



Resource Guide for Students in Public Administration Exploring Federal Public Service Opportunities

A career in the public service is your opportunity to make a meaningful difference on important national and global issues—whether tackling climate change, improving healthcare, driving digital innovation, or shaping policies that impact millions. You will work in inclusive, dynamic teams with opportunities for growth, the flexibility to explore roles across departments and agencies, and clear paths for advancement and personal development.

Pathways to Join the Public Service

There are many pathways to joining the public service, from job opportunities to student recruitment programs and professional development resources. Please visit the [Government of Canada Jobs page](#) to help you get started. Attached is a summary of resources that may apply to you.

Category	Pathway	Description
Structured Programs	Federal Student Work Experience Program (FSWEP)	Paid roles providing students with valuable work experience in the public service
	Post-Secondary Recruitment (PSR)	Entry-level opportunities for recent graduates tailored to their skills and studies
	Advanced Policy Analyst Program (APAP)	Developmental program offering rotations across central agencies for graduates with strong analytical skills
	Recruitment of Policy Leaders (RPL)	Prestigious program for high-performing leaders seeking to influence public policy
	Other Recruitment Programs	Over 30 options depending on your educational background and interests
Direct Applications	GC Jobs and GC Digital Talent	Platforms to apply directly for positions aligned with your interests and qualifications
Research and Internship Opportunities	Research Affiliate Program	Roles for students seeking research opportunities in federal departments
	Co-op/Internship Placements	Work placements that integrate academic learning with hands-on experience in the public service

Tips for Applications:

- Learn about [Employment Types](#) in the federal public service: indeterminate, term, casual, student.
- Job application processes can vary but may require a resume, cover letter, and demonstrating how you meet the position’s essential qualifications and competencies in the application, interview, and exam. The process may take time, so focus on opportunities that align with your interests and qualifications.
- Prepare thoroughly by using the “STAR” method to structure your strongest examples for the application, exam, or interview, and seek feedback to ensure clarity and impact.

- Key skills valued in the public service include communication, adaptability, and teamwork.
- Access valuable tools and information, connect with experienced public servants for advice and mentorship, and get involved in events and communities, such as [GC Students](#), [IPAC](#), [Federal Youth Network](#), and [Facebook groups](#) relevant to your interests.