

A CAREER IN POLICY

A career in the policy field can fall under a number of specific categories. The main role of a policy analyst is to advocate for, and identify current problems in their specific field and create solutions by networking with different community members and organizations.



POTENTIAL ROLES OF A POLICY ANALYST

- Researching policies from other countries
- Being out in the community to gather opinions from locals
- Coordinate meetings with stakeholders and community partners
- Justifying your findings to implement changes

FORMAL QUALIFICATIONS

The most important qualification needed is a **Bachelors degree** (could be in Social Science, Economics, Statistics, Education).

A **master's degree** is extremely helpful and is recommended by many employers.

This field is also based largely on *experience*, therefore **internships and volunteer experience** is key!

BEST PARTS ABOUT THE CAREER

- We asked those who work in the field to name the best parts about it, here's what they had to say:
- Making human connections through networking
- Learning how individuals influence decisions on a global scale
- Every day is a new adventure, it is compared to a mixed bag of exciting challenges
- Continuous learning
- Everything you do has a direct positive impact on someone
- Helps you feel more grounded and connected to your environment

MOST CHALLENGING PARTS ABOUT THE CAREER

We asked those who work in this field what some of the challenges are, here's what they had to say: Juggling many meetings a day

- The job occurs 24/7, you can't control when things happen
- Not always a 9–5 job, you are always on call
- It is often difficult for partners and stakeholders to agree on things
- having to constantly justify decisions.

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A day in the life of a policy analyst...

- Policy analysts work on either broad or specialized issues
- Position consists of researching and recommending solutions to complex problems
- Policy Analysts have to consider the The Public's Interest when considering the implementation of policies
- A typical workday for an analysts consists of some office work, field work and traveling

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POTENTIAL AGENCIES TO WORK FOR

- UNESCO (United Nations Educational Scientific Cultural Organization)
- Different universities
- Canadian Government (CRA, environmental departments, school boards)

ADVICE FOR GRADUATES

- Consider different streams of policy ex. Private and Public sector
- After finishing a bachelors try to move on to a masters in something your passionate about
- Try and develop both policy and implementation
- Seek out opportunities
- Apply to the federal student work experience program (FSWEP) to gain experience in government sector

WHAT SKILLS & ATTRIBUTES ARE NEEDED FOR THIS CAREER?

- Intercultural skills (speaking more than one language) is helpful.
- Persuasive communication skills
- Experience working in, or living in other countries
- The ability to multitask
- Strong researching skills
- The ability to pool and analyze data
- The ability to think creatively and collaboratively.

