

# Brill

# GRADUATE CAREER HANDBOOK

JUDITH DONE & RACHEL MULVEY 3rd Edition

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# Praise for *Brilliant Graduate Career Handbook*

‘Cracked it! This is the must-have companion for every graduate worrying about how to get that all important first job.’

*Nick Newman, Founder of National Careers Week*

‘This is a well-researched, reader-friendly, practical and positive guide to the challenges and opportunities presented by the twenty-first century graduate job market. It is full of useful nuggets of information, and wise tips for success.’

*Paul Gaunt, Head of Careers and Employability, University of Liverpool*

‘If you recommend just one book to your graduating students, let it be this one. Simply brilliant.’

*Jane Artess, Principal Research Fellow, International Centre for Guidance Studies, University of Derby*

and 8.3% were categorised as ‘other occupations’. Marketing, PR and sales professions absorbed 15.7% of the employed graduates. Other professionals, at 7.1%, included assistant to a Member of Parliament and campaign organiser for a political party.

## 4.5 Psychology

### *Range*

Psychology degrees include subjects that reflect the range of applications in practice: Clinical, Educational, Health and Occupational Psychology, and the particular focus given to one aspect of the overarching discipline, such as Cognitive, Developmental, Experimental or Social. Neuropsychology and Psychometrics are also included here.

### *Response rate and destination percentages*

Psychology is the largest student population within Social Sciences (Law being the second) and, with a total of 11,455 graduates responding, their response rate was 77.4%. There were 9,240 female and 2,215 male respondents; along with most of the degree disciplines in this section, women are in the clear majority. Of these graduates, 62.5% were in UK employment, with a further 1.3% in overseas employment. 8.4% were combining work with studying. Added together, that makes 63.8% in employment. A total of 15.7% went on to further study, which included PhD Social Psychology and Masters in Psychology specialisms such as Organisational and Mental Health. Of those studying, 21.5% went on to teaching qualifications. 5.9% came into the ‘other’ category, leaving 6.2% reporting unemployed. It is interesting to note that, compared with other Social Sciences, a high proportion (16.6%) opt for part-time work.

### *What occupational sectors did they go for?*

The British Psychological Society advises that only 15–20% of all those who graduate with a qualifying degree in Psychology will go on to become professional psychologists. Many of those professional postgraduate training courses demand relevant work experience before admission, so it could be that graduates in these occupations are working to meet that requirement. Childcare, health and education occupations took 16.9%, including teaching assistant. A similar proportion, 17.1%, took up retail, catering, waiting and

bar work. A further 3.5% worked as health professionals, including assistant psychologist for the NHS. Legal, social and welfare professionals absorbed 13.5%, including support worker with an autism charity. A total of 4.2% were in other professions, 8.7% in business, HR and finance professions, 5.8% in marketing, PR and sales professions, 11.4% went into other clerical and 3.4% secured work in commercial and public service management, with jobs including operations manager with Royal Mail.

## 4.6 Sociology

### *Range*

The range of courses included in Sociology is very wide indeed. It includes the sociology of science, of politics and of economics, the study of social theory, social hierarchy and of disability in society. Courses such as Men's Studies, Women's Studies or Gender Studies are here too, along with Applied Social Science.

### *Response rate and destination percentages*

A total of 6,340 graduates responded, 74.8% of all graduates in this discipline. As in most of the Social Sciences, there were more female respondents than male respondents, with 4,700 female to 1,640 male respondents. Of these graduates, 68.7% were in UK employment, with a further 1.1% in overseas employment and 5.4% who were combining work with studying. Added together, that makes 69.8% in employment. A total of 11.4% went on to further study, which included PhD Sociology, MA Criminology and MSc City Planning. Of those studying, 27.7% took teaching qualifications. 5.8% came into the 'other' category, leaving 7.6% reporting unemployed.

### *What occupational sectors did they go for?*

Sociology graduates go into a wide variety of occupations, some professional, others not. Retail, catering, waiting and bar staff is technically the biggest destination with 21.0%. Other occupations account for 10.6%. Clerical and secretarial occupations took 14.0% and a smaller proportion (11.7%) went into legal, social and welfare professions, including domestic violence adviser with Women's Aid. A total of 6.7% went into other professions, including work as a probation officer. Business, HR and finance professionals

accounted for 8.6%. At 3.9% commercial and public service managers was a minority destination. A further 6.2% went into marketing, PR and sales professionals, and 2.8% into education professions.

## 5 Arts, Creative Arts and Humanities

Seven disciplines are included here, namely: Fine Arts; Design; English; History; Media Studies; Languages; and Performing Arts. From the respondents included in the sample, employment rates are highest in Design at 81.8%, followed by Media Studies at 78.0%.

You will notice that many graduates go into non-graduate jobs as their first destination; this year has seen a welcome decrease in retail, catering, waiting and bar work now accounting for anything from 13.9% of employed graduates from Languages to 24.1% in Media Studies. If it means anything, it means that these are just the first destinations, that graduates can use these jobs to develop skills and competence for leverage, that graduates might just enjoy this kind of work or that graduates might simply want to earn enough money to allow them to be creative – certainly the story of someone waiting on tables one day and being discovered the next has been a dream come true for more than one successful artist down the ages.



### **brilliant** example

'After my first year at a London dance conservatoire, I chose to transfer my studies to university, in order to gain a more academic and theoretical knowledge of the performing arts world. Whilst being able to continue building on technique and performance quality through practical classes, the course also allowed me to take an in-depth look at current practitioners and newly emerging dance makers, whilst being pushed to take my particular research interest (dance in education) further and further at each step of the course. Since graduating, I have worked as a performer, choreographer and company manager on UK tours, danced on cruise ships, and have recently taken over as principal of two part-time theatre schools in London.'

Dan, BA (Hons) Performing Arts

## 5.1 Fine Arts

### *Range*

There is a range of disciplines under the Fine Arts umbrella including: Painting; Printmaking; Illustration; and Sculpture. More theoretical courses are included, such as Fine Art Theory and Visual Communication.

### *Response rate and destination percentages.*

A total of 2,990 graduates responded, 76.4% of graduates in these disciplines. There were 2,200 female and 790 male respondents. Of these graduates, 68.4% were in UK employment, with a further 1.8% in overseas employment. 4.9% were combining work with studying. There were 70.2% altogether in employment. A total of 10% went on to further study, which included MA Fine Art and MA Photography. Of those studying, 35.5% chose teaching qualifications. 7.0% came into the 'other' category, leaving 7.9% reporting unemployed.

### *What occupational sectors did they go for?*

Of the graduates who went into employment, 27% went into arts, design and media professionals, the destinations here clearly reflecting the degrees studied: artist in residence in a primary school and art gallery consultant. Retail, catering, waiting and bar staff accounted for a further 25.4%. A total of 12.5% were classified as 'other occupations' and 7.4% went into other clerical and secretarial work. Other professional and technical destinations (16.7%) included marketing assistant in a hospice and online quality assessor with Google. Commercial and public sector management accounted for 4.1% and included department manager for a fashion retailer.

## 5.2 Design

### *Range*

The design umbrella includes: Ceramics; Clothing; Fashion; Furniture; Graphics; and Industrial.

### *Response rates and destination percentages*

A total of 11,030 graduates responded, 78.7% of graduates in these disciplines. There were 7,405 females and 3,625 males. Of these graduates, 79.7% were in UK employment, with a further 2.1% in overseas employment.

1.9% were combining work with studying and 81.8% secured employment. A total of 3.7% went on to further study, which included MSc Ceramics and MDes Design. Of those studying, 17.9% chose teaching qualifications. 4.8% came into the 'other' category, leaving 7.8% reporting unemployed.

#### *What occupational sectors did they go for?*

Of the graduates who went into employment, 41.1% went into arts, design and media professions. The destinations here clearly reflect the degrees studied: 3D designer in an advertising company, cabinet-making intern for a furniture maker and consultant designer with a DIY chain. Retail, catering, waiting and bar staff accounted for a further 19.6%, 8.7% were classified as 'other' occupations and 4.8% went into other clerical and secretarial work. Other professional and technical destinations (3%) included architectural assistant in an architect's firm. Commercial and public sector management accounted for a further 2.9% and business, HR and finance professionals took just 1.8%.

## 5.3 English

### *Range*

Degree courses in English cover English Language (including English as a second language), English Literature (including literature written in English as a second language) or a combination of both. Literature can be studied by period, by author, or by topic.

### *Response rate and destination percentages*

A total of 9,785 graduates responded, 78.2% of all graduates in this category. As with every other discipline in this section, there were more female respondents than male respondents, with 7,245 female to 2,540 male respondents. With a female:male ratio of almost 3:1, English and Fine Arts are the most gender imbalanced disciplines in this broad sector. Of these graduates, 59.4% were in UK employment, with a further 2.5% in overseas employment. 7.6% were combining work with studying. Added together, that makes 61.9% in employment. A total of 18.1% went on to further study in the UK. Higher degrees included MAs in Creative Writing and English Language. Of those studying, 33.7% chose teaching qualifications. 5.8% came into the 'other' category, leaving 6.6% reporting unemployed.

*What occupational sectors did they go for?*

The biggest single employment area is retail, catering, waiting and bar staff, at 19.3%. Next is clerical, numerical and secretarial occupations accounting for a further 14.1%, including here work as a charity administrator. Turning to professional jobs, 8.0% went into education. Commercial and public management took 3.4%, and included a pub manager. A total of 13.9% went into marketing, PR and sales professions, with jobs such as marketing coordinator for a student union and 8.7% went into art, design and media professions, including copy editor for a newspaper. Business, HR and finance professions took 7.6% of those employed, 8.5% chose childcare, health and education occupations, and 3.2% went into other professions.

## 5.4 History

*Range*

History can be studied by period (e.g. Medieval, Ancient or Modern), by area (e.g. Welsh, Russian or New Zealand) or by topics such as Military History, Economic History, Social or Oral History.

*Response rate and destination percentages*

A total of 9,270 graduates responded, 79.6% of all graduates in this category. As with every other discipline in this section, there were more female respondents than male respondents, with 4,775 female and 4,490 male respondents. This makes History (along with Media Studies) the more balanced disciplines in terms of female:male participation rates. Of these graduates, 57.4% were in UK employment, with a further 2.5% in overseas employment. 6.8% were combining work with studying. Added together, that makes 59.9% in employment. A total of 20% went on to further study; higher degrees included MA Journalism and MSc Cultural Anthropology. Of those studying, 19.2% opted for teaching qualifications. 6.8% came into the 'other' category, leaving 6.6% unemployed.

*What occupational sectors did they go for?*

History graduates went into a wide range of professional jobs: 4.6% went into commercial and public sector management and 14.2% opted for business, HR and financial professions, with employers here including JP Morgan, PWC,