

Careers in Science Policy

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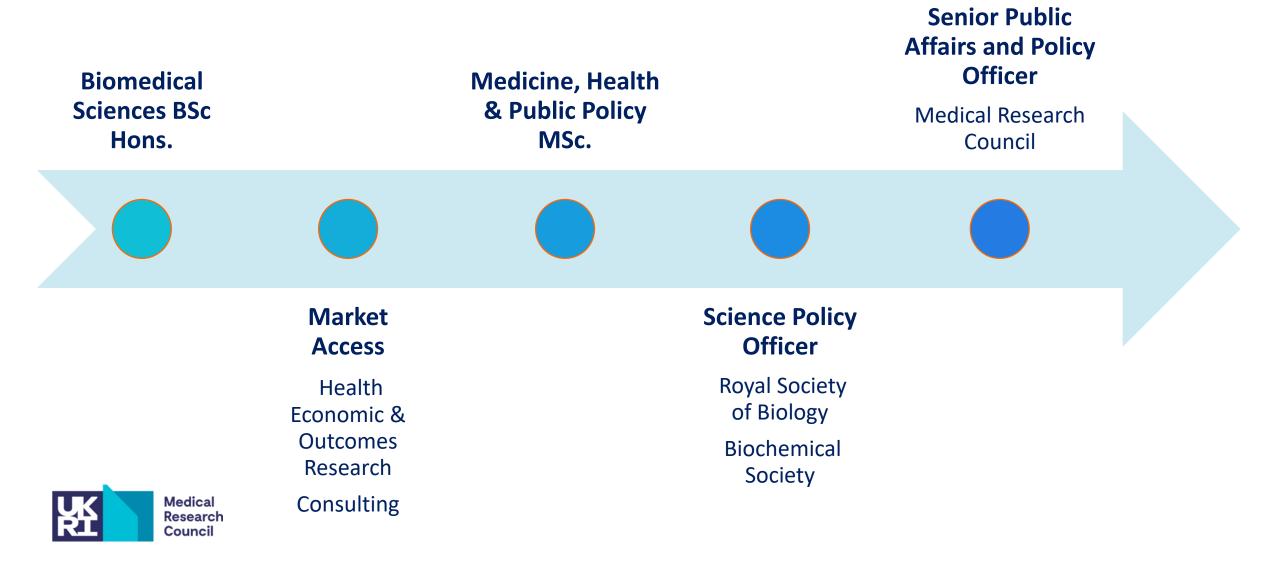
Careers in Science Policy

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- **2** Introduction to Science Policy
- **3** Working in Science Policy
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My career so far...



What is Science Policy?

Policy addressing specific scientific issues	Vaccination strategy Common agricultural policy Sugar tax	Biosecurity strategy Patient data in research Gene patenting
Scientific evidence to inform policy	Communicating science and research to inform policy	Striving for evidence- based legislation
Policy affecting the science / research environment	Higher education policy Research funding Immigration / visa policy	Publishing policy Research culture Infrastructure Data use and sharing



Working in Science Policy

What you might be working on:

- Researching and writing reports
- Reading and scrutinising policy
- Developing policy briefings
- Responding to consultation & inquires
- Policy communication blogs, articles, social media etc...
- Meeting parliamentarians & policy makers
- Attending meetings, conferences, workshops, events etc..
- Organising events sometimes in parliament
- Stakeholder engagement
- Networking







Working in Science Policy

Communicating, informing, influencing



Medical ЪŔ Research Council





ostrate their commitment to supporting

ity departments hold the highest level

event was designed to coincide with the

Policy Matters

Driving developments in diversity

ped to achieve for my daughter I now

These were the poignant words spoken by Professor Lesley Yellowlees CBE, at the launch of the Roya Society of Chemistry's most recent diversity report 'Diversity landscape of the chemical sciences' February 2018.

the Charter aims to promote ge These words really capture the findings of the report and the careers of women in STEM by advocating inclusion the wider landscape of diversity and inclusion issues in the STEM community. While there has undoubtedly been and flexible working environments. The Athena SW Charter bestows awards to institutions and departm is (and Professor Yellowlees herself, as the first female esident of the Royal Society of Chemistry 2012-2014, is who dem promoting the women in their organizations by m excellent example of changing times), issues in diversity strict set of criteria upheld by the Athena SWAN Cha nd inclusion persist and progress is slow. Slow enough The latest figures released by ECU show that over vals and objectives to improve diversity within the University departments hold an Athena SWAN awar ence community have shifted not by months or years, but only 10 t tions. Who knows how many talented potential award, a Gold. Uptake of the award is steadily incr rists have forsaken careers in STEM, who knows where and reports show that universities are implementir ir scientific knowledge might be now if they had not. changes to promote gender equality and improve di The arguments for ensuring a diverse community go beyond the scientific or economic. There is a strong and inclusivity within their departments

To promote the Athena SWAN Charter and case for ensuring that the molecular biosciences and ence departments in developing their appliwider STEM community are accessible and welcoming o all, regardless of background, personal characteristics the Biochemical Society, in partnership with sever learned societies*, held an Athena SWAN bioscier e choice. The sciences should be encouraging of practice workshop on 7 March 2018. To celebrate w ervone, and there needs to be a culture change starting at he very roots of our community. Talent and people shoul red, supported and accepted, as only then will International Women's day on 8 March 2018. search and innovation truly thrive.

The application process for an Athena SWA One initiative striving to achieve a fundamental cultur is notoriously tricky as it relies heavily on quality change and promote diversity, particularly with regards to case studies and testimonials. Data, which ma in STEM, is the Athena SWAN Charter. Established biosciences are completely unfamiliar with. The 1005 and managed by the Equality Challenge Unit, ECU, was tailored to address these common pitfalls a





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Working in Science Policy

Key skills required:

- Research skills & attention to detail
- Writing styles to fit the audience (formal & informal)
- Awareness of external environment
- Understanding of government / policymaking processes
- Ability communicate complex science to lay audiences
- Data analysis
- Critical thinking
- Presentations, speaking, networking
- Interpersonal skills & stakeholder engagement



Where might you work?

Government / Parliament

Houses of parliament

MP/Peer offices

Select Committees

Civil Service

Special Advisers

Science policy professional

Learned society/professional bodies

Think tanks

Charities

Universities

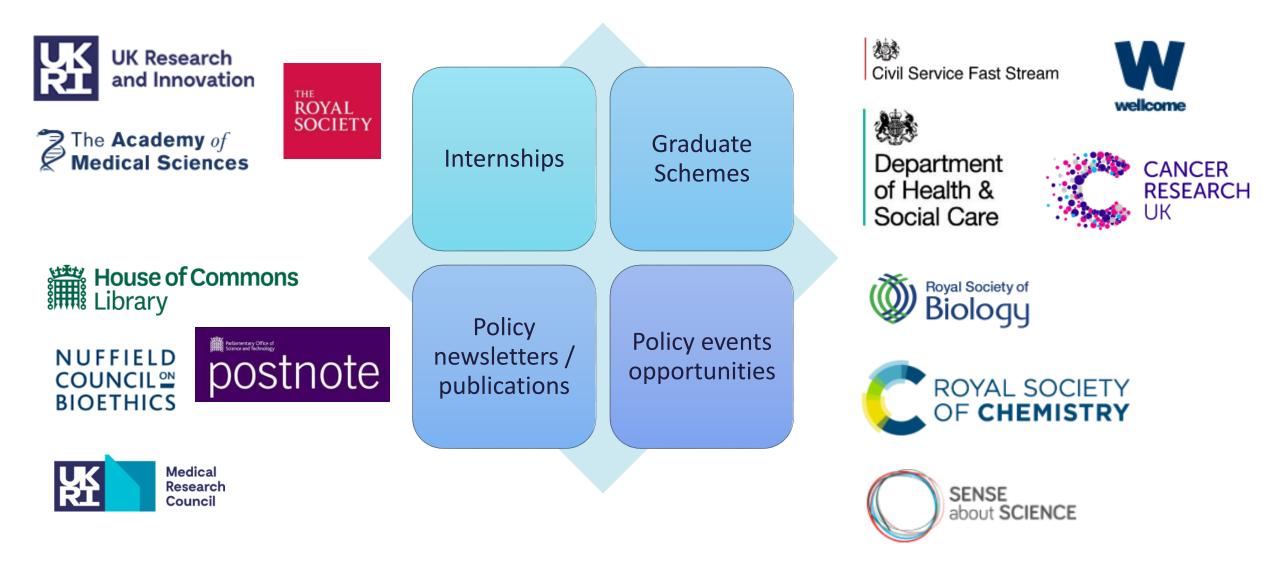
Business/industry

As a scientist / researcher

Policy advisory committees

Chief Scientific Advisers

Professional membership bodies



Is it for you?

Pros

- •Can be academic / research based
- •Keep up-to-date on science
- •Dynamic environment new policies all the time
- •Opportunity to meet and work with people from across sectors
- •Meetings, conferences, events
- Always learning
- •Feel like you are making a difference

Cons:

- Policy documents can sometimes be quite dry
- Mostly office-based
- Sometimes have afterwork events
- Working on areas you are unfamiliar with (outside comfort zone)
- Can be high pressure with short deadlines



Career progression

- **Starting salary** £25 £28,000
- **Senior positions** £30 £37,000
- Policy managers £35 £45,000
- Heads of policy £45,000 upwards





A career in Science Policy

How to find out more:

- Sign up to Policy Newsletters
- **Read policy briefings** (POST notes and Campaign for Science and Engineering)
- **Policy events** (Voice of the Future, STEM for Britain)
- Westminster Forum (free/discounted student rates)
- Follow organisations you are interested in: Twitter, Linked In
- Policy blogs, magazines, journals (Research Fortnight, Nature News, BMJ)





Questions?



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