



Press Release

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New study pinpoints arts, humanities and social science graduates' skills

A new study has defined for the first time the skills that graduates at London Metropolitan University develop by studying arts, humanities and social science (AHSS) degrees.

Researchers from the British Academy identified the core skills of arts, humanities and social science graduates:

- communication and collaboration
- research and analysis
- independence and adaptability

The report found that these skills were often the same as the qualities in demand from employers.

The British Academy report [*The Right Skills: Celebrating skills in the arts, humanities and social sciences*](#) also investigated the destinations of AHSS graduates, and found that their core skills equip them to work in a wide range of jobs, from web design to the civil service, teaching to financial services.

With the type of jobs likely to change in the future, flexible and adaptable graduates, many of whom have AHSS degrees, are highly valued by employers, even when their degree is unrelated to the business.

Official figures reveal that 95% of all graduates are in work or further study six months after leaving London Met. Graduate employment at the University has increased by nearly 10% over the last four years.

Amelie Gericke, a London Met Diplomacy and International Relations graduate, studied in London Met's School of Social Sciences. Two years after her graduation, she now works for the UK Government, as a Private Secretary to the Executive Director of Government Communication in the Prime Minister's Office and Cabinet Office. "I am very grateful to have learned so much about different cultures and backgrounds due to the students coming from all over the world - essential for working in International Relations," she says.

“I really appreciated that my lecturers were so dedicated and accessible.”

Similarly, Irene Cafagna, an alumna who studied Journalism at the Islington-based university, graduated in 2012. Today, she is working in a communications role for the European Parliament in Brussels, highlighting the difference that London Met alumni make to the real world. “Studying in the UK was my dream and it came true at London Met where I improved myself both as a student and as a person,” said Irene.

Steve Casey studied in the Sir John Cass School of Art, Architecture and Design, graduating in 2013. Four years later, he is now working for the BBC’s EastEnders as a storyliner and has recently achieved his first accreditation. “Seeing my name on the credits is a significant milestone for me on my journey and I wanted to say a huge thanks to London Met. Without the support and championship the University showed me, I wouldn’t be here now,” he said.

Chair of the British Academy project, Professor Sir Ian Diamond FBA FRSE FAcSS said: “The question every arts, humanities and social sciences student has heard at least once is: ‘what are you going to do with that?’ Today our research proves that these graduates have the potential to adapt to almost any career in an increasingly globalised and uncertain world.

“Our research has defined for the first time the skills shared by arts, humanities and social sciences (AHSS) graduates, and looks at their careers in almost every sector of our economy, from the booming creative industries to financial services.

“The arts, humanities and social sciences are a strong choice for any prospective student – these subjects create well-rounded and adaptable graduates, equipped with the skills employers demand for the twenty-first century workplace.”

Contact

Charlotte White | PR Officer
Engagement | London Metropolitan University

+020 7133 2467
c.white1@londonmet.ac.uk

About London Metropolitan University

London Metropolitan University has been providing education to people from all backgrounds since 1848, with the creation of the Metropolitan Evening Classes for Working Men. Six schools teach cutting-edge, relevant courses across the arts, sciences, business, law and humanities. Accelerator – London Met’s specialist business incubator – helps graduates get their enterprises up and running and was named among the Top Five ‘Most Active’ accelerators in Europe in 2015, highlighting its contribution to London’s booming start-up industry.

London Met is home to world-leading academics who regularly give expert comment to the media. The University scored well in the 2014 Research Excellence Framework, being ranked 4th in the country for Area Studies and performing strongly in Education and Social Studies.

The University is strongly focused on employability. In 2017, London Met recorded its highest ever graduate employment score, with 95% of all 2015/16 graduates in work or further study six months after graduation. It was also ranked above all five Russell Group universities in London for teaching quality in 2016.

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About the British Academy

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