

College of Social Sciences

What do Birmingham postgraduates do?



School of Social Policy

First destinations of postgraduates

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- Employability data for Social Policy 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 SOCIAL POLICY 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 Social Policy

EMPLOYABILITY

SOCIAL POLICY AND SOCIAL WORK

Highlights:

Over the past five years:

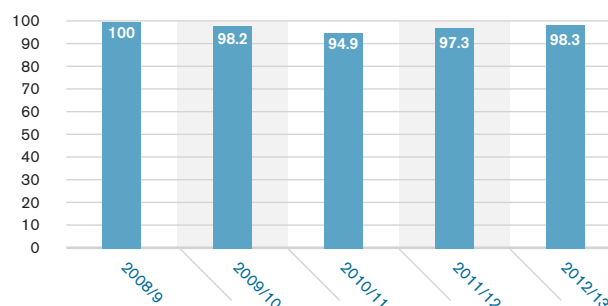
- 96.8% of taught postgraduate respondents were in work or further study six months after graduation
- 87.5% of research postgraduate respondents successfully found work or further study six months after graduating

The skills you will gain from studying Social Policy and Social Work are highly sought after in most jobs or professions. Both subject areas develop analytical skills and the ability to gather, assess and interpret data, all of which require clear and logical thinking.

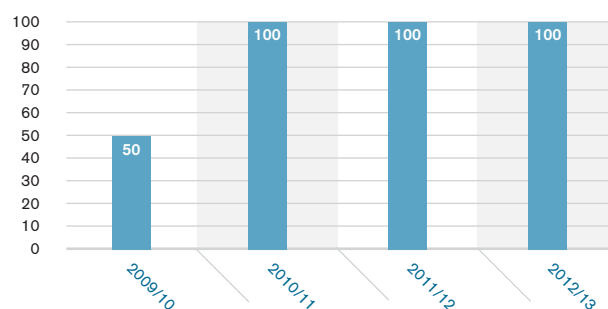
Birmingham's Social Policy postgraduates enter a wide range of occupational sectors. The majority join the public sector in areas such as youth work but others choose sectors including events, sales, administration and education. The vast majority of our Social Work postgraduates enter employment as social workers, the majority staying in the West Midlands. Our Social Work postgraduates have gone on to receive numerous accolades, such as Amanda Beaufoy (graduated 2010) who was awarded the title of Children's Social Worker of the Year 2013.

The two charts to the right show results from 'Destinations of Leavers' surveys for our Social Policy and Social Work 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 and/or further study six months after graduation



(No data for 2007/8 and 2008/9)

SOURCE: *Destinations of Leavers from Higher Education Institutions*, Higher Education Statistics Agency, 2009–13

'My career after graduation has taken a promising start with my first job with the United Nations. Understanding of the concept of inequality and social exclusion is key in my work with the UN and research skills acquired during the MA course are very important to my current role.'

'I am currently part of the team providing technical support to the Ministry of Women and Children's Affairs to conduct a baseline study on how the Domestic Violence Act of Ghana has protected vulnerable women and girls since its passage in 2007. This research will feed into the UN Women and the Government of Ghana's intervention on gender-based violence. Being able to positively influence the lives of the vulnerable in society is very rewarding.'

'I believe my training as a social worker has given me the ability to work with various

stakeholders at the community, at both national and international levels. Social work core skills such as assessment, planning, negotiation, organisation, management, resource mobilisation, monitoring and evaluation are very important for international development, just as they are for case work. Furthermore, eradicating extreme poverty, achieving universal primary education, promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women, reducing child mortality, improving maternal health and combating HIV/AIDS are all key areas of social work.'

Amanda Foka, MA Social Work graduated 2010

Amanda is now working for the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women, formerly UNIFEM) in Ghana.

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RANGE OF OCCUPATIONS

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

Range of employment sectors

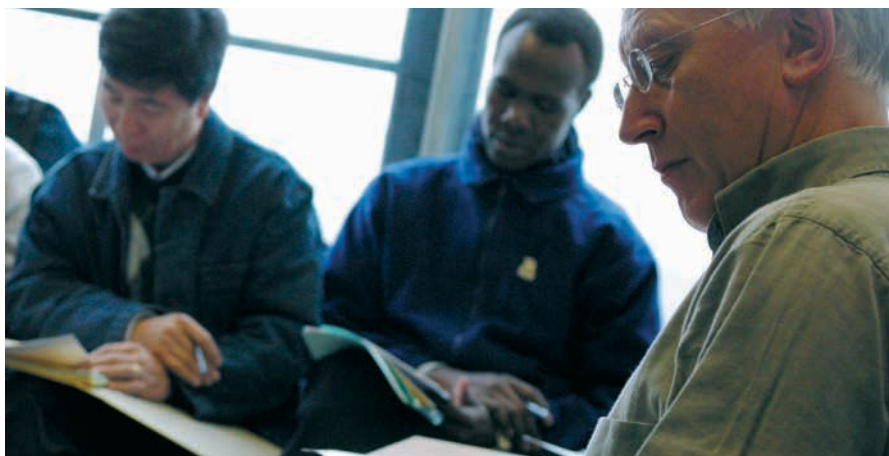
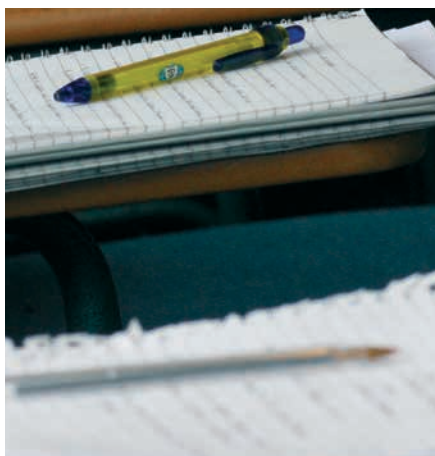
- Administration of the State and the economic and social policy of the community
- Employment placement agencies
- Engineering activities and related technical consultancy
- General public administration activities
- Higher education
- Human health activities
- Regulation of providing health care, education, cultural services and other social services
- Renting and operating of own or leased real estate
- Residential care activities for mental retardation, mental health and substance abuse
- Services to the community
- Social work
- Specialist medical practices

Range of employers

- Birmingham City Council
- Birmingham and Solihull Women's Aid
- Cafcass (Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service)
- Cedar Counselling
- Core Assets Fostering
- City of London Corporation
- Liquid Personnel (agency social work)
- Living Springs Family Centre
- National Institute of Adult Continuing Education
- Nottingham City Council
- Shelter
- Victim Support

Range of occupations

- Anti-Social Behaviour Officer
- Case Work Manager
- Community Psychiatric Nurse
- Duty Commissioning Manager
- Family Support Worker
- Mental Health Support Worker
- Refuge Project Worker
- Residential Manager
- Social Worker
- Strategic Manager for Safeguarding
- Support and Reassessment Officer
- Teaching Fellow
- Team Manager – Social Care Services
- Workforce Developer



'Studying for a PhD in Social Policy at Birmingham meant I was able to work alongside the best supervisors who offered me endless support and critical commentary

on my work. The School helped to make my prospective future clear; staff sincerely help postgraduate researchers to build their own academic careers. The library system at the University was marvellous and made

me realise just how wide the academic world really is. I also made some invaluable friends during my PhD.

'In 2005 I received the Ashley Prize for the best PhD thesis. My PhD has helped me to secure my current role as Professor, in which I am able to connect my academic knowledge and career with setting the direction of disability policy in Korea. I also went on to win the Jun Bong Yoon Prize in 2010 from Seoul National University for distinguished research in the field of disability.'

Kim Jinwoo, PhD Applied Social Studies, graduated 2005

Kim's PhD looked at discrimination against people with learning disabilities in the labour market in South Korea. He is now Professor in Social Welfare at Daksung Women's University in South Korea.

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EMPLOYABILITY

HEALTH SERVICES MANAGEMENT CENTRE (HSMC)

Highlights:

Over the past five years:

- 99.5% of taught postgraduate respondents were in work or further study six months after graduation
- 100% of research postgraduate respondents successfully found work or further study six months after graduating

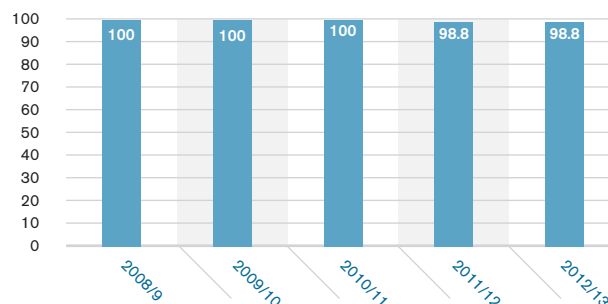
In the Health Services Management Centre, all of our programmes emphasise the application of theoretical perspectives to current policy and practice in the NHS and other health care systems. Our postgraduate courses are explicitly designed to support professional as well as academic development.

Along with Birmingham Business School, HSMC has also been selected to support the delivery of two of the three professional development programmes available as part of the new NHS Leadership Academy: the first set of national programmes to combine successful leadership strategies from international healthcare, private sector organisations and academic expert content.

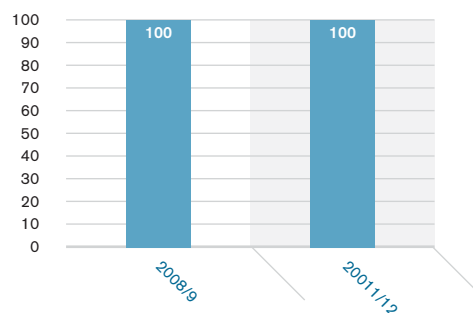
The majority of our postgraduate students study part-time while working in the health service or a related field, although we do have a number of full-time students studying on our UK-based programmes. Our programmes provide a challenging and inspiring study experience for both existing and aspiring practitioners in health and social care organisations. They equip participants with the knowledge, skills and confidence to develop both their careers and organisations.

The two charts to the right show results from 'Destinations of Leavers' surveys for our Health Services Management 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 and/or further study six months after graduation



(no data for 2009/10, 2010/11 or 2012/13)

SOURCE: *Destinations of Leavers from Higher Education Institutions*, Higher Education Statistics Agency, 2009–13



'First and foremost my PhD was an opportunity to bring together the different strands of experience and research that I had undertaken during my career. I was able

to bring my interests in health services research together with health care management which was my original profession. Also, interestingly, I was able to draw on the experience of my first

degree which was also at Birmingham and was in French Language and Literature.

'I think HSMC has made a huge contribution to the health service, and more generally. Studying at HSMC gives those working in the health service, social care or other parts of the broader health system the opportunity to reflect and to learn more academic concepts within which to analyse their day-to-day experience at work. HSMC also plays a big part in building up the wider body of health research

and enhances health research that is practical and is applicable to both policy and practice.'

Judith Smith, PhD Health Policy and Management

Judith completed her PhD on the role of women leaders in the National Health Service, adopting a narrative approach to the ways in which female executives talk about and describe their careers.

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www.birmingham.ac.uk/hsmc

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RANGE OF OCCUPATIONS

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

Range of employment sectors

- Accounting, bookkeeping and auditing activities; tax consultancy
- Activities of professional membership organisations
- Educational support activities
- General medical practice activities
- Higher education
- Hospital activities
- Human health activities (other)
- Information technology and computer services
- Justice and judicial activities
- Management consultancy
- Public administration
- Regulation of providing health care, education, cultural services and other social services
- Residential care activities

Range of employers

- Ambulance Service
- Birmingham and Solihull Mental Health Foundation Trust
- British Society for Dermatology
- Civil Service Learning
- Clinical Commissioning Group
- Cognitive Connections (Cognitive Behavioural Therapy)
- Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust
- Healthcare Consultancy Group
- Health Innovation Network

- Hitachi Consulting
- KPMG
- Lancashire Care Trust
- Leeds Teaching Hospital
- Myeloma UK (charity)
- NICE (National Institute for Health and Care Excellence)
- NHS Central Midlands Commissioning Support Unit
- Pfizer
- PwC

Range of occupations

- Assistant Director
- Business Manager
- Chief Financial Officer
- Commissioning Manager
- Director of Primary Care Strategy
- Head of Governance
- Head of Performance and Business Planning
- Head of Strategy
- Institutional Donor Relations Officer
- Lecturer
- NHS Manager
- Operations Manager
- Policy Advisor
- Principal Pharmacist
- Procurement Officer
- Professor of Health Economics
- Senior Consultant
- Service Manager

'I have to say I enjoyed every second at Birmingham, it has been fantastic. I really enjoyed working with other students, including those from other disciplines, which has been a fantastic experience. The conversations you have during tea breaks and during sessions are invaluable, but also students from other countries bring in their views and experiences. I've relished every moment I've had in the Health Services Management Centre.

'Studying my Masters shows I can commit to study and shows that I have the theory and application. I was recently interviewed for a post and I'm sure that having my Masters underpinned that I was successful. My Masters is my stepping stone to move on to do other things as well and makes me a more rounded candidate.'

Simon Holbrook, MSc Health Care Policy and Management

Simon is a paramedic by trade and works with the South Central Ambulance Service as the head of 111 North Operations.

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