

ECONOMICS

Overview

Economics graduates work across all sectors of the economy. Many find roles within the private sector, often directly using their subject knowledge in economic consultancies, financial organisations, policy think tanks or professional services firms. Many others will enter the public sector making use of their specialist economics background to join the Government Economics Service, or the Office for National Statistics, or in other administrative roles in the departments and agencies of Central and Local Government, or the health service. Depending on your degree programme, and the modules you're studying, you'll develop a range of skills and interests relevant to a wide range of careers. Other sectors popular amongst Reading graduates include accountancy and banking, communications, retail and information technology.

Roles

Here are just a few examples of job roles that are particularly relevant to an Economics student, due to the nature of the work and skills required. The following profiles are available on Prospects (www.prospects.ac.uk):

- [Economist](#)
- [Chartered Accountant](#)
- [Financial Risk Analyst](#)
- [Investment Analyst](#)
- [Data Analyst](#)
- [Management Consultant](#)
- [Civil Service Fast Streamer](#)
- [Policy Officer](#)
- [Marketing Executive](#)
- [Actuary](#)
- [Social Researcher](#)

Finding Opportunities

Many of the roles above will need further training and professional qualifications. In most cases, you could complete this as part of your day-to-day work, with some days spent learning in a classroom and some evening and weekend study is likely to be needed. The type of training provided, and commitment needed, varies a lot between roles and employers, so it's always a good idea to investigate.

Some economic consultancies and think tanks look for doctoral qualifications (PhDs). These are also needed to pursue a career in academia, as a university lecturer, for example. Lecturers within your department could be a useful source of information on these higher degrees, either taught or by research. It can also be useful to look at the LinkedIn profiles of others working in areas that interest you. This can give you ideas about the different career paths possible.

As with most occupations, work experience, internships, voluntary work and work shadowing can help you to decide not only on the work area that suits you, but also in finding employment. The list of websites below will provide details of some opportunities.

Particularly when you're first starting out, networking through contacts, alumni, societies, and direct approaches to potential employers can also be valuable. Don't neglect the possibility of approaching small organisations and companies local to your home area with a suitably composed covering letter. Using your local media may also be useful as advertising nationally can be expensive for employers. See the Careers Centre's information on Placements and other experience which has advice on how to go about this activity, and links to many useful vacancy sites.

You may find the following websites useful to find opportunities for internships, work experience and graduate roles:

- [MyJobsOnline](#) (the University's own jobs board offering a wide range of opportunities)
- [targetjobs.co.uk](#) (a comprehensive graduate vacancies website, particularly useful for sorting graduate schemes by their closing dates)
- [The Civil Service Recruitment website](#) has several links through to both its graduate fast stream pages and more generalist opportunities. For other public sector jobs see
 - [National Local Government Development Programme \(ngdp.org.uk\)](#)
 - [nhsgraduates.co.uk](#)
 - [HMRC's recruitment site for Graduates](#)
- [jobs.ac.uk](#) (vacancies in higher education, teaching and research)
- [efinancialcareers.co.uk](#) (careers, and vacancies in banking & finance)
- [w4mpjobs.org](#) (includes some policy and research roles with governmental and related bodies)

Building Experience

During your course at Reading you'll start to build a portfolio of work that showcases your creative and technical skills. Some of the most valuable experience you can get is involvement in a live project and working to a clear brief. In addition to placements and internships, other ways to build relevant experience include:

- Involvement with clubs, societies, and student-led groups. Holding a position of responsibility, particularly that of treasurer if you're considering a finance-related career, is a great way to develop leadership skills.
- Use for part-time work or extra-curricular activities as a way to explore interests and build skills. Many social researchers start out as market research interviewers, for example. If you're interested in business and finance, why not get involved in some entrepreneurship or trading simulations?

If you're thinking of looking further afield but aren't sure where to start, why not visit the [Explore](#) pages of our website or book an appointment with one of our Careers Consultants?

