

# Social And Community

## **Overview**

Working in the social services sector is to fulfill your passion for helping others. Roles exist in the public sector (local and national government and agencies), charities, social enterprises and some commercial organisations.

In addition to roles that are specific to the sector, there are a range of graduate roles which can be found in many industries, such as management, marketing, PR, IT, finance, HR and project management roles. If you have a passion for helping others, the next question is to consider who you might want to help, and for what reasons?

## **Roles**

Each job title links through to a broad job description, salary and conditions, entry requirements, typical recruiters, and links to further useful information.

* [Advice worker](https://www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/advice-worker)
* [Child psychologist](https://www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/child-psychotherapist)
* [Community development worker](https://www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/community-development-worker)
* [Counsellor](https://www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/counsellor)
* [Equality and diversity officer](https://www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/equality-diversity-and-inclusion-officer)
* [Family support worker](https://www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/family-support-worker)
* [Housing policy officer](https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/job-profiles/housing-policy-officer)
* [Probation officer](https://www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/probation-officer)
* [Social worker](https://www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/social-worker)
* [Youth worker](https://www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/youth-worker)

You can view additional job roles by using the [Prospects](https://www.prospects.ac.uk/jobs-and-work-experience/job-sectors/social-care/graduate-jobs-in-social-care) website.

## **Building Experience**

A common route into this work is to build your skills through volunteering or internships during your course, and then apply for entry-level roles (such as individual trainee opportunities) in the sector.

There are plenty of internship, placement and work experience opportunities in this sector. Although many (particularly in charities) are unpaid you may be able to use the [Reading Internship Scheme](https://www.reading.ac.uk/essentials/Careers/Gaining-experience/RIS) to access funding. When gaining experience, focus on the particular areas that you’re passionate about, such as working with families, children, substance abuse or rehabilitation.

## **Finding Opportunities**

Check [My Jobs Online](https://reading.targetconnect.net/student/login.html?remote=true) for vacancies and visit campus career fairs and employer presentations to find out more about which employers are advertising vacancies and coming onto campus.

Becoming a student member of a professional body like the [British Association of Social Workers](https://www.basw.co.uk/) can offer member benefits, talks, events and volunteering and campus ambassador opportunities, with the chance to meet industry professionals.

There are a few graduate training schemes advertised each year in social services. These usually include:

* [Charity-works](https://www.charity-works.co.uk/).co.uk and [Worthwhile](https://www.worthwhile.org.uk/).org.uk (one-year schemes which cover a range of charities and social enterprises, some of which are in the social sector)
* [Sanctuary-group](https://www.sanctuary-group.co.uk/careers/graduates).co.uk/careers/graduates (graduate schemes within a large, highly professional, housing charity)
* [Thinkahead](https://thinkahead.org/).org (graduate scheme for social work, focusing on adult mental health)
* [TheFrontline](https://thefrontline.org.uk/).org.uk (graduate scheme for social work, focusing on children and families)
* [Step Up to Social Work](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/step-up-to-social-work-information-for-applicants) (gov.uk) (government-run graduate scheme for social work)
* [Unlocked](https://unlockedgrads.org.uk/)grads.org.uk (graduate scheme for prison work)
* [Policenow](https://www.policenow.org.uk/).org.uk (graduate scheme for policing)
* [NGDP](https://www.local.gov.uk/national-graduate-development-programme) (graduate scheme for local government work)
* [NHS Graduate Management Training Scheme](http://www.nhsgraduates.co.uk/) (graduate scheme for hospital management)

### Industry Jobs

[Community Care Jobs](https://jobs.communitycare.co.uk/) | [Reading Internship Scheme](https://www.reading.ac.uk/essentials/Careers/Gaining-experience/RIS) | [CharityJob](https://www.charityjob.co.uk/) | Third Sector Jobs | [The Guardian](https://jobs.theguardian.com/)

### Further Study/Research

[University of Reading](https://www.reading.ac.uk/ready-to-study/study/postgraduate-study.aspx) | [Find a Masters](https://www.findamasters.com/) | [Find a PhD](https://www.findaphd.com/)

### Graduate Jobs

[prospects](https://www.prospects.ac.uk/).ac.uk | [targetjobs](https://targetjobs.co.uk/).co.uk | [milkround](https://www.milkround.com/).com | [ratemyplacement](https://www.ratemyplacement.co.uk/).co.uk | [gradcracker](https://www.gradcracker.com/search/civil-building/environment-and-sustainability-jobs).com

## **Exploring Further**

[Reading University volunteering schemes](https://student.reading.ac.uk/essentials/_opportunities/volunteering.aspx) – many of these schemes give valuable experience which would support a job application for social and related work

[RUSU Volunteering opportunities](https://www.rusu.co.uk/) – find causes to volunteer with build your experience

[Do-It](https://do-it.org/).org – find local volunteering that fits your schedule and areas of interest

[Children and Young People Now](https://www.cypnowjobs.co.uk/) (cypnowjobs.co.uk) – industry news and a small-focused jobs board

[Healthcareers](https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/career-planning/career-tools).nhs.uk – useful online questionnaire to highlight NHS roles that might suit you

[Jobs](https://www.jobs.nhs.uk/).nhs.uk – filter by staff groups and keywords to see relevant vacancies

The skills and knowledge you’ve developed in your degree will be valuable in a wide range of roles and sectors. If you’re thinking of looking further afield but aren’t sure where to start, why not [book an appointment](https://www.reading.ac.uk/essentials/Careers/Advice-and-development/MyJobsOnline) with one of our Careers Consultants? Remember, graduates can use the Careers Centre for up to two years after they graduate.

Explore our [Careers Blog](https://blogs.reading.ac.uk/careers/) for more industry guidance and useful careers advice!