

Career Center

Resources for Exploring Careers in Public Policy

Careers in public policy often involve using research findings to inform laws and regulations. Professionals in this field analyze current research and talk to experts in order to present oral and written reports to policy makers. Policy research is performed not only in government, but also at private corporations, nonprofits, and think tanks. Think tanks, also known as policy institutes or research institutes, are organizations that perform research and advocacy on particular topics. Many think tanks are also nonprofits, while others are funded by governments or advocacy groups. See this video for a more detailed introduction to public policy from American Association for the Advancement of Science, AAAS, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zO3HZdejf_U.

Explore The Variety of Career Paths With These Example Roles

Look up these titles or fields on <http://www.indeed.com/> or LinkedIn to learn more about what projects they work on and what skills are needed. This information is also useful when writing your application documents and preparing for interviews.

- Public Policy Officer
- Policy Analyst
- Policy Advisor
- Science and Technology Fellow
- Science Policy Analyst
- Environmental Planner
- Research Associate
- Researcher
- Advocate
- Consultant
- Specialist
- Lobbyist
- Program Examiner
- Program Analyst
- Program Manager
- Democracy Fellow

Compare Different Organizations with Public Policy Roles

* = in the Raleigh-Durham area; # = history of sponsoring visas from myvisajobs.com

Search LinkedIn or Google Finance for these employers, and look for the section on related companies to help you identify others.

U.S. Government

- Department of Energy, Advanced Manufacturing Office
- White House Office of Science and Technology Policy
- Agency for International Development (USAID)
- USDA Office of the Chief Scientist
- National Institutes of Health
- Government Accountability Office

Nonprofits

- American Institute of Biological Sciences
- New Orleans Museum of Art

Think Tanks

- Institute for Women's Policy Research
- Brookings Institution #
- RAND Corporation #
- RTI International *
- Keck Institute for Space Studies
- Center for Excellence in Higher Education
- Americans for the Arts

Biotech & Healthcare

- Hewlett-Packard #
- Shire #
- Novo Nordisk #

Research Companies

- Abt Associates #
- SciMetrika *#

Technology

- Amazon #
- Google #
- IBM #
- Cisco *#
- Oracle #
- SAIC

National Labs

- Sandia National Labs #
- Savannah River National Lab



Seek Out These Additional Public Policy and Career Resources

PhDs at Work podcast episode on Science and Democracy

<http://phdsatwork.com/podcast/004-science-democracy-pallavi-phartiyal/>

Articles and podcasts on science policy and careers

<http://aaaspolicyfellowships.org/sci-fly>

Current news on the happenings in Washington, DC

- Federal Register, <https://www.federalregister.gov/>
- FASEB Washington Update, <http://washingtonupdate.faseb.org>

Profile series about the experiences of students who have moved into policy and government positions

- <http://www.mychoice.uchicago.edu/#!law-policy-regulatory/c1tva>
- <https://gradschool.duke.edu/professional-development/blog/alumni-profiles-series-fari-nzinga>

Videos on PhDs' experiences moving into research policy and government administration

- <http://www.nyas.org/Publications/Media/VideoDetail.aspx?cid=47318dda-c946-46b9-87d5-860c466a0ac6>
- <https://medschool.vanderbilt.edu/career-development/beyond-lab>

Getting into Government guide

<http://pathtopmf.com/getintogov/>

Information about the skills required and employment trends

<https://www.onetonline.org/>

Policy professionals' career stories, sample resumes/CVs, and panel discussion on Versatile PhD

<https://gradschool.duke.edu/professional-development/access-versatile-phd>

Idealist Guide to Nonprofit Careers for Sector Switchers

<https://goo.gl/wkY20c>

Guide to Internships and Fellowships in Government

<http://pathtopmf.com/guide-to-internships-and-fellowships-in-government/>

Guide to International Jobs in Government

<http://pathtopmf.com/international-jobs/>

Twitter accounts

@googlepubpolicy, @CaulfieldTim, @kejaxes, @kevinmd, @halletecco, @AGUSciPolicy, @whitehouseostp

Meet Public Policy Professionals to Talk About Opportunities and Their Careers

Contact the Diplomat in Residence for our area to learn about careers in government, internships, and fellowships

<https://careers.state.gov/connect/dir>

Subscribe to the Duke Policy and Politics Network to connect with alums and find opportunities

<https://lists.duke.edu/sympa/info/dppn>

Join a professional association

- Democratic GAIN, <https://www.democraticgain.org/>
- Young Conservatives Coalition, <http://www.theycc.org/>
- Young Nonprofit Professionals Network, <http://www.ynpntrianglerc.org/>
- Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management, <http://www.appam.org/>

Contact Duke alumni and other professionals in public policy for informational interviews

- Duke Alumni Association, <https://alumni.duke.edu/>
- Alumni on LinkedIn (use the Find Alumni tool under My Network)

LinkedIn Groups

- Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management
- Global Public Health- Health Systems and Policy
- Science, Technology & Innovation Policy

Build These Specific Skill Sets and Highlight Them When Applying

We summarized the skills professionals mentioned in LinkedIn profiles and job postings. Particular jobs may not require all of these skill sets, so find out from online resources and professionals you meet which of these skills sets are most relevant.

Communicate

- Communicate ideas to people outside your discipline, including lay audiences and people in power
- Present in front of audiences
- Write for quick and easy reading by non-expert decision-makers

Solve problems

- Think critically about how policies will be received by different groups
- Consider the broad-and narrow-reaching implications of creating particular policies
- Troubleshoot
- Be flexible
- Change topics regularly

Leadership and teamwork

- Manage committees
- Tenacity
- Collaborate with various stakeholders
- Build and maintain relationships between diverse partners/stakeholders
- Outreach
- Humility
- Integrity

Gain Experience

You can gain experience in many ways that involve different amounts of time investment.

Brush up on the principles of policy by reading the Practical Guide for Policy Analysis by Eugene Bardach

https://www.amazon.com/Practical-Guide-Policy-Analysis-Eightfold/dp/1483359468/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1474983993&sr=1-1&keywords=practical+guide+to+policy+analysis

Stay up-to-date on current policy news in your field through institutions and professional organizations

- Duke Science and Society Policy Tracking, <http://scipol.duke.edu>
- National Society of Professional Engineers, <https://www.nspe.org/resources/issues-and-advocacy>
- American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology Policy Blotter, <http://policy.asbmb.org/>
- National Academies Board on Science, Technology, and Economic Policy, <http://sites.nationalacademies.org/PGA/step/index.htm>

Attend events, take courses, gain research experience, and join a policy community with Duke Science and Society <https://scienceandsociety.duke.edu/>

Gain experience in government and communication at the CASE Workshop <http://www.aaas.org/case>

Research

- Read academic and government literature critically
- Stay up-to-date on research
- Learn information quickly
- Draw conclusions
- Debate topics and negotiate
- Broad understanding of many research topics and applications of research
- Analyze policies and bills
- Engage with experts from various fields
- Gather and synthesize information
- Manage multiple projects
- Produce under tight deadlines

Support

- Perform background work for policy-makers
- Build support for causes or policies
- Serve society
- Manage up
- Organize meetings and events

Participate in outreach programs and volunteer opportunities

- Museum of Life and Science, <http://www.lifeandscience.org/volunteer>
- Museum of Natural Sciences, <http://naturalsciences.org/volunteer>
- NC Science Festival, <http://www.ncsciencefestival.org/>
- NC DNA Day, <http://ncdnaday.org/>
- Science Cafes with Sigma Xi, <https://www.sigmaxi.org/programs/science-cafes>
- Public Anthropology Initiative

Become active with organizations

- Association for Politics and the Life Sciences, <http://www.aplsnet.org/index.html>
- Union of Concerned Scientists, <http://www.ucsusa.org/>
- Other associations, <http://libguides.gatech.edu/c.php?g=54048&p=349549>

Become involved with the policy side of professional organizations in your field, particularly if they plan visits to Capitol Hill

Contribute to university policies through committees in the Duke Graduate and Professional Student Council
<https://gpsc.duke.edu/>

Develop a collaborative policy project with Emerging Leaders in Science and Society
<http://www.aaas.org/page/eliss-overview>

Join regional and state-level policy groups

Science Policy Action Network, <http://www.span-inc.org/>

Assist in political campaigns

Write science articles for different audiences in department newsletters, local newspapers, or industry websites; promote using Twitter or LinkedIn

Participate and lead committees in your department or program or with a professional society

Short-Term Internships and Fellowships

Opportunities to gain experience during graduate school

Learn about government internships and fellowships from the State Department

<http://app.speakertext.com/videos/4776877>

Pathways internships in the federal government

<https://www.usajobs.gov/StudentsAndGrads>

The National Academies host a 12-week policy fellowship, Christine Mirzayan Science and Technology Policy Fellowship Program

<http://sites.nationalacademies.org/pg/policyfellows/>

Food and Drug Administration Office of Policy Internship

<http://www.fda.gov/AboutFDA/WorkingatFDA/FellowshipInternshipGraduateFacultyPrograms/OfficeofPolicyandPlanningInternshipProgram/default.htm>

Internships at think tanks

Institute for Women's Policy Research, <http://www.iwpr.org/about/internships>

Internship program at a government agency or organization

- White House, <https://www.whitehouse.gov/administration/eop/ostp/about/student>
- Central Intelligence Agency, <https://www.cia.gov/careers/student-opportunities/graduate-students.html>
- Federal Bureau of Investigation, <https://www.fbijobs.gov/students/grad-students>
- Federal Reserve, <http://www.federalreserve.gov/careers/internships.htm>
- Department of State, <https://careers.state.gov/intern>
- Environmental Protection Agency, <https://www.epa.gov/careers/fellowships-scholarships-and-post-doctoral-opportunities>
- Department of Energy, <http://www.energy.gov/student-programs-and-internships>
- New York State, http://www.dos.ny.gov/newnyleaders/interns_new.html

Internship program at a government agency or organization (cont.)

- United Nations, <https://careers.un.org/lbw/home.aspx?viewtype=IP>

Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities National Internship Program

<http://www.hacu.net/hacu/HNIP.asp>

Research!America Science Policy Internship

<http://www.researchamerica.org/about-us/careers/science-policy-internship>

AAAS Mass Media Science and Engineering Fellowship

<https://www.aaas.org/program/aaas-mass-media-science-engineering-fellows-program>

Long-Term Fellowships

Opportunities to transition from graduate school to policy and government

AAAS Science and Technology Fellowship <http://www.stpf-aaas.org/>

- Attend online and in-person events to learn from current fellows, potentially arranging informational interviews with them afterwards
- Engage with current and alumni fellows as much as possible, including participating in online chats and asking for a review of your application by emailing fellowships@aaas.org
- Some of these fellowships are through AAAS' partner societies with varying requirements and deadlines
<http://www.aaas.org/page/stpf/partner-societies-st-policy-fellowships>

Presidential Management Fellowships <https://www.pmf.gov/>

Guide to Managing the PMF Process <http://pathtopmf.com/pmf-application-process/>

California Council on Science and Technology Policy Fellows

<http://fellows.ccst.us/index.php>

Chicago Mayor's Office Fellowship Program

<https://www.profellow.com/fellowship/chicago-mayors-office-fellowship-program/>

Health Policy Fellowship

<http://www.winstonfellowship.org/health-policy-fellowship/>

Science, Technology, and Policy Program, U.S. Department of Energy

<https://orise.ora.gov/science-education/internships-scholarships-fellowships/description.aspx?jobId=18630>

Bioethics Fellowship, NIH

<http://www.bioethics.nih.gov/education/>

Mellon/ACLS Public Fellowship for humanities and social sciences PhDs

<https://www.acls.org/programs/publicfellows/>

TechCongress Congressional Innovation Fellow

<http://www.techcongress.io/what-were-looking-for/>

Research!America Science Policy Fellowship

<http://www.researchamerica.org/about-us/careers/science-policy-fellowship>

Postdoctoral Fellowship Program at the Energy Policy Institute at the University of Chicago

<https://epic.uchicago.edu/education/fellowships/postdoctoral-fellowship-program>

Hellman Fellowship in Science and Technology Policy

<https://www.amacad.org/content/about/about.aspx?d=96&t=4&s=94>

Science, Technology, and Public Policy Fellowship from the Harvard Belfer Center for

Science and International Affairs

http://belfercenter.ksg.harvard.edu/project/44/science_technology_and_public_policy.html?page_id=348

Fellowship databases and listings

- ProFellow fellowship database, <https://www.profellow.com/>
- Listing of fellowships, internships, and networking events from Engaging Scientists and Engineers in Policy
<http://www.aaas.org/page/resources-1>
- Science/health policy fellowship programs open to U.S. citizens and non U.S. citizens
<http://faseb.org/Professional-Development-and-Diversity-Resources/Professional-Development-and-Career-Resources/Employment-and-Fellowship-Opportunities/Science-Policy-Fellowship-Programs.aspx>
- Additional fellowships
<http://www.aaas.org/content/stpf/other-fellowship-and-internship-opportunities-outside-aaas>

Should You Pursue a Public Policy Degree?

Not all policy positions require a degree in public policy. Consider if the positions you want long-term require a public policy degree or if you could build skills and experiences in your current program to make you a more competitive candidate for entry-level positions.

- Duke offers a one-year Master of Arts in Bioethics and Science Policy, which can be completed while working toward your current degree, <https://scienceandsociety.duke.edu/learn/ma/>
- Other policy degrees are available, such as the Master of Public Administration in Environmental Science and Policy from Columbia, <http://mpaenvironment.ei.columbia.edu/>

Public Policy & Government Job Search Tools

Consider the common skills required by jobs and internships

Jobs and events hosted by the Duke Career Center

CareerConnections, <https://studentaffairs.duke.edu/career/online-tools-resources>

Talk to recruiters about their work and how you would fit in well with their organization

Government & Nonprofit Career Expo at Georgetown University (Duke students welcome)

<https://careercenter.georgetown.edu/jobs-internships/career-center-events/government-nonprofit-expo>

Search for jobs in the U.S. government

- USAJobs, <https://www.usajobs.gov/>
- Application tips, <http://gogovernment.org/>

Veteran opportunities with the U.S. Government

FedsHireVets, <https://www.fedshirevets.gov/>

United Nations hiring programs

<http://unchallenge.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/21-Hiring-Programs-To-Get-A-Job-In-The-United-Nations-by-YPUN-ltd.pdf>

United Nations or other intergovernmental and nongovernmental organizations

U.N. Job Finder, <https://unjobfinder.org/>

Public affairs, policy, government affairs, and Capitol Hill jobs

<http://www.opajobs.com/government-affairs-policy-jobs.html>

Policy, advocacy, and government affairs

Policy Influence Professionals, <http://lobbyingjobs.com/>

List of U.S. and non U.S. think tanks from the Harvard Kennedy School

http://guides.library.harvard.edu/hks/think_tank_search/US

Idealist nonprofit job listings

<http://www.idealists.org>

Example corporate sector companies with policy divisions

- Amazon, https://www.amazon.jobs/en/job_categories/public-policy
- Facebook, <https://www.facebook.com/careers/teams/communications/>
- Google, https://www.google.com/intl/en_in/about/careers/teams/legal-public-policy/
- HP, <http://www8.hp.com/us/en/hp-information/government-affairs/main.html>