

# Looking for Jobs and Internships in Politics

## WORKING IN POLITICS – START HERE

Background reading to help you explore some of the different options and routes.

- **Prospects.ac.uk information on careers in politics** – a good place to begin with background to the sector and profiles of common occupations, as well as a lot of useful links, further reading and contacts. Copies of the following profiles are also available in hard copy in the Careers Service:  
**Local, Regional and National Government** [www.prospects.ac.uk/links/GovernmentSB](http://www.prospects.ac.uk/links/GovernmentSB)  
**Public Bodies Administration** – including working in the Civil Service, Civil Service Fast Stream and Diplomatic Service [www.prospects.ac.uk/links/Adminpub](http://www.prospects.ac.uk/links/Adminpub)  
**Promotion and Public Relations** – including political research, lobbying [www.prospects.ac.uk/links/AdvPromotion](http://www.prospects.ac.uk/links/AdvPromotion)  
**Social Research** – including government, parliamentary and political party research [www.prospects.ac.uk/links/InfoSocRes](http://www.prospects.ac.uk/links/InfoSocRes)
- **Interns Network** [www.internsnetwork.org.uk](http://www.internsnetwork.org.uk) A network for interns and their employers in Westminster, various sector guides and articles, and a Monday email newsletter of current events and vacancies. Also includes several useful guides covering *Working in Politics*, *The Public Affairs Sector* and *Political Internships Abroad* and articles and case studies of graduates entering politics – see the 'Advice and Information' pages.
- **Electus-Start** [www.electus-start.com/](http://www.electus-start.com/) / [www.workinpolitics.com](http://www.workinpolitics.com) Advice on working in politics and details of internship opportunities (mainly unpaid), and a job alert facility.
- **Policy Jobs** [www.policyjobs.net](http://www.policyjobs.net) Public policy jobs and internships, includes think tank directory. Restricted access to non-subscribers. International content.
- **Political Jobs** [www.politicaljobs.net](http://www.politicaljobs.net) Must subscribe to access all content. Provides listings for positions around the world.
- **The Politician's Apprentice (The Guardian)** <http://politics.guardian.co.uk/studentpolitics/comment/0,,1266883,00.html> – an article from the Guardian discussing graduate routes into politics
- **Politico's Guide to Careers in Politics & Government** (Sally Gillman, Politico's Publishing, 2001).

- In the Careers Service see the occupational files **Administration – Public Bodies (N2), Social Research (W4) and Promotion and Public Relations (G2)**.

## WORKING IN UK GOVERNMENT

There are few opportunities for internships/work experience directly in Government departments and agencies, but a wide range of graduate careers. The following are some useful places to start.

- **Civil Service Careers** [www.careers.civil-service.gov.uk](http://www.careers.civil-service.gov.uk) – information on all opportunities in the Civil Service, and a directory of all departments and agencies to explore other options. See for example **What do government social researchers do?** [www.gsr.gov.uk/recruitment/role.asp](http://www.gsr.gov.uk/recruitment/role.asp)
- **Fast Stream** [www.faststream.gov.uk](http://www.faststream.gov.uk) – for information on graduate entry for progress to senior positions
- **UK Parliament Jobs** [www.parliament.uk/useful/job\\_opportunities.cfm](http://www.parliament.uk/useful/job_opportunities.cfm) - listings of all parliamentary positions, and also an email jobalert function.
- **Work for an MP** [www.w4mp.org](http://www.w4mp.org) Good site for job listings and guides to working in parliament (and not just for jobs with MPs). Also includes think tanks, lobby groups etc.
- Students wanting to work for an MP should also contact **political party headquarters** to find out about any available opportunities see [www.direct.gov.uk/Gtgl1/GuideToGovernment/PoliticalParties/fs/en](http://www.direct.gov.uk/Gtgl1/GuideToGovernment/PoliticalParties/fs/en) for a list.
- **The House Magazine** [www.housemag.co.uk](http://www.housemag.co.uk) – weekly publication for the Houses of Parliament for those interested in legislation and policy (subscription only)
- **Other public bodies and agencies** [www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/agencies-publicbodies](http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/agencies-publicbodies) and [www.publicappointments.gov.uk](http://www.publicappointments.gov.uk) – previously known as 'quangos', not strictly government departments, but public bodies established and funded by government for various purposes.

## LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Local government and the public sector offer other opportunities for working in politics.

- **National Graduate Development Programme** [www.ngdp.co.uk](http://www.ngdp.co.uk) – the local government ‘fast stream’.
- **Regional Development Agencies** [www.englandsrdas.com](http://www.englandsrdas.com) – responsible for regeneration and sustainable development in nine UK regions.
- **Local Government Careers** [www.lgcareers.com](http://www.lgcareers.com)
- **LG Jobs** [www.lgjobs.com](http://www.lgjobs.com) – for jobs in local government
- Public sector recruitment sites include **Opportunities** [www.opportunities.co.uk](http://www.opportunities.co.uk), **Public Sector Careers** [www.publicsectorcareers.org](http://www.publicsectorcareers.org) and **JobsGoPublic** [www.jobsgopublic.com](http://www.jobsgopublic.com)

## PUBLIC AFFAIRS AND LOBBYING

- **Pub Affairs** [www.pubaffairs.org/guide.htm](http://www.pubaffairs.org/guide.htm)  
Networking in public affairs, including a list of organisations who regularly recruit graduates. Also contains general advice on jobs in the sector.
- **Association of Professional Political Consultancies** [www.appc.org.uk](http://www.appc.org.uk) and **British Politics Pages** [www.ukpolitics.org.uk/cgi/viewnews.cgi?id=988824629](http://www.ukpolitics.org.uk/cgi/viewnews.cgi?id=988824629) have lists of political consultancies, useful for speculative approaches, or to see if any have advertised vacancies.
- **The Guardian** (Wednesday – Society issue)
- **Directory of political lobbying** (Justin Johnson, Politico's Publishing, 2002) - list of political consultancies, their staff and clients
- **Politico's Guide to Political Lobbying** (Charles Miller, Politico's Publishing, 2000).

## EU POLITICS

- **Careers at the EU Institutions** [http://europa.eu.int/epso/brochures/epso\\_26-11-04\\_en.pdf](http://europa.eu.int/epso/brochures/epso_26-11-04_en.pdf) - a booklet for download
- **EU Careers** [www.eu-careers-gateway.gov.uk](http://www.eu-careers-gateway.gov.uk) – UK Cabinet Office site for British graduates wanting to work in European institutions. Good ‘Candidate Guide’ with advice on passing selection tests.
- **UK Civil Service European Fast Stream** <http://european.faststream.gov.uk> – working for the UK government on European issues
- **Jobs in Brussels** [www.jobs-brussels.com](http://www.jobs-brussels.com) and [www.eurobrussels.com](http://www.eurobrussels.com)
- **European Personnel Selection Office** <http://europa.eu.int/epso/> - for all jobs in the EU agencies. See ‘Working in the EU Institutions’ and ‘Work experience for graduates’.
- **European Commission Traineeships** [http://ec.europa.eu/stages/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/stages/index_en.htm) - also

known as ‘Stages’, graduate traineeships in the European Commission

- **The Council of the European Union** [www.consilium.europa.eu](http://www.consilium.europa.eu) (see Contacts > Traineeships Office)
- **European Parliament Traineeships** <http://www.europarl.europa.eu> (see Parliament > Traineeships) – including opportunities in journalism, translation and other general positions.
- **European Economic and Social Committee Traineeships** [http://eesc.europa.eu/organisation/tgi/trainees/index\\_en.asp](http://eesc.europa.eu/organisation/tgi/trainees/index_en.asp) - 5 month traineeships for graduates starting in February and September. For jobs see [http://eesc.europa.eu/organisation/tgi/jobs/index\\_en.asp](http://eesc.europa.eu/organisation/tgi/jobs/index_en.asp)
- **EU Delegation of the EC to the US - Internships** [www.eurunion.org/delegati/ppd/interns.htm#EurIntern](http://www.eurunion.org/delegati/ppd/interns.htm#EurIntern) – for students and recent graduates based in Washington, offered three times a year.

## INTERNATIONAL POLITICS

Various UK (and other national) government departments work in very internationally focused ways, most obviously the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and Department for International Development for example, as to EU bodies. See previous sections on **Working in UK Government** and **EU Politics**.

- **United Nations** [www.un.org](http://www.un.org) and [www.unsystem.org](http://www.unsystem.org) – in addition the Getting into International Development site [www.careers.lon.ac.uk/development](http://www.careers.lon.ac.uk/development) maintains a good UN links section
- **NATO Parliamentary Assembly Research Assistant Programme** [www.nato-pa.int/default.asp?shortcut=76](http://www.nato-pa.int/default.asp?shortcut=76) (or see Secretariat > Research Assistant Programme) – small number of positions, starting January and August each year for postgraduate level students and above at the NATO Parliamentary offices in Brussels.
- **Organisation for Security and Co-Operation in Europe (OSCE)** [www.osce.org/employment/13111.html](http://www.osce.org/employment/13111.html) - internships between 2 and 6 months are available according to OSCE's needs, in a range of field operations across Europe and across the OSCE's departments and bodies.

## THINK TANKS

One way to work in the political sphere – and to get experience – is to work for a think tank. Think tanks conduct research and publish on a range of domestic or international policy issues, some specialising in

particular areas. There are many think tanks in the UK and abroad. Notable organisations which offer internships include **Demos** [www.demos.org.uk](http://www.demos.org.uk), the **Institute of Public Policy Research** [www.ippr.org.uk](http://www.ippr.org.uk) and the **Foreign Policy Centre** [www.fpc.org.uk](http://www.fpc.org.uk), but see the directories below for listings of other think tanks.

- **Guardian special report on UK think tanks**
- <http://politics.guardian.co.uk/thinktanks/>
- **Southampton Solent Library** [www.solent.ac.uk/library/subject/page111.stm](http://www.solent.ac.uk/library/subject/page111.stm) List of think tanks/research institutions and websites
- **Policy Library** [www.policylibrary.com](http://www.policylibrary.com) and **Policy Jobs** [www.policyjobs.net](http://www.policyjobs.net) have good directories of think tanks in the UK and abroad.
- **NIRA International Think Tank listings** [www.nira.go.jp/linke/tt-link/](http://www.nira.go.jp/linke/tt-link/)
- Useful article from Kings College Careers Service available at [www.kcl.ac.uk/about/structure/admin/acareg/careers/news/topic/profiles/think.html](http://www.kcl.ac.uk/about/structure/admin/acareg/careers/news/topic/profiles/think.html)

You can also try searching in Google for others, or for organisations involved in particular policy issues. Try searching for other related terms (such as 'social research', 'policy' or 'political research')

## NGOS AND DEVELOPMENT ORGANISATIONS

International politics is often closely linked with the development and NGO sector.

- **Getting Into International Development** – published by The Careers Group (reference copy in the library and available to purchase). See also the companion site which has additional resources and links [www.careers.lon.ac.uk/development](http://www.careers.lon.ac.uk/development)

## POLITICAL RISK

This section is based on information from Kings College Careers Service – the original page with some useful links to organisations operating in this area is at: [www.kcl.ac.uk/about/structure/admin/acareg/careers/news/topic/profiles/risk.html](http://www.kcl.ac.uk/about/structure/admin/acareg/careers/news/topic/profiles/risk.html).

Political risk is frequently associated with other forms of risk (eg economic risk) so ensure you also read information on these areas too.

- **Risk Analyst** [www.prospects.ac.uk/links/RiskAnalyst/](http://www.prospects.ac.uk/links/RiskAnalyst/) - not dealing specifically with political risk, but a good place to start
- **Career Opportunities in Political Risk Analysis** [www.sais-jhu.edu/studentservices/career\\_services/Students\\_Alumni/sector\\_profiles/political\\_risk\\_analysis.pdf](http://www.sais-jhu.edu/studentservices/career_services/Students_Alumni/sector_profiles/political_risk_analysis.pdf) -

produced for American students by Johns Hopkins University, but still useful.

- **Consultancy** – some management and economic consultancy firms include risk as part of their portfolios. See our files on **Management Consultancy** and **Economic and Statistical Services** and the information at [www.prospects.ac.uk/links/ITEcoStats](http://www.prospects.ac.uk/links/ITEcoStats) and [www.prospects.ac.uk/links/FinManConsult](http://www.prospects.ac.uk/links/FinManConsult)