

College of Social Sciences

What do Birmingham postgraduates do?



School of Education

First destinations of postgraduates

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- Employability data for Education postgraduates, 2009–2013
 - Illustration of the range of occupations undertaken by our postgraduates

Foreword

WE ARE DELIGHTED TO INTRODUCE 'WHAT DO BIRMINGHAM POSTGRADUATES DO?' WHICH LOOKS IN DETAIL AT THE FIRST DESTINATIONS OF OUR EDUCATION POSTGRADUATES.

This publication is designed to give an insight into the kinds of employment sectors and jobs for which a postgraduate degree in your chosen subject at Birmingham can prepare you.

Pursuing a postgraduate degree offers you the opportunity to explore your chosen area of interest in depth, as well as developing your knowledge and understanding in a subject area about which you are truly passionate. Beyond the transferable skills that you will take

with you into the workplace, your postgraduate qualification will give you the chance to engage in critical enquiry, to grow as a scholar and even to become an expert in your field. Here, we show you how your postgraduate qualification can help you make that knowledge and expertise work for you after graduation.

For the school or department that is relevant, you will see a snapshot of the achievements of our postgraduates six months after graduation. All data is taken from the results of a 'Destinations of Leavers' survey issued to our postgraduates after this time. You will be able to see how many of our postgraduates who responded to this survey successfully entered employment and/or further study within just six months, along with a range of the diverse and exciting career opportunities that will be open to you after studying for a postgraduate degree in your chosen field.



Accompanying the data are case studies in which recent postgraduate alumni share their experiences of postgraduate study at Birmingham. Here, our alumni talk about the value inherent in postgraduate study, the knowledge and skills they developed during their degrees and where their qualifications have taken them since graduation.

We hope you find the information presented here useful and our alumni stories inspiring. We very much look forward to welcoming you to our campus soon.



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EMPLOYABILITY

Our Education postgraduates choose to work in a variety of education roles in schools and administrative roles in public and private sector organisations.

Highlights:

Over the past five years:

- 98.1% of taught postgraduate respondents were in work or further study just six months after graduation
- 94.8% of research postgraduate respondents had successfully found work or further study six months after graduating

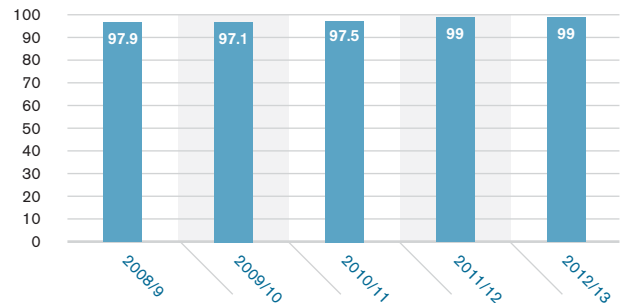
Our postgraduate programmes in Education include a range of continuing professional development courses (including those in the areas of autism and special educational needs), teacher training courses and educational research, including our PhD and EdD programmes.

Many of our postgraduates are already teachers and education professionals looking to further their careers, whilst others are attracted to alternative careers in education such as community and youth work, or other public sector occupations such as social work, police, housing and probation. New opportunities in partnership enterprises within sport, leisure, education and community schemes also appeal to a number of our graduating students.

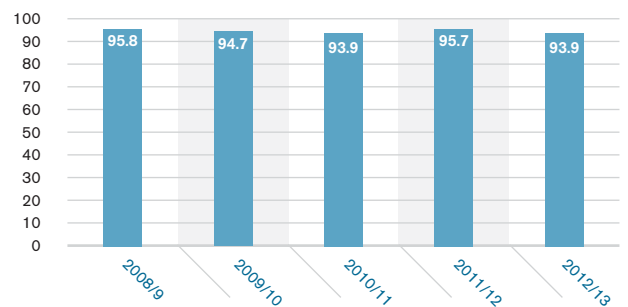
A number of our Education postgraduates also choose to stay in academia, gaining lecturer or research fellow posts and carving out their own academic careers in educational research.

The two charts to the right show results from 'Destinations of Leavers' surveys for our Education postgraduates over the past five years.

Percentage of taught postgraduate respondents in work and/or further study six months after graduation



Percentage of research postgraduate respondents in work or further study six months after graduation



SOURCE: Destinations of Leavers from Higher Education Institutions, Higher Education Statistics Agency, 2008–13.

'After graduation, I first went to work for the Research Unit for the Sociology of Education at the University of Turku, Finland. I worked there for seven years, during which I also completed my PhD. Besides research, I also translated and edited a variety of academic texts. In 2007 I left academia and started in my current job. Working with NGOs is very rewarding; both paid staff and volunteers are enthusiastic and interested in learning. I can use my expertise (both theoretical and practical) to make a real difference.

'I enjoyed my studies at Birmingham a great deal. I also got to study and live with some really wonderful people and got to have a lot of fun! For a half-British person who was born abroad, like me, living in the UK itself was also important for me.

Taking a year off to do a Masters degree gives you time to reflect on what you really want to do. My career took a new path after studying at Birmingham, and that of course changed my life.

'The degree programme was great because the teaching was excellent and I could combine modules flexibly. My student accommodation was also a positive experience, even though sharing a flat was slightly hard in the beginning, as I had been living alone for a good few years before coming to Birmingham. The city was also great and is even nicer now.

Even though you will be working hard with your studies, student groups and other activities give you a chance to mix with people from other departments. Voluntary work in the community can help you meet locals, which will make your experience richer. I was involved with the

postgraduate students' committee, the Amnesty International student group and volunteered for Oxfam.'

Marion Fields, International Studies in Education (Management and Policy), graduated 2000

Marion is now Coordinator of the OK Study Centre, Helsinki, Finland (www.ok-opintokeskus.fi). OK is an adult education institution that caters for the voluntary sector. Marion's tasks include project management and coordination, international projects, evaluation, training and consultation. She also contributes to the study centre's various publications.

LEARN MORE
www.birmingham.ac.uk/education

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RANGE OF OCCUPATIONS

Below is an overview of the kinds of employment sectors, organisations and professions that recent Education postgraduates have entered, based on responses to 'Destinations of Leavers' surveys conducted six months after graduation.

Range of employment sectors

- Cultural education
- Education
- Educational support activities
- Higher education
- Hospital activities
- Primary education
- Regulation of the activities of providing health care, education, cultural services, and other social services (excluding social security)
- Secondary education
- Social work activities
- Tertiary education

Range of employers

- Alderbrook School
- Arden Primary School
- Autism Initiatives
- Aston University Engineering Academy
- Ayrshire Hearing Impairment Visiting Services
- Barnardo's
- Birmingham City Council
- Birmingham Metropolitan College
- Curriculum and Language Access Service
- Deloitte
- Hellenic American Education Foundation
- Jigsaw Creative Care (learning disability support)

- Leicester City Council
- Limerick School for the Deaf
- National Institute for Health Research
- Windsor High School and Sixth Form
- University of Worcester

Range of occupations

- Adult Autism Coordinator
- Advisory Teacher
- Assistant Head Teacher
- Bilingual Support Worker
- Children's Rights Advocate
- Class Teacher
- Counsellor
- Deputy Head Teacher
- Director of Special Educational Needs
- Educational Psychologist
- Head Teacher
- Learning Development Manager
- Lecturer
- Occupational Therapist for Children
- Primary School Teacher
- Research Fellow
- Secondary School Teacher
- Special Needs Care Manager
- Specialist Autism Teacher
- Senior Lecturer



'There are far more opportunities open to me within the education sector now that I've gained a postgraduate qualification: I am now eligible to apply for

senior teaching posts and positions with more managerial responsibility.

'Since being introduced to International Studies in Education through the MEd at Birmingham, I have discovered a worldwide community of students and scholars who share my research interests. Meeting these people and wanting to learn more about their ideas has led me

to publish a student-generated publication, International and Comparative Education Magazine (www.icemag.org). It's a very exciting project that I couldn't have embarked upon without the contacts I made while studying at Birmingham, many of whom have contributed to and helped edit the magazine.

'I was looking for a course that could accommodate me as a part-time student, without too much disruption to my working week. The programme at Birmingham was ideal for this and I was able to choose from a wide range of challenging modules, attending seminars at times that fitted around my other teaching responsibilities. The University of Birmingham itself has such a strong reputation

for research; in addition, the expertise of the academic staff on my course was second to none, with many widely acknowledged as world-leading experts in their field. The course opened up whole new concepts, theories and areas of study that I never would have encountered otherwise. Now that I've finished my course, I still find myself reading up on current developments in international education that follow on from my studies. I feel confident enough to not only understand the issues I encounter, but also to critically evaluate and discuss them in a more rigorous manner. This is entirely thanks to conversations in tutorial sessions with my lecturers: they pushed me to the limits of what I thought I could do – and beyond.'

LEARN MORE
www.birmingham.ac.uk/education

Stephen Griffin, MEd International Studies in Education, graduated 2010
Stephen now works as a Lecturer in ESOL at South Birmingham College, and as a freelance academic proof reader.