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/Admipub](http://www.prospects.ac.uk/links/Admipub)
- Promotion and Public Relations – including political research, lobbying [www.prospects.ac.uk/links/AdvPromotion](http://www.prospects.ac.uk/links/AdvPromotion)
- *The Politician's Apprentice (The Guardian)* [http://politics.guardian.co.uk/studentpolitics/comment/0,,1266883,00.html](http://politics.guardian.co.uk/studentpolitics/comment/0,,1266883,00.html) – an article from the Guardian discussing graduate routes into politics

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?](http://www.gsr.gov.uk/recruitment/role.asp) [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.
- 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.
- National Graduate Development Programme [www.ngdp.co.uk](http://www.ngdp.co.uk) – for careers in local government
- 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](http://www.opportunities.co.uk) and [Public Sector Careers](http://www.publicsectorcareers.org). Also includes think tanks, lobby groups etc.
- [Work for an MP](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 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 House of Parliament for those interested in legislation and policy (subscription only)

Other jobs in politics
- **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.
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.

- **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.
- **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.
- **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

### 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](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/](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
- **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/](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/](http://www.nira.go.jp/linke/)
- **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 can be found at


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.propects.ac.uk/links/FinManConsult](http://www.prospects.ac.uk/links/FinManConsult).