Politics and Policy

Key Resources

The Civil Service Fast Stream
http://faststream.civilservice.gov.uk/
The Civil Service Fast Stream takes on a number of graduates across a range of departments, with the application process for the vast majority of them starting in September or October. In addition, the Department for International Development has a 50 week graduate development scheme, which opens for applications in February.

Local Government Graduate Development Programme
www.ngdp.org.uk
A two year graduate placement in local councils across the country, this gives you the chance to research and influences policy at a local government level.

JobOnline
http://jobonline.thecareersgroup.co.uk/kings/student/Vacancies.aspx
An online vacancy database run by KCL. Use the filter “Government & Politics” under the “Job Sector” section to find opportunities in Westminster.

Working in Westminster
Working for an MP
www.w4mp.org
Vacancies and internships in Parliament, pressure groups, campaigns and public affairs.

The Political Parties
As well as advertising them through websites such as Working for an MP, parties do use their websites to allow candidates to access current vacancies and submit your CV to a pool.

Labour
http://www.labour.org.uk/pages/careers-volunteering

Conservatives
https://www.conservatives.com/work_for_us

Liberal Democrats
http://www.libdems.org.uk/work_for_us
The Lib Dems did also have an internship programme advertised on their website which took interns on 4 times a year. It doesn’t seem to have been advertised lately, perhaps as a result of their disappointing election performance, but it’s worth keeping an eye out to see if they’re re-advertised.

Individual MPs do also on occasion take on people who contact them directly, particularly if you can show a reason that you want to work for them specifically. Search for contact details at http://www.parliament.uk/mps-lords-and-offices/mps

Bear in mind that in addition to needing to meet the job’s specification (as with any job) political parties will also want to see evidence that you share their values and aims, preferably in the form of tangible experiences. So if you think you may be interested in working for a particular party, it’s worth looking at ways you can get involved with them before applying.

Job sites

Special Advisers
http://www.instituteforgovernment.org.uk/publications/creating-effective-ministerial-team
There is no formal recruitment structure for special advisers, but you may find this document useful, in that it outlines information about the role and the responsibilities. The Institute for Government also occasionally offers internships.

Pub Affairs
http://www.publicaffairsnetworking.com
PubAffairs is a network for the public affairs, government relations, policy and communications industry. The website includes job vacancies, career advice, and information on the work of lobbyists. There is also an area specifically for graduates under the “GraduateForward” tab which includes a graduate jobs board and information on courses.
International Centre for Security Analysis
http://www.kcl.ac.uk/sspp/policy-institute/icsa/internships.aspx
King’s based department within the social science faculty who run a ‘Non-Proliferation and Intelligence’ internship programme targeted at MA students, who work the equivalent of four days per month alongside their studies. They recruit around seven interns per year, usually in one batch at the start of the year, although ad hoc opportunities are occasionally advertised at other points in the year.

Government Operational Research Service (GORS)
www.eurobrussels.com
GORS support policy-making and strategical decisions across a number of different government departments and agencies.

EuroBrussels
www.eurobrussels.com
Advertises policy jobs both in the UK and internationally.

Commercial awareness
Perhaps more so than in any other sector, a detailed knowledge of the current political scene and any recent political, social or economic developments is crucial if you want to work in policy or any other political role. Listed below are a few suggestions, but it’s also up to you to find places to keep on top of the news, by finding sources applicable to your political beliefs and policy interests. It’s also worth finding these organisations and following them on Twitter; it’s a great way of receiving regular, more easily-digestible updates, and any vacancies offered are likely to be advertised on there.

Peace, Politics & Policy: The Careers Blog
http://gradsintocareers.thecareersgroup.co.uk/industry-insider/topic/peace-politics-and-policy
Written by Fiona Richardson, a Careers Consultant at King’s College London, the blog contains advice, information and inspiration to get you started in your career, whether you’re interested in NGOs, development, intelligence, risk, or (as the name suggests) politics and policy. You’ll find interviews, industry insights, internships, job opportunities and much more here.

Electus Group
www.electusgroup.com
The Electus Group advertise roles in policy and public affairs, both inside and outside of Westminster. Though they don’t advertise many graduate entry level positions, looking at their resources can be a useful reference to see where a career might take you.

Policy Library
www.policylibrary.com
Policy Library has a number of detailed pieces of policy research divided up into over twenty policy areas, making it easy to search for the areas you’re interested in working in. They are very academic and detailed, but if you’re really looking to increase your knowledge in a particular area then this is a useful site. The site also has a jobs board, Policy Jobs (http://www.policyjobs.net) although the vacancies are viewable by subscription only.

Chatham House
https://www.chathamhouse.org/
Leading international affairs think tank, with a wide range of news and opinion pieces relating to international policy.