



Social Science in Government



Government  
Economic  
Service

# Careers in the Civil Service

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# Careers in the Civil Service

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- 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?

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## **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?

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## **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

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- 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

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‘Failed’ academic to successful Civil Servant



# Civil Service Jobs

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- 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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### Search results

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**Location**  
Enter a postcode, town or region

Search distance  
50  miles

**Job role**  
Science

**Organisation**  
Enter one or more search criteria

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Enter one or more search criteria

**Job grade**  
Senior Executive Officer   
Grade 7

**Working pattern**  
Enter one or more search criteria

Order by

[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

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[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

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

# Fast Stream recruitment timetable

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## 2017 Scheme

- Opens 1<sup>st</sup> September 2016
- Closes 31<sup>st</sup> 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

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- 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

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- **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?