

# Future Directions

## OPTIONS

American Studies

## Careers and Employability

Keele students often ask what career options are open to them as a result of studying their particular subject at university. Here we provide examples of employment sectors and typical jobs that are closely linked to a degree in American Studies. We highlight the importance of skills developed on this degree together with the destination figures of graduates from this discipline in 2018. You will also find links to relevant careers information for you to pursue your research, along with details of who to speak to for further advice.

### Occupational sectors

- Education
- Museums
- Government
- Finance
- Arts
- Information Management
- PR
- Advertising
- Media

### Want to work as?

Many students are excited by careers that utilise the academic knowledge and skills developed on their degree:

- Secondary School Teacher
- Academic Librarian
- Journalist
- Social Researcher
- Editorial Assistant
- Museum Curator

### What else?

For those who do not wish to pursue a career directly related to their degree, here are some career ideas to open up options:

- Advertising Copywriter
- Marketing Executive
- Politician's Assistant
- Public Relations Officer

### Sixty percent of jobs

This is the estimated number of jobs open to graduates of any discipline. It demonstrates the flexibility of many graduate employers when setting out their academic requirements and that students are not necessarily restricted to careers related to their degree. Both Prospects ([prospects.ac.uk](http://prospects.ac.uk)) and Targetjobs ([targetjobs.co.uk](http://targetjobs.co.uk)) have detailed information on all areas of graduate employment.

### Skills sought by employers

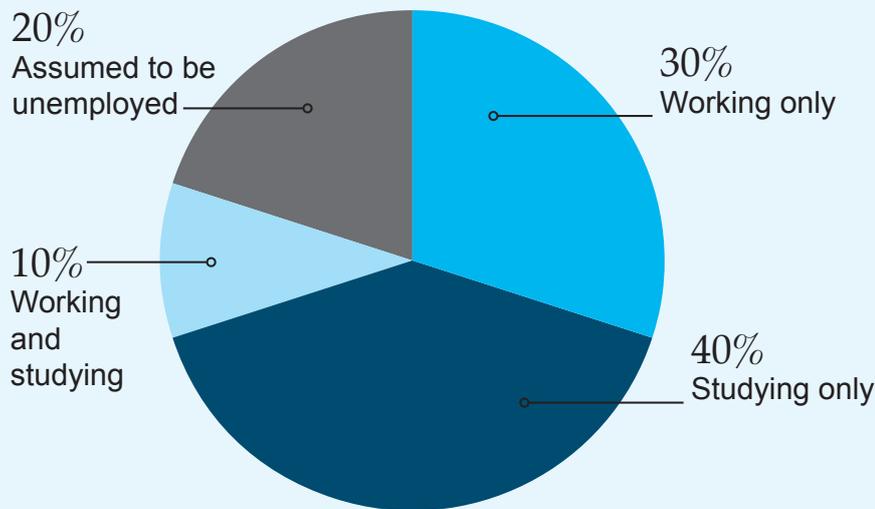
Regardless of which career you pursue after Keele, employers will want evidence of the range of skills and personal qualities you possess and which are required for the job. Your degree is clearly important in this respect but don't forget the extra-curricular activities, positions of responsibility, jobs and voluntary work you may have been engaged in while studying at Keele. These activities allow you to demonstrate the skills and personal qualities required by employers and will be vital in your attempts to secure graduate employment. More information on skills can be found on our website ([keele.ac.uk/careers](http://keele.ac.uk/careers)).

### The Higher Education Academy skills profile for American Studies:

Communicate effectively using advanced literacy and communication. Apply written and oral arguments appropriately, cogently and persuasively. Adapt and transfer critical methods to a variety of working environments. Acquire substantial quantities of complex information of diverse kinds in a structured and systematic way, involving the subject's distinctive interpretative skills. Gather, organise and deploy evidence, data and information. Analyse and solve problems.

# American Studies Destinations

of those who responded:



OF THOSE WHO RESPONDED		
Working only	3	30%
Studying only	4	40%
Working and studying	1	10%
Assumed to be unemployed	2	20%
Other		
<b>Total</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>100%</b>

The figures are based on the DLHE survey sent to Keele leavers 6 months after graduation. Remember that it can take time for leavers to find the type and level of work they are looking for. Relevant work experience and postgraduate study may be required. Graduate employment is competitive to enter and the quality of initial job applications needs to be good. See below for details of how we can help you develop your career plans and employability.

## What happened to Keele's American Studies graduates?

Have you ever wondered what happens to students from your course after graduation? Each year, between December and March, Keele University, along with all other public funded universities in the UK, is required by the Higher Education Statistics Agency ([www.hesa.ac.uk](http://www.hesa.ac.uk)) to take part in the Destination of Leavers from Higher Education (DLHE) survey of those students who graduated the previous summer. The most recent data available (summer 2018) is for graduates who completed their undergraduate courses in 2016/17.

### Postgraduate study?

The number of students choosing to do further study after their degree varies between disciplines. Some students are strongly committed to studying their subject in greater depth and so will proceed to a higher level qualification, such as a masters or PhD. Others will be required to study at postgraduate level due to career choice and the need to gain appropriate qualifications. Information management and social research are examples of careers linked to American Studies where postgraduate qualifications would be useful. The 2018 destination figures for American Studies show that 50% of graduates entered full-time study or part-time study and employment.

For further advice regarding postgraduate study speak to a Careers Consultant and go to the postgraduate study section on our website ([www.keele.ac.uk/careers/postgraduatestudy](http://www.keele.ac.uk/careers/postgraduatestudy)).

### Graduate level jobs?

Of those American Studies graduates in employment 6 months after graduation, 100% were in non graduate jobs.

## What Careers and Employability can do for you

- Develop your career plans, no matter at what stage they may be, through one-to-one interviews.
- Help you find graduate vacancies and internships.
- Make sure your CV and job applications stand out for all the right reasons.
- Prepare you for graduate job interviews and assessment centres.
- Our website ([keele.ac.uk/careers](http://keele.ac.uk/careers)) has details of vacancies, internships, events and guidance interviews.
- Provide you with these services for three years after graduation.

[keele.ac.uk/careers](http://keele.ac.uk/careers)

### Further information

The Prospects website ([www.prospects.ac.uk](http://www.prospects.ac.uk)) contains extensive careers information.

The skills profile was taken from The Higher Education Academy's Student Employability Profiles (<https://www.heacademy.ac.uk/knowledge-hub/student-employability-profiles>).