Social Science degree?
Explore your options

Schools covered:
Business, Management and Economics
Education and Social Work
Global Studies
Law, Politics and Sociology
Your Social Science degree

Social Science degrees teach a diverse range of skills, and graduates from Social Science degree courses go on to work in a wide variety of sectors. Some careers require further professional training, others have direct entry from a degree.

Skills you are developing include:

- competence and confidence in presenting your own ideas as well as those of others.
- research and analytical skills that will be useful in a wide range of jobs.
- competence in using statistical tools and handling quantitative data accurately.
- interpersonal skills and experiences through group work and assessments.

You can read more about skills from your course:

www.sussex.ac.uk/careers/skills

In addition to your degree you are gaining experience and skills from other parts of your life. Think about the value of your work experience, volunteering and social activities. You can read more about your specific degree on our website:

www.sussex.ac.uk/careers/usingyourdegree
Exploring Career Ideas

You might already have some clear career ideas or you might be just beginning to give your options some thought. Career choice often begins with thinking about what you want in a job, and what you have enjoyed so far.

Think about what you are interested in and what motivates you. It might be important to you to work for an ethical organisation or working for a global corporation could be of interest. You might consider using your research skills in work or may prefer to have lots of contact with people. You might be interested in all of these things!

As a Social Science student there are many opportunities open to you.

There are lots of resources on our website to help you and you can also book to see a Careers Adviser to talk through your options.

You can review your interests and motivations: www.sussex.ac.uk/careers/interests

Information on the different employment sectors can be found in our sector guides guides.careers.sussex.ac.uk

You might also consider further postgraduate study and you can find out more about courses at www.sussex.ac.uk/careers/furtherstudy
Generating career ideas around your degree experience

Social Science Degree

Communicating key messages

Research and Writing

Interpersonal skills

Teaching or lecturing
Counselling
Recruitment consultant
Account manager
Retail sales and promotion

Web content writer
Script writer
External Affairs
Advertising
High level administrator
Further study

Political awareness and values

Political researcher
Campaigner
Charity administrator

Mind Map to show an example of linking university skills to types of work roles
This is purely illustrative to help you begin to generate ideas.

There are many other significant areas in which you might have developed during your academic life: patience, linguistic ability, being perceptive, dealing with uncertainty, identity, and lots more.

We suggest you engage with this mind map and create your own.
Where can you go?

Careers with your degree

Social Science graduates from Sussex enter a hugely varied range of careers. Some decide to use their degree directly in their career and others make use of the broader range of skills that they have developed during their time at Sussex.

Recent example of successful recruitment include:

- Press Officer
- Volunteer, Water Aid
- Management Consultant
- Teacher
- Housing support worker
- Assistant Economist, HM Revenue and Customs
- TEFL Teacher for the British Council
- Parliamentary Assistant to an MEP

It’s also worth remembering that about 60% of vacancies advertised for graduates in the UK do not ask for specific degree subjects. Your degree is taken as evidence of intellectual ability and the employer is interested in the range of transferable skills and experience you that demonstrate.

These include jobs such as management traineeships in both public and private sector, human resources, retail, marketing, sales, banking, accountancy and administration.

You can research more about graduate opportunities on our jobs pages at www.sussex.ac.uk/careers/jobs
Getting experience

You can gain valuable experience in a number of ways while at Sussex.

These include part time jobs, professional placements, internships, voluntary work and work shadowing.

These experiences are often stepping stones to greater things and can help you develop a really interesting skills portfolio. Gaining a range of experiences will help you to test out what you like and dislike in different environments and with different types of people.

You can find out more about how to build your experience at www.sussex.ac.uk/careers/gettingexperience

Part time work and work experience provide opportunities to learn about work places and you can see yourself in different work environments as well as providing useful income! Opportunities are advertised at www.sussex.ac.uk/careers/jobs

The Careers and Employability Centre has links with local employers and organisations. You can find out more about them on our Researching Employers webpage where you can search by type and location. www.sussex.ac.uk/careers/researchemployers

Volunteering is a great way to make contacts with local organisations and also to get involved with new activities and build some new experience. www.sussex.ac.uk/careers/volunteering
Further Resources

Events and Workshops
Check www.sussex.ac.uk/careers/events for our events listings.

Careers Advisers
You can talk to a Career Adviser weekdays during term time. You can book appointments online using our CareerHub system at careerhub.sussex.ac.uk if you have difficulty accessing this system you can get help by calling us at 01273 678429.

A discussion with your Academic Adviser or departmental Careers Liaison Tutor may also be useful.