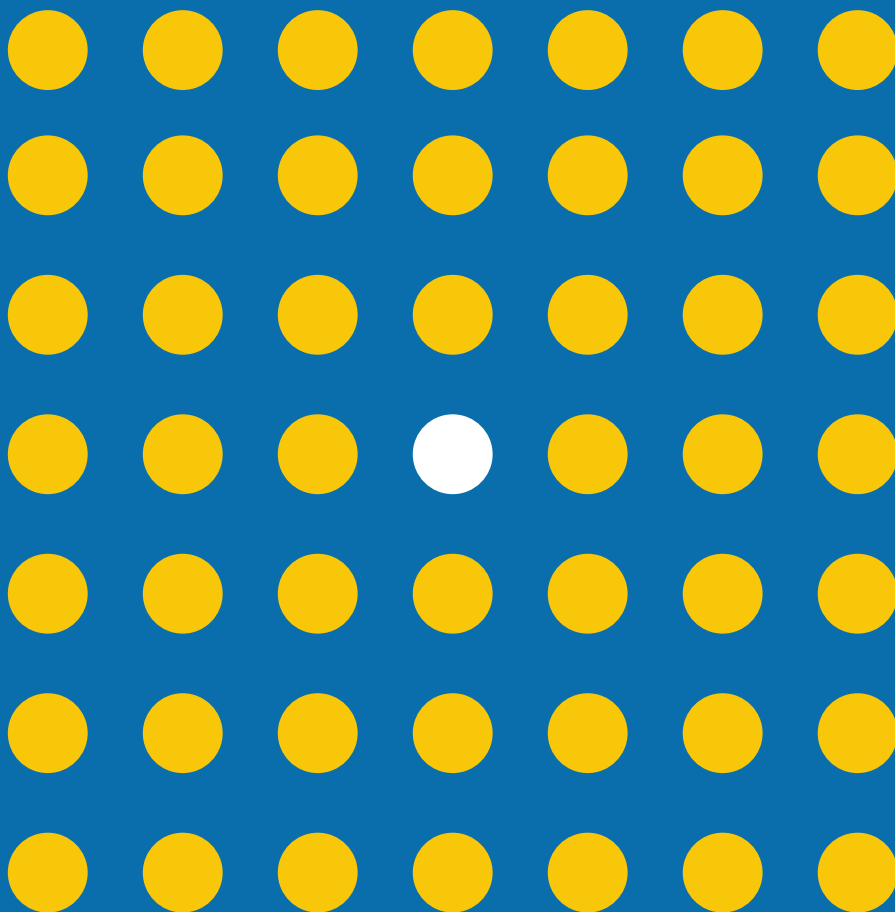


# Graduate Social Researcher Careers



Our statistics are **in the media every day** and are used across government for **policy making**, the evaluation of government performance, and in **informing public debate.**



## Why join us?

This is an exciting time to join the Office for National Statistics (ONS). We are expanding our professional community and looking to recruit graduate analysts. Join us in meeting the challenge of collecting, analysing and disseminating statistics about the UK's economy, society and population.

ONS is a stimulating place to work. We are the UK's largest independent producer of official statistics and the recognised National Statistical Institute.

As our statistics are used to challenge policy and are central to much of government economic policy, assessment and debate, you could be working closely with analysts in other government departments, such as HM Treasury and the Bank of England.

We are excited to add Darlington to our existing sites of Newport, Titchfield and London, as we invest in talent from across the whole of the UK.

The background image shows a workspace with several yellow sticky notes and a document. One sticky note says 'The Optimizer' and 'The Planner'. Another says 'Groups of friends travelling together'. A document has a heading '2. PROBLEMS / PAINS' and a question 'Which problems do you solve for your customer?'. There are also orange and purple tabs with text like 'Define C' and 'and RC'.

## Why be a Social Researcher?

You will work on a range of research, statistics and analysis projects primarily for ONS, but on occasions on behalf of other government departments.

ONS uses a range of primary social research methods to measure and understand society and the economy. These include:

- large scale surveys
- continuous and ad-hoc surveys
- qualitative and quantitative methodologies

We also undertake secondary data analysis and research of census, survey and administrative data.

# **In all aspects your work will help Britain make better decisions**

## **Current projects include:**

- production and publication of high-quality official statistics on a range of public policy subject matters including immigration, crime, the labour market and ageing
- discrete pieces of secondary analysis to provide context and understanding around statistical outputs, often drawing on a range of sources
- design and development of the 2021 census
- estimation and projection of the UK population
- redesign of our existing household surveys as we move to online mixed data collection modes
- development of new methods, research techniques and reporting to make sure we meet used changing needs and make the best use of existing administrative data
- measurement and reporting of the UK's performance against the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals

# Benefits of working at ONS

As an employer we are dedicated to looking after the interests of our staff. As well as a competitive salary, you'll enjoy:

- career development and progression opportunities
- generous holiday allowance of 25 days annual leave plus public holidays
- good work-life balance including flexible working arrangements
- strong ethos of equality, diversity and well-being
- up to three days paid leave per year for voluntary opportunities
- maternity, paternity, adoption or shared parental leave
- Civil Service Pension
- use of onsite facilities including canteen and gym
- free onsite car parking in Newport and Titchfield
- cycle to work scheme





# Learning and development

We are committed to developing the skills of our staff and have tailored a learning and development programme that supports continuous professional development.

It includes:

- training in technical areas
- training in programming
- mentoring
- attending conferences and seminars
- membership of Civil Service wide Social Research community with access to events and training
- membership of ONS Research and Analyst community and networks



# Social Researcher entry routes

There are a number of routes that university students can take to start their careers in the ONS.

## Graduate Social Researcher

ONS operate regular, graduate Social Researcher recruitment. You will work closely alongside experienced colleagues to help develop the skills and experience you need to progress through your career.

Recruitment is advertised via:  
[www.civilservicejobs.service.gov.uk](http://www.civilservicejobs.service.gov.uk)

## Government Social Research Service — Fast Stream Social Researcher

The Fast Stream is the Civil Service-wide development programme for individuals with the potential to become the future leaders of the Civil Service. This means that you can expect to become a Principal Social Researcher within three to five years, at which point you should be aiming to reach the ranks of the Senior Civil Service.

A typical Fast Streamer will move between departments every 12 to 18 months, to develop their skills and project experience.

You can find out more about fast stream and the application process via: [www.faststream.gov.uk](http://www.faststream.gov.uk)





## Eligibility

Government Social Researchers come from a range of social science background including geography, psychology, demography, social policy, sociology, political, science, criminology and social statistics.

To apply, you'll need to be working towards or have completed one of the following:

- a minimum 2:1 degree in a social science related subject with more than 30% social research methods content
- a 2:2 degree with a relevant postgraduate qualification in social research methods

Further information about entry requirements can be found in ONS application information.

Find out more about Government Social Research Profession via: [www.gov.uk/government/publications/application-for-government-social-research-profession-membership](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/application-for-government-social-research-profession-membership)



I currently work in the ONS Centre for Crime and Justice, within the 'Crimes Against Children' branch. The team is mainly based in Titchfield, but we are spread across all three sites (Titchfield, Newport and London).

My focus within the 'Crimes Against Children' branch is on child abuse. I worked on our first compendium of child abuse statistics which brought together a variety of survey and admin data to better understand the extent and nature of child abuse. This involved working with external stakeholders, such as the Home Office and NSPCC, to obtain data and write up the findings.

I have also worked on other projects within the team since I started 2 years ago, including our quarterly releases on crime figures, and publications on sexual offences and violent crime. Our work often covers challenging areas, but that is also the reason why our work is so important.

The ONS is a great place to work, as it really encourages a healthy work-life balance (flexi time and being able to work from home are huge benefits). There's even a gym on site, and a masseuse once a week!



**Charlotte Leach**  
Research Officer

There are numerous development and **training opportunities** offered to us too - from **mindfulness**, to **coding** in R and Python - which have **really helped my personal development.**

To find out more information on what we do as an organisation you can visit our website: **[www.ons.gov.uk](http://www.ons.gov.uk)**

If you would like to know more about joining us, contact the recruitment team: **[ons.resourcing@ons.gov.uk](mailto:ons.resourcing@ons.gov.uk)**

Our graduate job vacancies are advertised via: **[www.civilservicejobs.service.gov.uk](http://www.civilservicejobs.service.gov.uk)** and on social media:

 **Office for National Statistics**  **@ONSrecruitment**

