

Arts, Social Sciences and Languages

If you have a strong interest in more than one subject, such as the history of art, languages or sociology, rather than a subject relating to a specific area of work, a wide variety of careers will still be open to you after you finish your studies. You'll also gain useful transferable skills such as the ability to analyse information, solve problems and communicate effectively. There are opportunities to work in industry, commerce, government or the professions as well as the voluntary and charity work sectors.

Alternatively, you may want to pass on your enthusiasm for your subject and work as a lecturer or take on further training to become a teacher.

What areas can I work in?

Graduates in arts, social sciences and languages work in the Civil Service, local government, business, commercial, industrial and managerial posts. Work in advertising and the media attracts some. Others go into marketing or sales. Work in information technology, law, travel and tourism, and culture is also possible.

Courses are split into the following sectors: general, English, history, humanities, languages, politics, religion and sociology.

What kind of companies can I work for?

There are a wide range of possible employers including:

- local government or Civil Service
- social work or welfare services
- community or youth work organisations
- broadcasting and media companies
- schools, colleges and universities
- charities and voluntary organisations
- retail and commerce businesses, including sales and marketing
- museums, galleries and heritage organisations.

What's the job market like?

Due to the extensive areas that arts, social sciences and language graduates can work in, it is beyond the scope of this article to detail the job market prospects for each profession!

However, what is clear from research conducted by the British Academy is that graduates in arts, humanities and social sciences develop a broad range of transferable skills that employers in a wide range of sectors look for. These skills include communication, creativity, research and analysis, decision-making, problem solving and adaptability.

According to the report *What do graduates do? (2018/19)*, humanities graduates went into a wide range of professions including education, legal, engineering, marketing, human resources and media, confirming the wide

range of employment available.

Languages is always a competitive area to enter, particularly for interpreter and translator jobs. According to a 2017 British Council report, the same languages are consistently in the top 5 as being the most important languages for the UK: Spanish, Mandarin, French, Arabic and German.

Facts and figures

- In 2017, sociology graduates were most likely to be in full time work six months after graduation at 45.9%.
- The most popular professions for 2017 language graduates were marketing, sales and PR, at 18.3%.
- Average starting salaries for English graduates vary from £16,600 - £21,700 and for philosophy graduates, from £17,300 to £25,000.
- Over half of global world leaders have a social sciences or humanities degree, at 55%.
- History graduates from 2017 were most likely to go into further study, at 27.5%.

Want to find out more?

If you are thinking of studying languages two web sites developed for young people in England by the Routes into Languages programme may be of interest. The first is ['Why study languages?'](#) and the second is ['Studying languages at university'](#).

Sources

- What do graduates do? Prospects in association with HECSU and AGCAS (2018/19)
- Languages for the future, The British Council (2017)
- British Academy website
- The Right Skills: Celebrating Skills in the Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences (AHSS), British Academy (2017)