Positive Prospects – Careers for Social Science Graduates
And why number and data skills matter

Almost four out of ten students graduate from university with a social science degree

Social science graduates have good employment prospects¹

Nine in ten social science graduates are working, continuing their studies, or both one year after graduation

66% of social science graduates are employed in the UK or abroad one year after graduation

One year after graduation, employment rates differ by subject, and some graduates combine work with further study

- Architecture, Building & Planning: 81%
- Education: 78%
- Business & Administrative studies: 78%
- Social Studies: 69%
- Psychology: 67%
- Law: 58%

Graduates go on to work in a wide range of sectors and occupations¹

- 18% Professional, scientific, and technical activities
- 17% Education
- 9% Wholesale and retail trade
- 9% Financial and insurance activities
- 8% Human health and social work activities
- 8% Public administration and defence
- 6% Administrative and support services

Just over three-quarters of social science graduates leave university to work in a professional occupation. The most popular professions are:

- 31% Business and public service associate
- 17% Business, media and public services
- 11% Teaching and education

They go on to be global leaders²

60% of global leaders have undergraduate degrees in social science fields

93% of leaders in law and legal services internationally

70% of leading financial services and consulting professionals internationally

62% of leaders in civil service internationally

61% of leading politicians internationally
Social science graduates do well in terms of earnings

Their earnings improve over the course of their careers, with median earnings increasing steadily one year after graduation to ten years after graduation.

Number and data skills may increase future employment options and earnings

Social science graduates with number and data skills appear to have high earnings right after graduation and over the course of their careers. There is high demand for these skills in the UK labour market and social scientists with good number and data skills are needed in the UK economy now more than ever.

The total benefit to the UK economy of big data analytics is estimated to amount to £40 billion on average per year.4

29% of employers are dissatisfied with school and college leavers’ basic numeracy skills.5

AS or A level mathematics increase these valuable number and data skills

The number of social science graduates who have completed AS or A levels in mathematics varies by subject.

Taking A level mathematics has a positive impact on earnings after graduation. There is compelling evidence of wage returns of up to 11% for those who have taken A level mathematics.7

Importance of advanced mathematics and statistics6

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
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<th>Advanced mathematics / statistics essential or very important</th>
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Undergraduates with A-level mathematics, by subject of study at university8

1 HESA Destination of Leavers Survey and Student Record 2015/16.
3 Longitudinal Education Outcomes (LEO) Dataset.