

MY CAREER PATH VICTORIA



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Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland

Victoria started her Career at the age of 24 and currently works as an Economist (AO) at the Department of Education.

"The public sector offers you an opportunity to shape and contribute to the Irish economy and society. You get an opportunity to take part in meaningful work that impacts Irish citizens."



I sat my Leaving Cert in 2012 and got my first choice, which was to study Economics, Politics and Law in DCU. In secondary school I really enjoyed economics and got good grades in it. I also liked the idea of becoming a solicitor. Therefore, this course was the perfect match for me.



I didn't enjoy the political side of things and over the course of 4 years I found myself drawn more to economics. In 2014, I moved to Berlin for Erasmus and studied in the Berlin School of Economics and Law for a year.



I loved living in Berlin, it was one of the best decisions that I've ever made. I graduated in 2016 and went on to do my masters in University College Cork, studying Economic and Business Development.



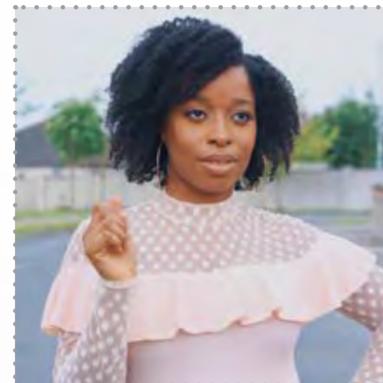
I first heard about jobs in the civil service through a professor during my masters degree. Before then I had never considered working in the civil service. I had this idea that people of colour, like me, would not be allowed to work in such a sector.



During my masters I worked on a project for Cork City Council. I really enjoyed working on the project, as it was very much a people focused project. I saw first-hand how economic analysis can contribute to policy and impact the lives of people. Knowing that I can make an impact through the work that I do means a lot to me.



I started working in the civil service in 2018 and worked in the Central Expenditure Management and Evaluation Unit in the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform (DPER).



In this role, I got the opportunity to work on 3 Budgets and 3 Spending Reviews. I was also able to deliver 2 research papers that have contributed to policy discussions.



The public sector is so big, and you have the opportunity to move around and learn new things. In my time with the civil service, I have developed many new skills. In secondary school I was so shy and hated presentations, now I do it in my sleep.



I would say to my younger self, stop stressing and worrying, everything works out in the end. I would tell her to enjoy university life and take part in the various clubs and societies. I would also say to her to not be afraid of making mistakes, because that is the best way to learn.



Job Specification – Economist Administrative Officer



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DEPARTMENT	Department of Education Learn more here
SALARY	€33,052 per annum *subject to change
ROLE DESCRIPTION	<p>There is a wide range of different areas within the Department of Education that make it such a diverse sector to work in. You may find that people who work in the Department can be made up of those you may see on the frontline every day, such as teachers, lecturers, SNA's, invigilators, and examiners. However, there are many more people working behind the scenes to contribute to the running of the education system. These include economists like Victoria! There are Graduate Policy Analyst/Economist roles in every Government Department. The work varies depending on the needs of the Department, but typically covers the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Contributing to national policy development across a wide range of areas;• Using data, tools and techniques to conduct policy analysis and evaluation;• Contributing to appraisals and evaluations of significant areas of expenditure in line with the Public Spending Code;• Economic modelling and predicting the future of the economy;• Contributing to briefing and giving advice to senior officials and Ministers;• Providing technical advice and guidance to ensure effective regulation.
REQUIREMENTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• An honours degree of a 2.1 (at least Level 8 on the National Framework of Qualifications) in a discipline such as Economics, Social Science/ Policy Analysis or Statistics. OR• A Master's degree level qualification (minimum Level 9 on the National Framework of Qualifications) in a discipline such as Economics, Social Science, Policy Analysis, or Statistics AND• Is proactive in keeping up to date on issues and developments that may impact government policy, summarise information effectively and is flexible to work on different tasks, positive & resilient to name a few.
APPLICATION PROCESS	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Register up for job alerts on publicjobs.ie to know when opportunities become available.2. Apply online at Publicjobs.ie before closing date3. Online Assessment Questionnaire4. Online and/or paper-based assessment test(s).5. Presentation/Analysis and interview.