

Jobs in Local Authorities

There are various reasons why considering work in a local authority makes sense for a lot of students. The ability to make a difference to local areas and to see the impact of one's input on a local area are two of the reasons often given. Skills which are typically asked for include excellent teamwork skills, ability to communicate clearly to a very wide range of people, innovative thinking, and being able to see things through to a satisfactory conclusion.

It is suggested that you use the details here in conjunction with two key resources. There is an excellent summary of what the work involves, and key details about it, at: http://www.prospects.ac.uk/local_government_officer_job_description.htm . There are also a range of useful links on the 'Local Government' section of the Student Careers and Skills web page <http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/services/scs/findingajob/jobsectors/gp> .

National Graduate Development Programme for Local Authorities (NGDP)

Some local authorities take on graduates only through this programme. There are typically about 80 to 90 places available across the entire scheme in any given year – and about 2000 applicants. The NGDP is a two year programme, usually consisting of four six month placements which must include a front-line service, a support service and a strategic role. Although the intention of the NGDP is to take people on who have the potential to become future leaders, there is no guarantee of employment at the end of the two years. Most trainees manage to arrange placements in areas of interest so that as the scheme is coming to an end they have experience to apply for the sorts of vacancies which particularly interest them.

- Details and application: <http://www.ngdp.org.uk>

County Councils:

What follows is a list of English local authority graduate schemes, in which a number of graduate trainees will be taken on together and given an opportunity to experience different parts of the organisation before deciding where to specialise, and often with the intention that they will take on management positions more quickly than might otherwise be the case. However, most local authorities will take on individual graduates to fill specific vacancies, particularly (though not exclusively) for people with specific skills, such as finance or planning.

Many local authorities offer the opportunity to sign up for job notifications via their website. There are also places where relevant vacancies are sometimes advertised nationally, including www.jobsgopublic.com and the 'Society' section of Wednesday's Guardian. It

should also be added that the list of graduate opportunities with local authorities is constantly changing, so it is strongly recommended that you do your own research, particularly if there is an area of the country in which you are especially interested – you may find an excellent opportunity which is not on this list.

East Riding: <https://www.recruiteastriding.co.uk/gentext.asp?id=352>

Hertfordshire: HR, finance, management, property <http://www.countyofopportunity.co.uk/job-opportunities/graduates-apprenticeships-paid-internships-work-experience/>

Kent: Management, finance, highways and transport

<http://www.kent.gov.uk/jobs/starting-your-career/kent-graduate-programme>

North Yorkshire: <http://www.northyorks.gov.uk/article/23271/Graduates>

Staffordshire: www.staffordshire.gov.uk/jobs/graduates/home.aspx

Other Local Authorities, including London Boroughs:

Basildon Council: <http://www.basildon.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=4342>

London Borough of Hounslow: <http://www.hounslow.gov.uk/jobs>

Tower Hamlets: http://www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/lgnl/jobs_and_careers.aspx