

**Careers and Employability Service
What Can I Do With My Degree?**

Philosophy

Welcome:

We have developed this recourse pack to help you research specific job sectors which may be of particular interest to Philosophy students.

- **Prospects.ac.uk** - Options with Philosophy
- **TargetJobs** – What can I do with my Philosophy Degree?

The Prospects and TargetJobs sites include information and advice covering: Your skills, job options, career areas, further study, what next, case studies, contacts and job search sites.

- **All About Careers** – What can I do with my Philosophy Degree?

SKILLS:

Philosophy is a versatile academic discipline characterised by the rigorous and critical studies. The study of Philosophy develops a flexible and responsive openness of mind, conceptual sophistication in argument and the ability to engage in dialogue and identify underlying issues within all kinds of debate. Your studies will have helped you to:

- Work independently and manage your time e.g. meeting essay deadlines, planning and researching work
- Developed logical thinking and presentation of analysis of complex and controversial problems
- Articulate knowledge and comprehend texts, concepts, theories and philosophical terminology
- Lead and participate in group discussions, plus have confidence in your own opinions
- Work effectively with others to draw conclusions based on careful assessment of pertinent arguments to source collective solutions.
- Effectively convey arguments and opinions
- Have tolerance of others' opinions and of ambiguity
- Think critically and develop your own opinions based on your knowledge
- Develop skills in critical reasoning and analysis
- Develop IT skills

Finding Job Vacancies:

As a Philosophy graduate you have a wide range of career options open to you due to the extensive skills set acquired during your degree (e.g. report writing, communication, construction of arguments and cases, time management). This means that you are able to demonstrate your competencies and flexibility within many of the 'core' skill areas valued by employers. It can however mean that it is difficult to identify specific roles or industries that you want to apply to and as such it is a good idea to explore the range of opportunities open to you and find where your own motivations best align.

For general information and advice about how to start finding out about employment opportunities check out our [Take Action](#) pages as well as [**Prospects Job Hunting Tips web page**](#). You'll also find vacancies advertised on our [**Jobs Board**](#) .

When applying for vacancies you may need support in constructing a CV, filling out an Application Form, drafting a Cover Letter or preparing for Interview. We offer support on all of these areas via our [**Job Application Resources webpages**](#).

Creating a Professional Presence and Getting Creative:

Regardless of whether you are seeking graduate employment or looking to undertake a postgraduate programme it is important that you create a positive and professional identity for yourself. Make use of our resource on [**Social Media Success**](#) to understand the importance that the web plays in recruitment.

Social Media can be particularly relevant to your chances of success if you are looking to pursue a career in publishing, journalism or other creative industries. You will need to think about your portfolio of work and be creative in the way you collate this online and market yourself. You might like to think about articles and publications you have written or establish a blog to help showcase your abilities and connect this to CVs and applications. WordPress, Twitter and other online platforms can be fantastic resources to help you achieve this professional portfolio while platforms like LinkedIn can help you to locate the right people to connect with and find inspiration.

Key Occupational Information for Philosophy Students:

There are a wide range of careers to consider and you may find the Prospects articles on **Types of Jobs** to be useful in understanding what is involved in certain career areas and to explore details of typical employers and vacancy sources along with useful contacts and resources lists where you can get more information.

In addition professional bodies and organisations are also a good starting point for your careers research; many of them have careers information about entry requirements and training and details about employers on their websites. For example:

Administration:

- The Civil Service - www.civilservice.gov.uk
- Local Government Employers - www.local.gov.uk/workforce

Advertising:

- Institute of Practitioners in Advertising – www.ipa.co.uk

Broadcasting:

- The BBC – www.bbc.co.uk/jobs
- Screen skills (formally creative skills set)
<https://www.screenskills.com/>

Consultancy:

- Accenture - www.careers.accenture.com
- IBM – www.ibm.com/employment/uk

Health Care:

- The NHS – www.nhscareers.nhs.uk

Law enforcement and Protection:

- Working for the Police - <https://www.joiningthepolice.co.uk/>

Marketing:

- Chartered Institute of Marketing - www.cim.co.uk

Market Research:

- Market Research Society - www.mrs.org.uk

Media Careers:

- Screen skills (formally creative skills set)
<https://www.screenskills.com/>

Public Relations:

- Chartered Institute of Public Relations - www.cipr.co.uk

Publishing:

- The Publishers' Association - www.publishers.org.uk

Recruitment:

- Recruitment and Employment Confederation - www.rec.uk.com

Social Research:

- Social Research Association - www.the-sra.org.uk

Teaching:

- Get into Teaching – <http://getintoteaching.education.gov.uk>
- The Times Educational Supplement - www.tes.co.uk

Postgraduate Study and Research:

Postgraduate study can enhance your first degree and give you the opportunity to study a particular aspect in more depth. Alternatively, further study can enable you to gain a vocational qualification and give you the entry requirements for the career you are interested in. Consider your motivations for further study and find out about potential sources of funding. See our **Further Study** pages for information and advice.

Many graduates continue their Philosophy studies by going into an MA or MRes, with the potential to move on to a PhD. Some also go into teaching, which requires them to study for a Postgraduate Certificate in Education (PGCE), or a qualification in teaching English as a foreign language (TEFL) for an international career. If you are considering teaching you should explore the above links to teaching webpages.

Graduates from Philosophy at the University of Southampton entered a diverse range of postgraduate courses such as:

- MSc Cognitive Neuroscience
 - MA Continental Philosophy
 - MSc Energy Systems and Sustainability
 - Graduate Diploma in Law
 - MA History
 - MSc International Political Economy
 - MSc Marketing Management
 - MA Philosophy
 - PGCE Primary
 - MA Publishing Studies
 - MA Scriptwriting
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