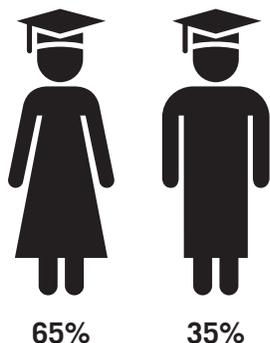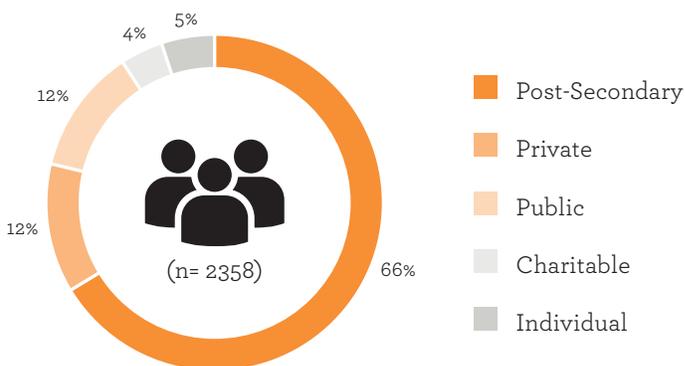# careerOUTLOOK: SOCIAL SCIENCES

{ Adult Education and Counselling Psychology / Anthropology / Applied Psychology and Human Development / Criminology and Sociolegal Studies / Curriculum, Teaching and Learning / Economics / Geography and Planning / Human Development and Applied Psychology / Industrial Relations and Human Resources / Information / Leadership, Higher and Adult Education / Management / Political Science / Social Justice Education / Social Work / Sociology / Sociology and Equity Studies in Education / Theory and Policy Studies in Education

## GENDER OF PHD GRADUATES

**65%**    **35%**

## EMPLOYMENT SECTOR BREAKDOWN

5%
4%
12%
12%
(n= 2358)
66%

- Post-Secondary
- Private
- Public
- Charitable
- Individual

## TOP EMPLOYERS BY SECTOR

**Post-Secondary Sector**

- University of Toronto
- York University
- Ryerson University

**Public Sector**

- Toronto District School Board
- Centre for Addiction and Mental Health
- Ministry of Education, Government of Ontario / The Hospital for Sick Children

**Charitable Sector Employers include:**

- Wellesley Institute
- Canadian Museum of History
- Child Development Institute

Looking for data specific to a department or graduate unit?
Wondering how the employment sectors are defined?
Explore the interactive 10,000 PhDs dashboard on the SGS website: uoft.me/10KPhDs

**UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO**
**SCHOOL OF GRADUATE STUDIES**

10K PHDS PROJECT

# SOCIAL SCIENCES PhDs AND THE 10,000 PhDs PROJECT: COMMONLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### Where did the majority of Social Sciences PhDs find employment?

**As of 2016, the majority of Social Sciences PhDs located during the 10,000 PhDs Project were working in post-secondary education, an extremely broad and varied sector encompassing teaching, research, and administrative positions at both colleges and universities.** Within this sector, the largest proportion of Social Sciences PhDs had tenure-stream positions—a phenomenon equally true for OISE PhDs, who comprise over 60% of Social Sciences data, and for all other Social Sciences PhDs combined.

### What alternative paths have Social Sciences PhDs taken?

Though data collected from the 10,000 PhDs Project are only suggestive about career trajectories, it is clear that Social Sciences PhDs who graduated between 2000 and 2015 have been highly successful not only at finding jobs after graduation, but also at finding opportunities across the whole spectrum of employment sectors. **As of 2016, the Private and Public Sectors had welcomed these graduates in roughly equal proportion** (averaging 12% in each sector). Not surprisingly, top Public Sector employers for OISE PhDs were within Public Education, while Government was the top employer for all other Social Sciences PhDs combined. Top private employers for all found PhDs included **Banking, Finance, and Investment and Management and Administration**. Job titles were wide-ranging, from **Psychologist to Senior Policy Advisor**. The **Charitable Sector**, though less well-represented in Social Sciences data, was also a viable source of employment. **Director, Instructor, and Research Associate** were among the top job titles of graduates working within this sector.

## WHAT IS THE 10,000 PhDs PROJECT AT THE UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO?

The 10,000 PhDs Project, an initiative of the School of Graduate Studies at the University of Toronto, used Internet searches of open-access data sources such as official university and company websites to determine the current and/or first (2016) employment status of the 10,886 PhDs who graduated from U of T between 2000 and 2015 in all disciplines. The study successfully located 88% of PhD graduates.

## What changes have taken place in the employment landscape?

Where a PhD degree may have once been seen as preparing the graduate primarily for a traditional academic career, the 10,000 PhDs Project has clearly demonstrated that today's graduates have more diverse employment opportunities in a variety of sectors. As in other disciplines, today's Social Sciences graduates likely will progress through a number of different career opportunities upon obtaining their doctoral degree, and may at times combine more than one job. For instance, graduates may combine work in the Charitable or Private Sector with university or college teaching. As of 2016, nearly 5% of Social Sciences PhDs were employed in the Individual Sector, which contains potential for non-traditional types—and combinations—of employment. Whether creating one's career from a variety of positions becomes an enduring trend cannot be predicted by the 10,000 PhDs Project. It will be interesting to look at future career outcomes research to better understand developments in the employment landscape.

**Building professional skills during graduate school and conducting informational interviews with a variety of employers can go a long way in preparing PhDs for a variety of rewarding employment pathways.** In addition to taking advantage of the U of T resources listed on the next page, consider the professional development opportunities offered by the **National Center for Faculty Development & Diversity (NCFDD)** (**facultydiversity.org**). All U of T grad students are members.

### YOUR INFORMATIONAL INTERVIEW: WHAT TO ASK?

- What career path did you take to get to this position?

- What are the most important skills you use in your work? How did you develop these?

- What do you wish you had learned that would be useful in your position today?

- What possibilities are there for advancing in this company/field/industry?

- How is your work-life balance?

TIP: On the day of your interview, follow up your meeting with a thank-you email. Include a LinkedIn invitation and ask any further questions.

## BUILD YOUR PROFESSIONAL SKILLS

Graduate Centre for Academic Communication (GCAC)    uoft.me/GCAC

Graduate Professional Skills Program (GPS)    uoft.me/GPS

Career Exploration & Education    studentlife.utoronto.ca/cc/grad-students

Milestones & Pathways Program    teaching.artsci.utoronto.ca/fundingopportunities/mp/

## START YOUR CAREER SEARCH

Canadian Museums Association Careers Site    museums.ca/client/career/careers.html

Charity Village    charityvillage.com/app

Chronicle of Higher Education's Career Hub    chroniclevitae.com

City of Toronto    toronto.ca/home/jobs/

Government of Canada    canada.ca/en/public-service-commission/jobs/services/gc-jobs.html

Jobs in Education    jobsineducation.com

PhD Career Stories    phdcareerstories.com

Ten Thousand Coffees U of T Hub
alumni.utoronto.ca/volunteer/mentor-a-student/ten-thousand-coffees

## BOOST YOUR CAREER POTENTIAL

- Connect with upper-year grad students to learn how they started their job search.

- Recognize and build upon your transferable skills (e.g. writing, data analysis, critical thinking, presentation, teaching). Register for GPS courses/workshops at uoft.me/GPS.

- Share your CV with your supervisor and peers to gather constructive feedback.

- Create a LinkedIn profile and get feedback from mentors and peers.

- Explore salary ranges and career trajectories from databases such as payscale.com or salary.com.