



Social Science in Government



Government
Economic
Service

Careers in the Civil Service

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Careers in the Civil Service

- How do they compare to academic careers?
- Skills that are valued (now and in future)
- Benefits of having a PhD
- My personal story
- How to find out about jobs
- Advice on submitting an application and preparing for an interview

How do careers compare?

Academia

- Youth combined with expertise rewarded?
- Experience of different research labs rewarded
- Harder to maintain research profile if working part-time?
- Generally surrounded by like-minded people, with similar levels of expertise
- Career progression limited to a few key opportunities?

Civil Service

- Breadth of experience rewarded
- Experience of different departments rewarded
- Part-time and flexible working very accepted
- Working with people from a wide range of backgrounds & experience
- Lots of opportunities for career progression

What skills are valued?

Academia

- Specialist knowledge & skills, learned over years
- Ability to write a perfectly crafted academic paper for a specialist audience
- Ability to bring money into research group / University
- Teaching skills
- Collaborating & partnering

Civil Service

- Ability to pick up new knowledge & skills fast
- Ability to write a perfectly crafted briefing note for a non-specialist audience
- Ability to find and deliver efficiencies
- Leadership & management
- Negotiating & influencing

Benefits of having a PhD

- Honed research skills:
 - Use of evidence
 - Design of research
 - Evaluation
- Ability to write & communicate verbally
- Ability to problem solve
- Dogged determination to see a project through to delivery
- Personal resilience & tenacity

My personal story

‘Failed’ academic to successful Civil Servant



Civil Service Jobs

- Set up an automatic e-mail alert for new jobs
- Define your categories:
 - Analytical
 - Economics
 - Psychology
 - Social Research
 - Science
- Think flexibly

<https://www.civilservicejobs.service.gov.uk/csr/index.cgi>

GOV.UK Civil Service Jobs

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50 miles

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Grade 7

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[DEF/150/16 Business Developer](#) 
Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science
Laboratory, Lowestoft, Eastern, NR33 0HT
Salary : £43,833 - £52,948
Closes : 14 Jun 2016 Reference: 1490991

[Project Engineer](#) 
Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency
South Mimms, Potters Bar, Hertfordshire, EN6 3QG
Salary : £37,922 - £39,196
Closes : 16 Jun 2016 Reference: 1495696

[Post Doctoral Scientist \(NB344\)](#) 
Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency
South Mimms, Hertfordshire, EN6 3QG
Salary : £37,922
Closes : 17 Jun 2016 Reference: 1494094

18:04
13/06/2016

Fast Stream recruitment timetable

2017 Scheme

- Opens 1st September 2016
- Closes 31st October
- Fast Stream Assessment Centres: October – December 2016*
- Specialist Assessment Centres (Social Research / Economics / Statistics / Operational Research): January – February 2017

*dates may be subject to change

Further information

- Details about how to apply (including advice on completing the application form and preparing for interview) see:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/civil-service-fast-stream>
- This information is useful whether applying for a Fast Stream post or any other post.

Civil Service job grading

- **Research Officer, Assistant Economist & Fast Stream:** standard graduate entry level
 - c. £22,000 starting salary
- **Senior Research Officer:** standard entry level for candidates with PhDs, but need to demonstrate management experience
 - c. £32,000 starting salary
- **Grade 7:** Definitely requires management / leadership experience
 - c. £42,000 starting salary

Thank you...

... any questions?