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/

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-ninga

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/wkY2Oc

Guide to Internships and Fellowships in Government

Guide to International Jobs in Government
http://pathtopmf.com/international-jobs/

Twitter accounts
@googlepubpolicy, @CaulfieldTim, @kejames, @kevinmd, @hallettecco, @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/

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

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

- NC Science Festival, http://www.ncsciencefestival.org/
- Science Cafes with Sigma Xi, https://www.sigmaxi.org/programs/science-cafes
- Public Anthropology Initiative

Become active with organizations

- 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


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/pga/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
- Federal Bureau of Investigation, https://www.fbijobs.gov/students/grad-students
- Department of State, https://careers.state.gov/intern
Internship program at a government agency or organization (cont.)


Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities National Internship Program
http://www.hacu.net/hacu/HNIP.asp

Research!America 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/

California Council on Science and Technology Policy Fellows
http://fellowss.c cst.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/


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

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
- 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/](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/](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](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](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/](https://www.usajobs.gov/)
  Application tips, [http://gogovernment.org/](http://gogovernment.org/)
Veteran opportunities with the U.S. Government
  FedsHireVets, [https://www.fedshirevets.gov/](https://www.fedshirevets.gov/)
United Nations hiring programs
United Nations or other intergovernmental and nongovernmental organizations
  U.N. Job Finder, [https://unjobfinder.org/](https://unjobfinder.org/)
Public affairs, policy, government affairs, and Capitol Hill jobs
Policy, advocacy, and government affairs
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](http://guides.library.harvard.edu/hks/think_tank_search/US)
Idealist nonprofit job listings
  [http://www.idealist.org](http://www.idealist.org)
Example corporate sector companies with policy divisions
  Facebook, [https://www.facebook.com/careers/teams/communications/](https://www.facebook.com/careers/teams/communications/)