured and the job roles within it. It’s important to keep up-to-date with current issues if you are considering entry. Jobs include social worker, specialist community support workers, residential care management, counselling and work within charities.

Further Study

Postgraduate study has the potential to enhance your career prospects and may be essential for some career choices. With a variety of postgraduate qualifications available, it is important that you research your options before starting your applications. Read our Postgraduate Study and Funding Guide for detailed information on available courses and funding options and search for courses on these websites:

Find a Masters
Find a PHD
Prospects - postgraduate study

What have Manchester Met’s Sociology and Criminology graduates done?

The following information represents some of the next steps for Manchester Met Sociology and Criminology graduates:

- Probation service officer
- Member of Parliament (MP)
- Healthcare researcher
- Human resource management
- Publishing and journalism
- Youth and community officer
- Housing officer
- Teaching
- Charity worker
- Social worker
- Further study and academia including the GDL law conversion course

Be inspired by other Manchester Met Sociology and Criminology graduates: [http://www2.mmu.ac.uk/sociology/student-profiles/](http://www2.mmu.ac.uk/sociology/student-profiles/)

**Resources to research career areas**

**Prospects.ac.uk:** what can I do with my social sciences degree? Research areas such as job options, further education, skills to add to your CV and typical employers.

**Prospects.ac.uk:** job profiles

**Target Jobs:** what can I do with a social sciences degree? Talks through skills you can gain, job options, and famous people who have these degrees.

**Career and Employability guides:** provide detailed information on a wide range of careers topics and are downloadable from our website: [www.mmu.ac.uk/careers/guides](http://www.mmu.ac.uk/careers/guides) and include: Opportunities in the Public & Not for Profit Sector, Looking for Graduate Jobs and Researching your career options

**Career Planner:** what you want from work and generates some job ideas: [www.prospects.ac.uk/links/pplanner](http://www.prospects.ac.uk/links/pplanner)

**Finding graduate opportunities**

Careers & Employability provide information and advice on job searching and we advertise hundreds part-time opportunities, vacation work, placements, internships and graduate jobs vacancies throughout the year on My CareerHub. To access these vacancies simply login with your Manchester Met Student ID number and password.

Graduate Recruitment Schemes have many different names, but most are offered by larger organisations, from multinational companies to opportunities in the NHS, civil service, and local government. Graduate schemes typically last for around two years, although this can vary and allow you to experience different placements within the organisation to gain an understanding of how it operates, explore your interests and decide what type of work/role you are most suited.

Only a small proportion of the UK job market is made up of graduate schemes and competition is very competitive. The recruitment process is usually lengthy too, with multiple stages ranging from initial application, online psychometric tests, assessment centres and final interviews.
The Times Top 100 graduate employers is a good start if you’re interested in learning more about the most popular graduate schemes on offer. This guide is updated on an annual basis and you can pick up your free copy in the Employability Hub within the Business School.

It’s important to remember that graduate schemes are not the only graduate jobs available. The majority of graduates will be employed directly into individual positions within organisations. Recruitment for these jobs is less structured in timing and promotion than graduate recruitment schemes, meaning vacancies can be less obvious. Many companies choose to advertise on the web in industry specific journals, magazines and websites, on their own company websites or via specialised, recruitment agencies. You need to familiarise yourself with the sector you are interested in. To help with this look at the organisations and resources page on My CareerHub as well as the ‘job sectors’ section on the Prospects website.

**Arts Council:** All internships are paid unless part of a further or higher education course.

**BBC Careers:** Includes information on trainee schemes and apprenticeships.

**Charityjob:** Opportunities across the sector

**Charity Works:** the UK non-profit sector’s graduate scheme

**Civil Service Fast Stream:** accelerated graduate scheme to leadership roles within the Civil Service

**Civil Service Jobs**

**Ethical Careers:** guide to ethical careers, jobs board updated daily.

**Heritage Lottery Fund:** employ a wide range of people in communications, finance, grant giving and development, human resources, IT, legal, office services, secretariat and strategic and business development.

**Guardian Jobs:** Good Search facility including by graduate level.

**The Times Top 100 Graduate Employers:** as chosen by graduates.

**National Crime Agency:** occasionally recruit for entry-level investigator and intelligence roles as well as student placements.

**NHS:** advertising all roles available in the NHS, look to NHS Graduates for more information on the NHS graduate scheme

**Prospects**

**Probation Service:** train to be a probation officer

**Target Jobs**

**The British Council:** offer graduate roles and paid summer internships

**The Job Crowd:** arts & media graduate careers
**Working for yourself**

Some Manchester Met graduates have also successfully started their own business/social enterprise.

Innospace - Manchester Met’s business incubator for start-ups and new enterprises

UNLtl - the foundation for social entrepreneurs, provide packages of support and funding for people who want to make a difference. They support individuals with entrepreneurial solutions to social issues.

**How else can you make yourself employable?**

Make the most of your time at university and take advantage of the many opportunities on offer. Take part in Careers and Employability events ranging from talks and workshops to employer events.

The Manchester Met’s Future Skills Award provides opportunities to enhance your university experience and learn how to articulate these skills to an employer.

Think about doing some volunteering. Take any opportunity to get work experience even if it’s not directly related to what you might want to do longer term; employers will value it for the transferable skills developed and for the general experience of the world of work.

**Careers & Employability Support**

The Careers & Employability Service offers a range of support to Manchester Met students and graduates:

Find Opportunities: We advertise hundreds of part time, graduate and internship roles through My Career Hub.

Careers Consultant Appointments: Book a 30-minute appointment and get expert advice from our specialist Careers Consultants. For more information visit www.mmu.ac.uk/careers

Make the most of your time at university and take advantage of the many opportunities on offer.