



Medical
Research
Council

Careers in Science Policy

Emma Sykes
Senior Policy and Public Affairs Officer

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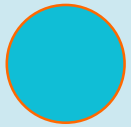
Careers in Science Policy

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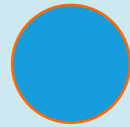


My career so far...

**Biomedical
Sciences BSc
Hons.**

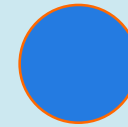


**Medicine, Health
& Public Policy
MSc.**



**Senior Public
Affairs and Policy
Officer**

Medical Research
Council



**Market
Access**

Health
Economic &
Outcomes
Research
Consulting

**Science Policy
Officer**

Royal Society
of Biology
Biochemical
Society

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 & inquiries
- 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



Closed consultation

Advancing our health: prevention in the 2020s – consultation document

Published 22 July 2019



Committee examines clinical trials transparency

Commercial providers of genomic tests questioned

Work of the Science Minister examined

Working in Science Policy

Communicating, informing, influencing



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

Pursuing a career in Science Policy

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

Pursuing a career in Science Policy



Internships

Graduate Schemes

Policy newsletters / publications

Policy events opportunities



Pursuing a career in Science Policy

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

Pursuing a career in Science Policy

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)



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Questions?





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Thank you



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