

Positive Prospects – Careers for Social Science Graduates

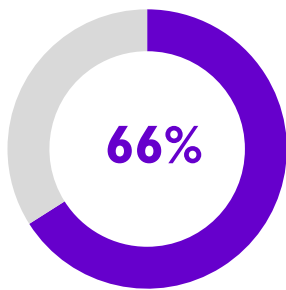
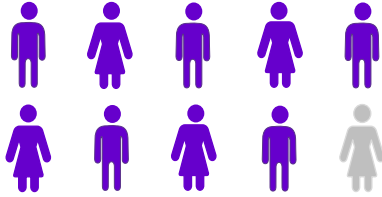
And why number and data skills matter

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



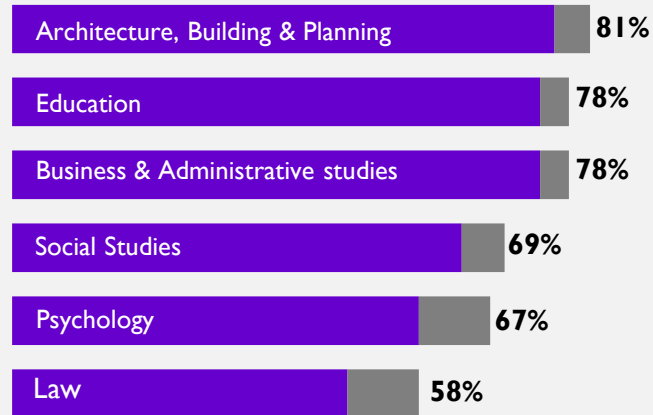
Social science graduates have good employment prospects¹

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

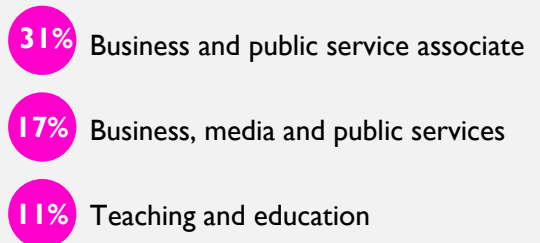


- In work in the UK & abroad
- In combination of work & study

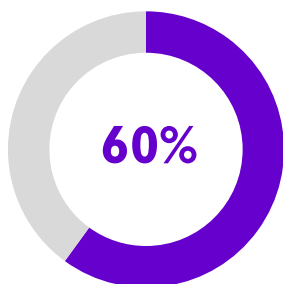
Graduates go on to work in a wide range of sectors and occupations¹



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



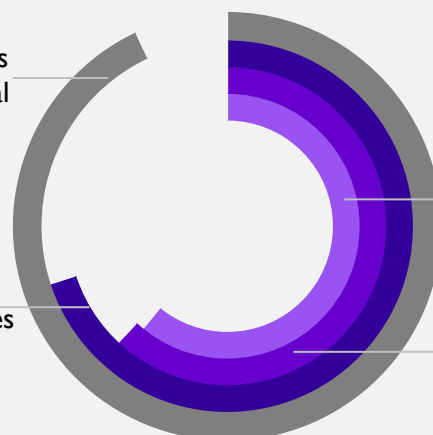
They go on to be global leaders²



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



61% of leading politicians internationally

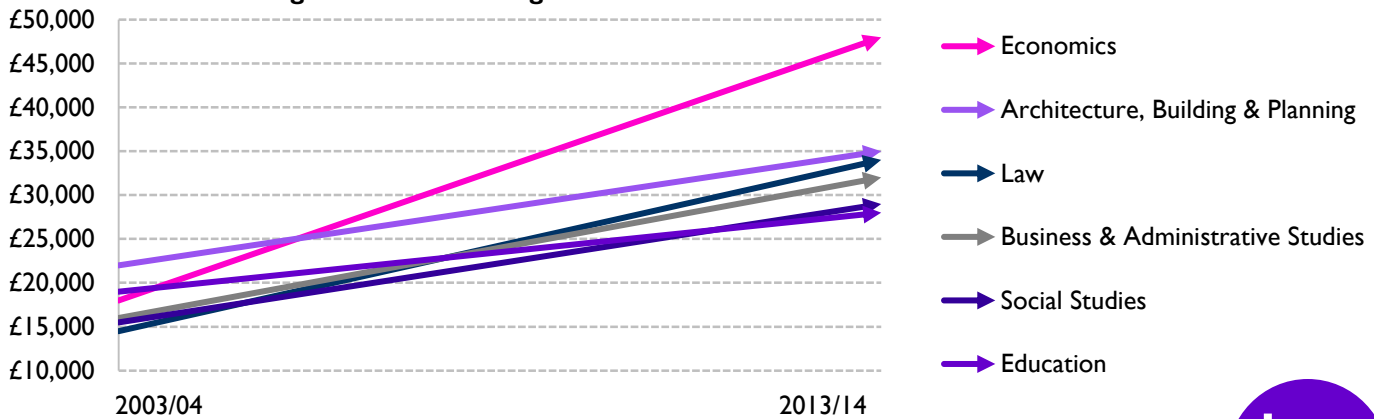
62% of leaders in civil service internationally



Social science graduates do well in terms of earnings³

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

Median earnings of social science graduates over time



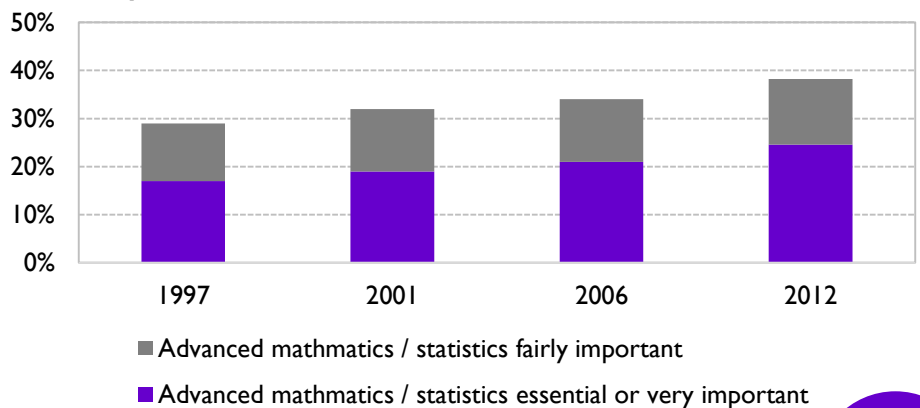
Number and data skills may increase future employment options and earnings

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

Importance of advanced mathematics and statistics⁶

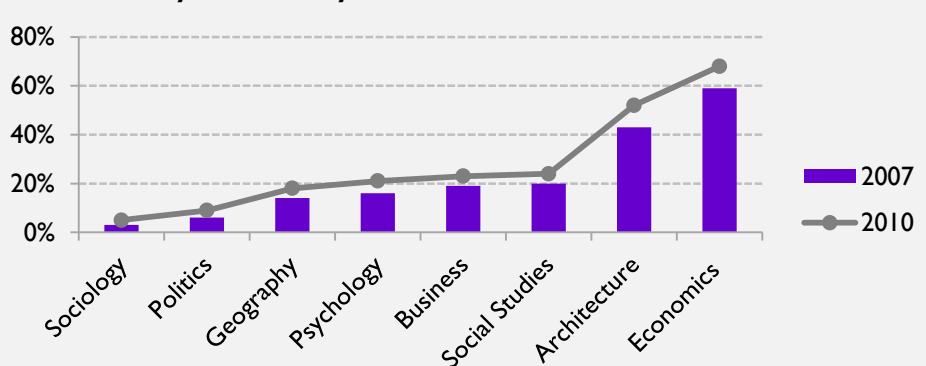


AS or A level mathematics increase these valuable number and data skills

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

Undergraduates with A-level mathematics, by subject of study at university⁸



¹ HESA Destination of Leavers Survey and Student Record 2015/16.
² British Council (2015). The Educational Pathways of Leaders: An International Comparison. London: British Council and Ipsos Public Affairs, p. 15.
³ Longitudinal Education Outcomes (LEO) Dataset.
⁴ CEBR. (February 2016). Report for SAS: The Value of Big Data and the Internet of Things to the UK Economy, p. 6.
⁵ CBI (July 2017). Helping the UK Thrive: CBI/Pearson Education and Skills Survey 2017. London: Pearson, p. 29.
⁶ Mason, G., Nathan, M. and Rosso, A. (2015). State of the Nation: A Review of Evidence on the Supply and Demand of Quantitative Skills. London: British Academy.
⁷ Noyes, A. and Adkins, M. (2017). Rethinking the Value of Advanced Mathematics Participation (REVAMP). Nottingham: University of Nottingham.
⁸ Hillman, J. (2014) Mathematics after 16: The State of Play, Challenges, and Ways Ahead. London: Nuffield Foundation, p. 22.