

College of Social Sciences

What do Birmingham postgraduates do?



School of Government and Society

First destinations of postgraduates

- Employability data for Government and Society postgraduates, 2007–11
- 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 GOVERNMENT AND SOCIETY 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

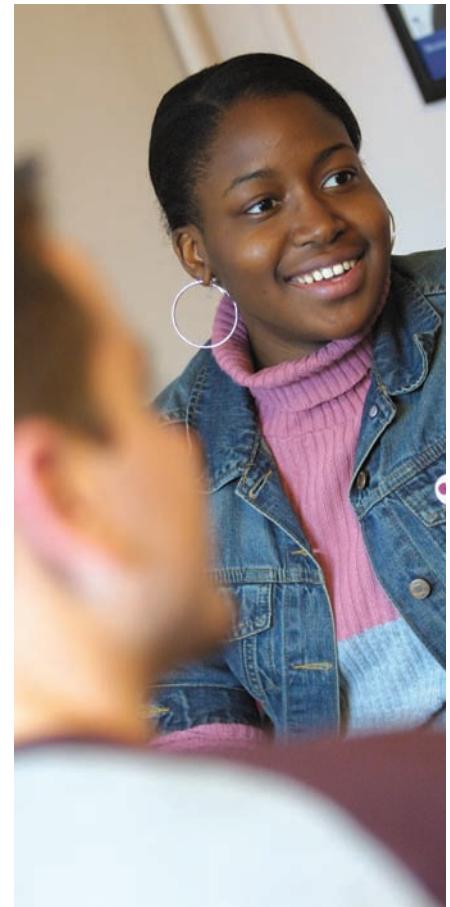
with you into the workplace, your postgraduate qualification will give you the chance to engage in critical enquiry, to grow as a scholar and even to become an expert in your field. Here, we show you how your postgraduate qualification can help you make that knowledge and expertise work for you after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



School of Government and Society

EMPLOYABILITY

INSTITUTE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT STUDIES (INLOGOV)

Highlights:

- 98.9% of taught postgraduate respondents over the past five years successfully found work and/or further study just six months after graduation
- 100% of research postgraduate respondents over the past five years were successfully in full-time work within six months of graduating

Our postgraduates in Local Government Studies pursue a range of different programmes including continuing professional development courses (such as our Public Service MBA) and taught Masters and Diploma programmes in areas including local policy and politics and public service commissioning, as well as PhD research.

In addition to the academic knowledge gained through their studies, Birmingham's Institute of Local Government Studies postgraduates develop transferable skills that are sought after by employers in many diverse sectors. These include familiarity with research methods; the ability to manage large quantities of information from diverse sources; the ability to organise information in a logical and coherent manner; judging and evaluating complex information; and making reasoned arguments, both orally and in written work.

Local Government Studies postgraduates are attracted to careers in both public and private sectors. These include local government, policing, health services, transport, legal services, prison services and housing. Some of these careers require further professional training, and/or building a portfolio of relevant work experience.

The two charts to the right show results from 'Destinations of Leavers' surveys for our Local Government Studies postgraduates over the past five years. Where years are missing from the charts, this indicates that there is no data available from that academic year.

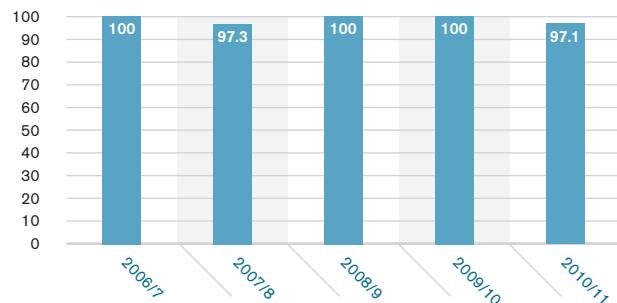


'Throughout my PhD I was supported by two of the leading experts on local politics who are at the cutting edge of research. It is thanks to INLOGOV, which provided help with administration and guidance of the empirical research, that I was able to undertake such a wide-ranging study of the legislation in question. The Institute was supportive of my research and I was even able to spend three months at the University of Bergen, raising the profile of my work and building a network with other researchers in my field.'

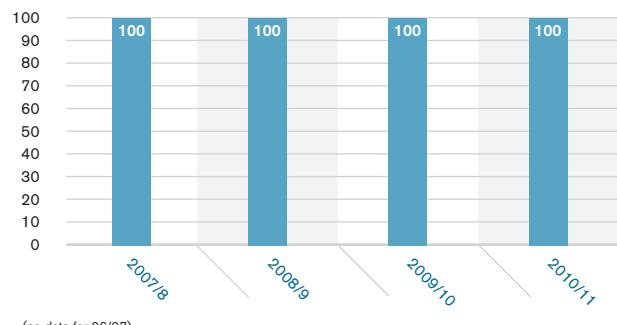
Mark Ewbank, PhD Local Government Studies, graduated 2011

Mark completed a PhD looking at the blended separation of powers and the organisation of party groups in English local government. He is now Scrutiny Manager at Westminster City Council.

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



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



SOURCE: *Destinations of Leavers from Higher Education Institutions*, Higher Education Statistics Agency, 2007–11

I also had the opportunity to teach on several undergraduate modules within the College of Social Sciences: invaluable experience to anyone wishing to pursue an academic career.

'Since completing my PhD, I achieved a fixed-term faculty position within an ESRC-funded project at the University of Southampton and am now in a research-related role at Westminster City Council. My PhD from Birmingham proved vital to me in securing both posts.'

LEARN MORE www.birmingham.ac.uk/inlogov

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RANGE OF OCCUPATIONS

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

Range of employment sectors

- Administration of the state
- Educational support activities
- General public administration
- Higher education
- Hospital activities
- Justice and judicial activities
- Libraries, archives, museums and other cultural activities
- Provision of services to the community as a whole
- Public order and safety activities
- Regulation of the activities of providing health care, education, cultural services and other social services, excluding social security
- Social work activities (without accommodation)

Range of employers

- Arts Council England
- Crown Prosecution Service

■ Department of Energy and Climate Change

- HM Revenue & Customs
- Home Office
- Housing associations
- Local authorities
- Magistrates Court
- Ministry of Defence
- National Health Service
- National Probation Service
- Police forces
- Third sector

Range of occupations

- Assistant Director
- Chief Executive
- Chief Inspector

■ Commissioning Development Manager

- Finance Manager
- Head of Culture and Community Services
- Head of Service
- Police Inspector
- Policy and Performance Advisor
- Policy Officer
- Political Assistant
- Procurement Manager
- Project Manager
- Research Fellow
- Scrutiny Officer
- Senior Probation Officer
- Senior Social Development Advisor
- Service Improvement Manager



'I studied at the University of Birmingham because of the job I do; I applied to Hertfordshire County Council's graduate management training programme and one of the reasons I did that was because the scheme offered the opportunity to study for a Masters at Birmingham. Our organisation always put people through this Masters course, so I'd heard about how good it was and was keen to try it out.'

'The thing that I enjoyed the most about my time at Birmingham was the opportunity to come together with other people who work

in the public sector to discuss really important issues of the day, as well as to learn things that apply to our organisation and then go to work on a Monday and put those things into practice at work.'

'I've just graduated and I've also just started a job at Hertfordshire County Council as Senior Policy Officer with a specific focus on localism and engagement. I was able to structure my MSc dissertation around the concept of localism which was very relevant for me. My advice for someone thinking of coming to study at Birmingham would be to go for it;

the MSc in Public Management is an excellent course and you have a really great opportunity to learn loads; it's really relevant for the day job.'

Claire Kueh, MSc Public Management
Claire gained a place on Hertfordshire County Council's graduate management training programme and studied her MSc as part of this programme.

LEARN MORE
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EMPLOYABILITY

POLITICAL SCIENCE AND INTERNATIONAL STUDIES (POLSIIS)

Highlights:

- 86.1% of all postgraduate respondents from the past five years found work or a further study place six months after graduating
- 100% of our research postgraduate respondents from 2011 successfully secured work and/or further study within just six months of graduation

Birmingham's Political Science and International Studies postgraduates study on a range of programmes spanning International Relations, Political Science, European Studies, Social and Political Theory, Social Research, and International Law, Ethics and Politics. Working in these disciplines means that our postgraduates develop a wide range of transferable skills that are sought after by employers in many sectors.

These skills include familiarity with research methods; the ability to manage large quantities of information from diverse sources; the ability to organise information in a logical and coherent manner; judging and evaluating complex information; and making reasoned arguments, both orally, in tutorials and presentations, and in written work. Postgraduate qualifications in this area have allowed previous graduates to enter areas including commercial management, finance, administration, politics and the armed forces, whilst a number of our research students choose careers in academia.

Further study is a popular option with Political Science and International Studies postgraduates. Some follow courses directly related to their degree whilst others pursue vocational courses including law conversion courses for entry into the legal profession.

The two charts to the right show results from 'Destinations of Leavers' surveys for our Political Science and International Studies postgraduates over the past five years.

'I had just finished a Master of Geography of Development at the Sorbonne in Paris and I wanted to get some economic and political perspective on the development issues by getting a Masters in International Relations. Moreover, the POLSIIS department at Birmingham is one of the best in the UK and the University and its campus are really impressive.

'The courses have great modules and teachers who are available to support you in your studies

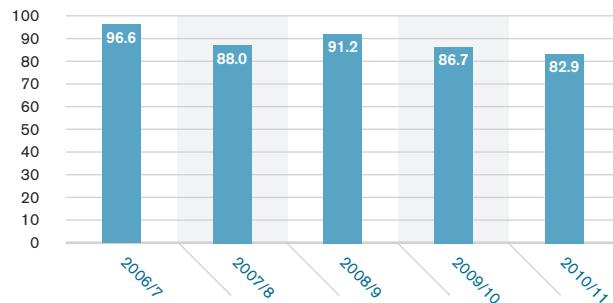
and in the search for jobs afterwards. The classes are very interesting with great space left for debates. The combination of lectures and personal readings helps you learn a lot in just a year including essay writing and academic debate. Studying in POLSIIS really prepares you well for your later career.'

'My degree from Birmingham helped me get an internship at the French Ministry of Finance. The job required great knowledge of the

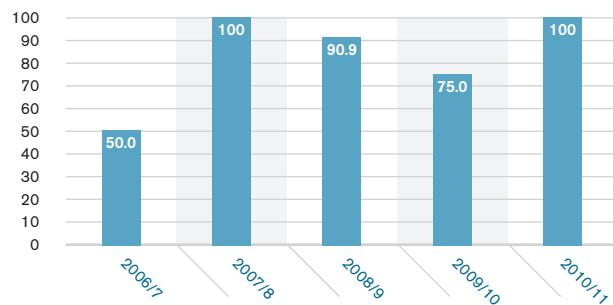
International Monetary Fund and the World Bank as well as a good level of English; an MA in International Relations from the University of Birmingham was really helpful! I like working for the European Commission as it is such a major agent in international co-operation. This stage offers me a great opportunity to get in touch with the concrete aspects of development aid. I also love being in Brussels, a very cosmopolitan city.'

Marie Houdart, MA International Relations (International Political Economy), graduated 2010
Marie is now an intern at the European Commission's Cooperation Office in Brussels. She works within the Directorate E, in charge of the Quality of Operations.

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, 2007–11

LEARN MORE
www.birmingham.ac.uk/polsis

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RANGE OF OCCUPATIONS

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

Range of employment sectors

- Activities of extraterritorial organisations and bodies
- Activities of political organisations
- Administration of the state
- Advertising agencies
- General public administration
- Higher education
- Human health activities
- Market research and public opinion polling
- Other education
- Provision of services to the community as a whole
- Research and experimental development
- Social work activities (without accommodation)
- Translation and interpretation activities
- Trusts, funds and similar financial entities

Range of employers

- Calyon Financial
- Department for Communities and Local Government
- Department for Work and Pensions
- European Commission
- European Parliament
- HBOS
- Heart of England NHS Foundation Trust
- HM Prison Service
- Institute for European Integration Research (Eif)
- Ministry of Justice
- National Debtline
- Refugee Centre
- Save the Children
- Unilever
- University of Birmingham

Range of occupations

- Assistant European Liaison Officer
- Charity Fundraiser
- Counter-terrorism Analyst
- Customer Advisor
- Defence Research Analyst
- Economic Advisor
- Interpreter/Translator
- Junior Business Researcher
- Lecturer
- Management Consultant
- Management Trainee
- Parliamentary Case Worker
- Planning Officer
- Recruitment Consultant
- Researcher in Political Science
- Research Officer
- Student Services Advisor



'After receiving my MA, I continued to live and work in Birmingham. I saved some money and eventually was able to move to London to volunteer at Parliament for an MP. I volunteered for only a few months before securing a good graduate job, and beginning my career.'

'I am currently employed as an in-house lobbyist at the UK's largest dogs' welfare charity. I have overall responsibility for the organisation's public affairs activities across the UK. I lobby politicians to raise awareness of animal welfare issues.'

'I love politics and working in politics is the best thing I could ever have hoped for. I very much enjoy the diverse nature of my job. I meet fascinating people and get to travel

across the UK. Also, working for an animal welfare charity means I get a lot of personal satisfaction from professional achievements.'

Rachel Cunningham, MA Political Science, graduated 2002

Rachel is now Public Affairs Manager for Dogs Trust.

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EMPLOYABILITY

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT (IDD)

Highlights:

- Over the past five years, a total of 89.9% of taught postgraduate respondents were in work and/or further study six months after graduation
- Over the past five years, a total of 100% of research postgraduate respondents had successfully found work or further study six months after graduating

Many of our taught postgraduates study International Development or Development Management Masters courses with a variety of different pathways, from Governance and Statebuilding to Urban Development, Aid Management, Human Resources and Development Management. Meanwhile, our research postgraduates conduct work across a wide range of topics within International Development.

Study in International Development focuses principally on poverty reduction through effective governance systems. Consequently, our postgraduates develop a knowledge base but also a wide range of transferable skills that are sought after by employers in many sectors, especially international organisations and agencies.

The skills and expertise gained through postgraduate studies in International Development have seen our graduates progress to roles with organisations including the United Nations, as well as a variety of NGOs and charitable bodies. Currently, more than 3,800 IDD alumni have taken their knowledge and experience to over 148 countries around the globe and are working in a variety of jobs in the public, private and voluntary sectors.

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



'My time as a research student at Birmingham was challenging but extremely rewarding and exciting.

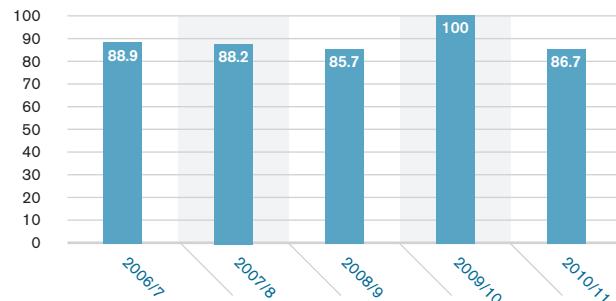
The International Development Department (IDD)

offers an excellent mix of academic expertise and first-hand experience in public policy and governance, making IDD degrees competitive

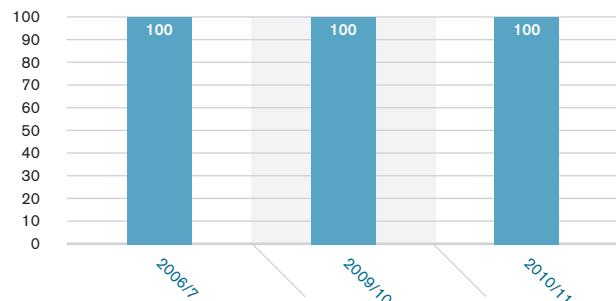
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www.birmingham.ac.uk/idd

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



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



(no data available for 2007/8 or 2008/9)

SOURCE: *Destinations of Leavers from Higher Education Institutions*, Higher Education Statistics Agency, 2007–11

and highly useful in both academic and real-life environments. In addition, the support given by both academic and secretarial staff is extraordinary.

as well as knowledge, leadership and people management skills. I also provide support to the Government's fight against corruption as Chairman of the Steering Committee of the National Anti-Corruption Strategy.'

'As Director of Public Sector Reform in Sierra Leone, I lead the government's public sector reform agenda and work closely with development partners and other non-state actors. I oversee and co-ordinate activities relating to public sector reform, including the restructuring of the civil service. My PhD gave me wide and comparative exposure to the theory and practice of managing the public service,

Julius Sandy, PhD International Development, graduated 2004
Julius completed his PhD on the civil service system and governance in a conflict environment, looking specifically at the case of Sierra Leone. He is now Director of the Public Sector Reform Unit in the Office of the President, Government of Sierra Leone.

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RANGE OF OCCUPATIONS

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

Range of employment sectors

- Activities of extraterritorial organisations and bodies
- Activities of other membership organisations
- General public administration
- Higher education
- Legal and accounting activities
- Management consultancy
- Other human health activities
- Regulation of the activities of providing health care, education and cultural services
- Research and experimental development on social sciences and humanities
- Social work activities without accommodation

Range of employers

- Christian Partners in Africa
- Danish National Audit Office
- Financial Services Authority
- HSBC
- Imperial College London
- Jaguar Land Rover
- Jubilee Debt Campaign
- Organisation For Economic Co-Operation and Development
- Oxfam
- Save The Children International
- United Nations
- Urban Land Institute
- World Vision UK

Range of occupations

- Campaigns Support Officer
- Clinical Project Manager
- Communications Assistant
- Corporate Asset Manager
- Emergency Response and Crisis Management Advisor
- Fraud Analyst
- Fundraising Manager
- Health Programme Coordinator
- International Alumni Officer
- IT Consultant
- Nurse Manager
- Programme Manager
- Public Engagement Coordinator
- Research Assistant
- Research Fellow
- Senior Adviser on Minority Communities
- Volunteer Development Officer



'Completing a Masters degree was the first essential step on my 'tick list' of skills and qualifications that I knew I needed to gain an entry-level position in the competitive humanitarian sector. Immediately after completing the course, I moved to France to learn the language (another tick off the list), where I interned with various local organisations working with refugees, traveller families and African communities. I then got a job in Thailand, working on developing and monitoring programmes on islands that had been devastated in the tsunami.

'This overseas work was the final tick I needed to get a job in an international organisation and so I moved back to London to work with the British Red Cross, where I spent a couple of years working on emergency response operations including the Pakistan floods and Ivory Coast conflict. Networking, communicating with a variety of audiences, managing different activities, adapting writing for different needs, independent research and keeping calm under pressure were

all essential skills for this role; many of which I gained during my Masters at Birmingham.

As well as qualifying me to compete with peers for the much needed entry position and subsequent roles I have applied for, my Masters provided me with the skills I have been using daily throughout my career. Surrounded by fellow students from around the world, it taught me to communicate and negotiate with people of different backgrounds, ages and experience and to understand that my own culture's values and morals may not always be right. It also taught me that where I do think they're right, I may need to adapt my thinking in order to move things forward.

'I also took from it the ability to work at a fast pace, under pressure, to simultaneous deadlines, and the importance of independent thinking and research for leading on programmes and concepts. Content-wise, I gained a good understanding of how the sector works and what is expected from employers in terms of managing projects, understanding community needs, developing proposals and budgets, and writing reports.

'However, one of the aspects of the course I value the most is the field work we were expected to complete for our dissertations. I went to Uganda and conducted interviews and questionnaires with young people around the links between exposure to, attitudes towards and awareness of HIV/AIDS. This was my first taste of field work and I will forever value it. On a personal level, studying my Masters degree brought me new friends and contacts from many different countries, which also serve as sounding boards for ideas and issues that might arise in my work.'

Emily Gilbert, MSc International Development (Poverty, Inequality and Development), graduated 2006

Emily is now Field Delegate for the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) in the Philippines.

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