**Where do English majors go?**

According to the 2015 Graduating Student Survey (with a 71.3% response rate for undergraduates in the English department):

- 80.5% of graduates were employed or going to grad school.
  - 67.5% were employed
  - 10.4% had secure plans to attend grad school
  - 2.6% had fellowships

**Here are some examples of organizations that hired Columbia English majors in recent years:**

- BARREL
- Writers House
- Gorkana
- macmillan education
- WILDLIFE CONSERVATION SOCIETY
- IEL Institute for Educational Leadership
- SEWARD & KISSEL LLP
- Bloomberg
- Google
- codecademy
- ISLANT
- Forbes
- CLINIQUE
- Mashable
- SCHOLASTIC
- TEACH FOR AMERICA

**Examples of graduate schools and fellowship programs that have accepted Columbia English majors in recent years include:**

- University of Cambridge
- Université Paris 7, Diderot
- Harvard University
- University of California-Berkeley
- Columbia University
- University of Oxford
- Sotheby’s Institute
- Ben Bagdikian Fellowship Program
- Editorial Fellowship at The Atlantic

**What jobs do English majors do?**

A degree in English provides knowledge and skills relevant to a wide variety of jobs across the career spectrum, including:
Use CCE’s [Industry Exploration](http://www.careereducation.columbia.edu) webpages to learn more about these, and other fields.

### What do employers want?

Most of the skills/qualities sought by employers are transferrable and/or soft skills that students can gain through classes, extracurricular activities, internships, volunteer experiences, or part time jobs including:

1. **Ability to work in a team structure**
2. **Ability to make decisions and solve problems**
3. **Ability to verbally communicate with persons inside and outside the organization**
4. **Ability to plan, organize, and prioritize work**
5. **Ability to obtain and process information**
6. **Ability to analyze quantitative data**
7. **Technical knowledge related to the job**
8. **Proficiency with computer software programs**
9. **Ability to create and/or edit written reports**
10. **Ability to sell or influence others**

*Source: National Association of Colleges and Employers, 2015 Job Outlook*

Your major can definitely demonstrate relevant coursework and knowledge to a prospective employer, but your studies aren't the only aspect of your experience that employers are evaluating. They select people who they believe can do the job (have the right skills), want the job (have demonstrated an interest in the field) and are a personality fit for the team and organization.

### What value do English majors bring?

According to the English department at Columbia, the English curriculum helps you to develop the ability to:

- Think critically and objectively
- Write clearly and effectively across genres
- Read closely and imaginatively
- Organize material with attention to detail and a pleasing style
- Analyze texts for both grammatical and content accuracy
- Develop creative solutions to unique situations
- Synthesize large amounts of information into a coherent structure
- Draw connections between seemingly disparate sources of information

### What if I’m an international student?

For international students at Columbia under student visas, selecting your major can play a significant role if you plan to work in the US after completion of your degree. Optional Practical Training is a work authorization that allows an international student to work in a job [directly related](http://careereducation.columbia.edu) to the student’s major area of study either before or after degree completion. Employer sponsored H1B Visas also have similar strict requirements. Students with more questions about this should visit the International Student & Scholars Office (ISSO) and view CCE’s International Students webpage at [careereducation.columbia.edu/students/International-Students](http://careereducation.columbia.edu/students/International-Students).