



The Placement Cell, Miranda House

PROFECTUS

Latest Insights into Career Trends and Path to your Dream Job

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#EmpoweringWomen

**A series of scintillating interviews with
the most distinguished women.**

INTERVIEW WITH

MS. NIKITA SHARMA

"If you'll never try, you'll never know."



Nikita Sharma holds a Master's degree in International and Development Economics from Yale University and a Bachelor's degree in Economics from Miranda House, University of Delhi. She is currently the Managing Editor for the

International Growth Centre (IGC) and oversees IGC publications, including the IGC blog and VoxDev. Prior to joining the IGC she worked as a Research Assistant at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

1. How did your education at Miranda House help you get into an Ivy League School?

For me, the most special aspect of Miranda House is its people – the professors, the students – and there is so much that I learnt from them. During lectures, tutorials, or even in the odd rushed chat after class, conversing with the professors, trying to understand something better, would lend me an insight into their way of thinking and approaching economics and life in general. I have found and continue to find a wealth of inspiration and support from my peers; Miranda House is quite a community. As a student at Miranda House, I would pick the brains of my seniors and classmates on how to go about graduate school applications, and now as a professional, I often find myself reaching out to someone or the other regarding a data query or recommendations from the literature.

2. How did Yale University help you accelerate your career goals and path?

Pursuing my masters at Yale, not only opened up a plethora of opportunities for me but also led me to organically arrive at the one I wanted to take in the longer-term. The latter was an important realisation and dawned after the all-consuming process of writing my dissertation. Again, I would be remiss to not mention the many people I got to meet there, talking to whom made me more aware about the profession and how I wanted to contribute to it.

3. What advice would you give to students who aspire to get into an Ivy League School?

Venture outside the classroom! Economics only provides with a set of tools and a certain lens that needs to be applied to different contexts. This could mean policy advocacy or field research or even advertising jingles. During my second and final year, at Miranda House, I was deeply engaged in an after-school intervention with a local NGO geared towards spreading literacy through reading. That experience has been immensely valuable and formative in shaping my research interests and what I want to do with the Economics I have learnt.

4. How did you manage to juggle between academics, internships and research work?

I wish I had a good answer for that! In general, I have found setting small achievable targets and taking breaks are helpful.

5. How has your education and career helped you grow as a person?

Over the course of my studies and professional pursuits, I have realised the wonderful resource people are and how incredibly valuable. While I have much growing to do as a person, I do believe I have become better at soliciting advice, mingling with diverse people, and doing it all in the spirit of learning something new.

6. How did you first realise that you wanted to be a writer and editor? How should one find their inner calling?

My interests in writing (and by extension, one could say, editing) go far back into my adolescent years, and stemmed from reading a lot of books and in a possibly banal aspiration, someday wanting to write my own. My suggestion to find your own inner calling would be to try different things. If you'll never try, you'll never know. Of course, we might seldom afford the luxury to do so, but I would still say try from a narrower set of pursuits that fall under your broad values and goals for self, and do resist the urge to go with the crowd.

7. What is the one golden piece of advice that you would give to aspiring writers and researchers?

READ! Read widely and deeply. Read to wield the language better as a writer; read to ask better questions as a researcher. There is much that we don't know about the world, and even ourselves, and reading and introspecting, are helpful in developing a sense of the world and our place in it.

8. After studying at the best institutions of the country and the world, what message would you like to convey to the readers?

Try to ensure that you are always learning as you go along – meeting myriad people, developing new skills, exploring different contexts. This has been a good personal check for me to gauge how much and in what directions I am growing.

TOP CAREER PROSPECTS TO EXPLORE AFTER MATHEMATICS

By- Sukriti Sharma (2nd year), Miranda House

Mathematics, as a subject, encompasses a wide spectrum of themes. It uncovers flaws and resolves truths, making our work more legitimate. Quantitative facts and statistics give reports and researches more credibility and legitimacy. Pursuing mathematics as a profession opens up a world of possibilities in practically every field such as statistics, operations management, accounting, actuarial sciences etc. A mathematics graduate has the opportunity to choose from a wide range of careers.

Here are a few of the most popular career options:

1. Data Scientist:

Data scientist has emerged as one of the most demanding jobs with lucrative pay packages in today's market. Students interested in pursuing a career in data science should have a keen interest in math and statistics, as well as programming skills, since the job includes analysis of data, building programmes, or at the very least constructing queries and scripts to do the analysis. The work being highly collaborative and cross-functional, students with good communication skills should consider this profession. Every organisation today, from small startups to multinational corporations, generate massive volumes of data on a regular basis. Professionals in the discipline of data science make sense of this information, which aids businesses in making future strategies. Data mining, data modelling, interpretation, prototyping, predictive models, and custom analytics are among the services offered.

2. Operational Research:

Students who possess quantitative reasoning skills and the capacity to think critically in order to solve complicated problems and propose answers, should pursue this as a career option. They frequently deal with issues like optimising system performance or allocating scarce human resources, money, equipment, or facilities. An operations research analyst is hired by a firm to analyse cost effectiveness, labour requirements, product distribution, and other aspects of their day-to-day operations in order to enhance their business processes.

3. Actuary:

An actuary is a professional in the field of business and finance who works with the financial implications of risk and uncertainty, mainly in the insurance industry. Students with conventional interests such as working with data in detail and enjoying looking for data and cognitively solving difficulties should consider getting into the Actuarial field. Actuaries provide an expert evaluation of a financial security system, focusing on the difficulty level, working conditions, and mathematics. The field also deals with the creation of life tables, mortality analysis, and compound interest calculations.

4. Academia:

Despite the impact of COVID-19, the worldwide market for education is expected to be worth 1.2 trillion dollars in 2020, according to Business Wire. This figure is expected to rise in the next few years, reaching 1.9 trillion dollars by 2027. As a Mathematics professor, there would be endless prospects both within the country and overseas. People who have a strong interest in the subject and a desire to pass on their knowledge while honing their skills should consider teaching as a career option. Patience, solid communication skills, creative thinking capacities, and, of course, a passion for the subject are all expected for a career in academia.



5. Statistician:

A statistician is a professional who applies statistical theories and methods to collect, analyze and interpret quantitative data that is useful and required for research. Expertise in theoretical and applied statistics, summary statistics and hypothesis testing, machine learning, and competency in languages such as R, SAS, C, C++, Python, Perl, and Java are among the technical capabilities that a statistician must possess. Database knowledge, such as cloud computing and NoSQL, is required. Statisticians design surveys, opinion polls, questionnaires, as well as collect and organise data. A statistician uses its analytical and statistical knowledge to evaluate data and develop conclusions from their results. A degree in Mathematics helps students brush up their analytical skills. A statistician can get employment opportunities in many fields such as education, sports, psychology, private companies, and healthcare among others.

OFFBEAT CAREER OPTIONS

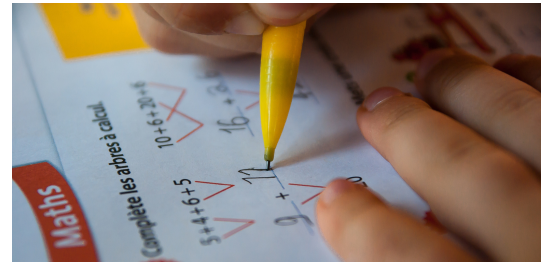
1. Cryptographer:

Cryptographers help law enforcement and government agencies solve crimes, threats, and security concerns by analysing and deciphering encrypted data. They also create computational models that aid in the resolution of issues in business, engineering, science, and other fields. Cryptographers assist in the protection of private data and may act to safeguard military, financial, or political information. They could be involved in the encryption or decryption of data. Cryptographers must pass a background check and have a bachelor's degree in computer science/mathematics, or a related discipline at the very least. Professionals in the field of cryptography must be well-versed in mathematical concepts such as linear algebra, number theory, and combinatorics. When building and deciphering powerful encryption systems, professionals use these principles. If you have an adventurous spirit and a creative bent of mind, cryptography is a challenging and exciting career choice.

2. Fraud Investigator:

Fraud investigators are on the front lines of proving the facts in cases of alleged fraud or other unethical corporate practices. Critical thinking, problem-solving and analytical skills of a mathematician along with extensive knowledge of fraud laws, evidence gathering, and interviewing, make a professional the go-to expert for investigating insurance fraud,

financial fraud, procurement fraud, asset recovery, cyber fraud, healthcare fraud, retail fraud, and other types of fraud. This career requires a combination of math, statistics, and machine learning expertise.



After completing a BSc in Mathematics, one of the most popular paths for advancing one's career is to pursue a master's or doctoral degree in mathematics. Students can specialise in fields such as computer science, data analytics, economics, finance, and statistics, among others, because it is an interdisciplinary field. If you don't want to pursue a core technical discipline, you can pursue specialised and professional degrees such as an MBA.

The advent of technology and jobs has resulted in a massive expansion in the scope of B.Sc. Mathematics. All of the aforementioned job paths and courses have seen tremendous development in recent years. The pay range is also higher in positions that graduates can accomplish after taking math-related courses. However, one should not suffocate and drown in the pool of opportunities simply because the majority is doing so. One should pursue what piques one's attention. So, if mathematics is your passion, go ahead and pursue it.

TOP CAREER PROSPECTS TO EXPLORE AFTER GEOGRAPHY

By- *Diya Nidamarthi (3rd year), Miranda House*

Geography is the study of places, the relationships between people and their environment, physical properties of Earth's surface while also being the mainstream study of social science with respect to people and their interactions. In a world with increasing instances of natural disasters, overpopulation, climate change, and similar scenarios, studying Geography can be of great advantage.

Here are a few of the most popular career options:

1. Cartographer:

Cartographers are responsible for developing and producing maps to be used in multiple ways. They are also involved in making related diagrams, charts, spreadsheets and travel guides. The field of cartography is subject to constant change and hence it is preferable to have spatial thinking and problem solving based approach. The career has both an analytical as well as an artistic part. It is one of the most in-demand career options taking into consideration the increase in the use of advanced technologies, such as geographical information systems (GIS) and digital-mapping techniques.

2. Environmental Consultant:

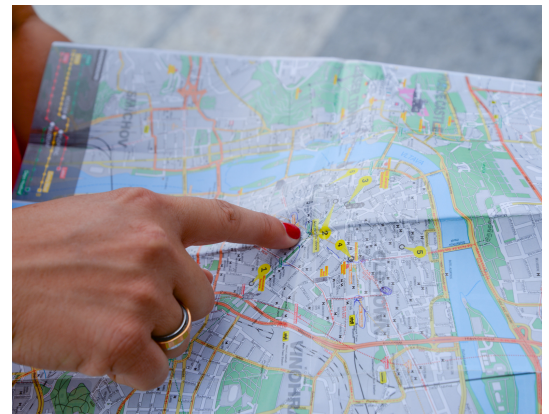
Environmental Consultants provide their clients with analysis and insights on environmental concerns. It also includes assessing the environmental impact of any project and the feasibility of the same. A career in this field requires one to have scientific knowledge, familiarity with regulatory requirements, and technical expertise to conduct thorough environmental assessments to identify and minimise risks.

3. Geographical information systems officer:

Geographical Information Systems officers work by gathering and examining geographical data collected using GIS. Geographic Information System (GIS) is a computerised method for collecting and analysing complicated geographical information. This career path is appropriate for those interested in data, analytics and computer systems. It would be beneficial to have studied GIS for this field of study.

4. Meteorologist:

This particular field of study focuses on weather processes and forecasting. As a meteorologist, one monitors and analyses changes in the Earth's atmosphere and also makes predictions and forecasts about the weather. Taking into consideration the various specialized branches, or subfields, of meteorology one can go for Weather Forecasting and Warnings, Atmospheric Research, Meteorological Technology Development and Support Information Services, Forensic Services, Broadcast Meteorology etc. In this field a lot of analysing and interpreting of data is involved along with a good knowledge of weather systems.



5. Surveyor (geomatic):

The primary job of Land surveyors/ Geomatics is collecting and analysing data from a piece of land and what is built and naturally exists on it. On the whole; they measure, map, assess, collect and interpret data usually on land set to be redeveloped. They may advise on the viability of plans and construction plans keeping in mind their analysis and survey which now increasingly uses technology, robotics etc. To pursue a career in this field one requires a strong background in mathematics and understanding of technology and software. They might also help archaeologists and architects in preliminary surveys.

OFFBEAT CAREER OPTIONS

1. Remote sensing technician:

The responsibilities of a remote sensing technician include acquiring and interpreting data from photographs. They also work with digital imagery or thermal energy systems. They cater to providing data for the particular professional using it. Their job begins at acquiring data and further authenticating it and upon analysing and drawing conclusions providing recommendations based on this data to professionals. Remote sensing technicians need to have skills in programming flight paths, operating photographic equipment and processing data. It also requires good analytical and reasoning skills.



2. Environmental policy officer:

This field of work is related to developing, implementing and monitoring the client's environmental policy. They devise systems and set up methods for the client to have minimal environmental damage and ways to avoid and undo the said damage. One requires good research skills to become an environmental policy officer.



After completing an undergraduate degree in Geography one can go for higher education too. Taking into account the flexibility of the multidisciplinary study related to the study of human interactions and social studies, students can pursue post-graduation or specialise in a particular topics from their under-graduation. Other options include teaching, surveying, urban/rural planning or landscape architecture.

Studying geography enables the critical and analytical thinking of the student. As the course is dynamic and relevant, it is suitable for those with sound analytical capabilities and keen interest in the study of the Earth, its surface and related fields.



1. Personal Interview Preparation (1st August 2021)



Quantel.in

The Placement Cell, Miranda House in collaboration with Quantel hosted a webinar on 'Personal Interview Preparation'. The speaker for the session was Ms. Kriti Singhal who is the co-founder and COO of The Education Tree and the Co-Founder of Orenda.

The session threw light on the importance of being diplomatic, confident and being yourself during an interview. It highlighted that displaying strong professional communication skills will definitely give you an edge over other candidates. Another important aspect emphasised was to align your strengths to the needs of the organisation along with preparing yourself for frequently asked questions such as 'Introduce yourself' or 'why do you want to join?' among others. The speaker also shared that percentages and results do not matter as long as the candidate possesses the appropriate skillset. The webinar ended with a Q/A session and proved to be a huge success.

2. Young India Fellowship (9 August, 2021)



ASHOKA
UNIVERSITY

Young India
Fellowship

The Placement Cell hosted a webinar in collaboration with Young India Fellowship. The session was hosted by Anuja Sinha Chowdhury. She is a Political Science graduate from St. Xavier's College and holds a Masters in Human Rights from the University of Calcutta. The session threw light upon the one year long programme. The speaker provided insights about how the fellowship empowers all fellows to reach their full potential in their chosen fields. It focuses on nurturing 21st century skills of critical thinking, communication, leadership, interdisciplinary education and advanced research. The speaker also mentioned the benefits of going for the fellowship as it provides the opportunity to learn from faculties of global universities and opens doors to several placements and studies abroad.

It also highlighted that the fellowship is a really good opportunity for peer learning and networking as the batch houses around 200 people from diverse backgrounds. It concluded with the speaker explaining about the eligibility and the application procedure.

3. Investment Awareness Program (4th September, 2021)



BIAP in collaboration with BSE Investors Protection Fund hosted an interactive webinar on Investment Awareness. The speaker of the webinar was Dr. Navin Punjabi. Dr Punjabi is the I/C Vice-Principal, H.R. College of Commerce and Economics, Mumbai and International Initiatives Associate, HSNC Board which manages 20 plus academic institutions in Mumbai and its outskirts. Dr Punjabi teaches Corporate Governance, Principles of Investment, Strategic Management, and has authored and presented many research papers at National and International Conferences.

In the webinar, Dr. Punjabi introduced the students to some basic concepts of the financial world like Joint Account, SIPs, Stock Markets, and how to access them. He also addressed the topic of how one can generate wealth - by ownership of business and investing in the stock market. The rights of shareholders in the online and offline mode were also discussed. The webinar concluded with Dr. Punjabi informing the audience about the do's and don'ts in the securities Market, Investment protection measures, advice to investors and others. The session also included a Q/A session with the audience.

4. Aptitude Test for Campus Recruitment (18th September, 2021)



T.I.M.E Education in collaboration with the Placement Cell hosted a webinar on 'Aptitude Test for Campus Recruitment'. The session was hosted by Amit Poddar, a graduate from Sri Venkateswara College and an MBA holder from IIPM. Mr. Poddar is currently the Senior Regional Head at T.I.M.E Education.

The session threw light on the relevance of aptitude tests in every entrance examination and how to prepare for it. Though the tests are not very difficult, the key is multiple practice sessions with a focus on timing. It highlighted that one can tackle the 'English' section by reading indiscriminately. Reading regularly is the panacea for all aptitude test related woes. It tackles sections like General Knowledge to Current Affairs to Verbal Ability. It also aids in interviews & gives one an upper hand in group discussions.

The speaker concluded with the advice that practicing and focusing on improving speed, accuracy, timing yourself wherever required & actively trying to get faster while not compromising on accuracy of answers is the key. The speaker constantly stressed upon the importance of having a goal. With a solid goal in mind & a plan of action to accompany that, acing aptitude tests is not difficult.

5. Virtual Career Webinar (9th October, 2021)



Institute
and Faculty
of Actuaries

The Placement Cell in collaboration with Institute and Faculty of Actuaries, UK hosted a virtual career webinar. The speaker for the webinar was Mr. Saket Saraogi, Career Ambassador of Institute and Faculty of Actuaries, UK, a visionary in the field of Actuarial Science and an Educationalist. Mr. Saraogi is the founder of SCUBE, Kolkata and aims to utilise his teaching experience to provide tutorials and guidance to students.

In the webinar, Mr. Saraogi explained that actuaries use mathematical and statistical business knowledge to measure probability and risk of future events. They also predict financial probability. Actuaries work in several fields like Pension, Data Science, climate change, banking, finance technology, etc. Becoming an actuary opens doors to several international organisations. IFoA has 3 main parts, 4 stages of qualification and 13 exams in total. Students who have a bent towards maths can pursue M.Sc in Actuaries. It concluded by highlighting that employers usually look for candidates with good Mathematical aptitude and soft skills.

MOVING TOWARDS THE FUTURE OF WORK

By - Deepshikha Rahi (Miranda House Alumni)

Since the coronavirus upended our lives, people across the globe have settled into the rhythms of remote working mode. The last one year has marked the intersection of two evolutionary trends to redefine the future of work, that is, remote working, and automation. Digitalisation and globalisation have sparked radical shifts in how we live and work. Employees have been given permission to work remotely until at least 2021 in some cases. A lot of companies have called employees back to work on various timetables and in staggered groupings. Some companies have even left it to individual workers to choose where they wish to work. Many jobs have been created via the gig economy. The growth of e-commerce and other digital transactions may therefore imply a shift to gig jobs in the independent workforce.

According to a May poll, 55% of U.S. workers want a hybrid-model, i.e., combination of home and in office employment. Employers in the United Kingdom predict the number of regular home workers to double, from 18% prior to the pandemic to 37% thereafter. In China, employers predict a 60/40 balance between onsite and remote work in the next ten years.

The future of work is very dynamic. A sudden disruption in the form of pandemic, terrorism, war, economic turbulence or even a breakthrough technology can change the entire working style. These shifts pose important considerations about the precarity of our occupations, the support available if we're unable to work or retire, the skills we'll need for current and future jobs, the quality of those jobs, and our ability to influence these outcomes.

The pandemic has accelerated the adoption of automation, as organisations try to manage remote workforces and work on proximity issues. While automation presents a greater potential for new, more meaningful sorts of labour by replacing monotonous, repetitive jobs, the degree to which countries and businesses are prepared for automation will decide whether or not they benefit from these improvements. Nearly 14% of jobs in OECD countries are likely to be automated, while another 32% are at high risk of being partially automated. Young people and those with low skills are at the highest risk – but new technological developments are affecting the jobs of the high-skilled too. So, in a way, jobs are not going to be snatched but they are going to evolve. Hence, upskilling and training are the need of the hour.



Now the real question arises- Are those who need training actually receiving it? In the fast-paced changing world of work, people of developed and developing countries need to navigate ways to acquire the right skills for new jobs and new tasks. Also, in many countries, social benefits and collective bargaining have been based on a model where people have a stable, full-time job with one employer, but this is rapidly becoming obsolete.

Recent labour market shifts have caused countries to consider whether their present labour laws, lifelong learning, social protection, taxes, and collective bargaining systems are still adequate. While this is true in certain circumstances, policies may need to be adjusted in others to assure the protection of vulnerable workers and to prevent misuse, as well as to ensure that enterprises that follow the rules are not unfairly penalised. While each country's position is unique, there are certain areas of concern. Many countries have raised concerns about self-employment, particularly around misclassification and the difficulty of classifying employees who fall somewhere between the traditional definitions of dependent employment and self-employment. Many countries recognise that correct classification is critical to ensure access to labour and social protection, as well as collective bargaining and lifelong learning - but some have gone beyond above to ensure rights, benefits, and protections to previously unprotected workers.

According to the Autodesk Foundation-commissioned paper "The Future of Work is Now: Is APAC Ready?" India, Bangladesh, and Pakistan are the least prepared for the next wave of automation and are the most at danger of losing jobs as a result. India is placed 5th in terms of hazard, and 9th in terms of readiness around the world. Agriculture, manufacturing, and construction are among the industries with the highest risk. Indians are also more likely than those in other nations to want to work totally from home, with 83 percent of employees in India still dreading going back to work. Businesses have also been sluggish in terms of adopting technology or have simply failed to keep up with the most recent advancements. Furthermore, in rural areas, 19% of households do not have access to the internet, whereas 13% of all households do not have access to the internet. This makes it difficult for people to pursue education and take up employment opportunities.

Finding solutions:

Policymakers have a number of alternatives for assisting people through job transitions. Many countries have provided financial assistance to employees who lost their jobs in the early days of the virus outbreak, which further boosted consumption and helped avoid more serious and long-term economic damage. Despite their positive attitude, two-thirds of the workers expressed anxiety about the work environment following COVID-19. The younger the people, the more anxious they are.

Another alternative is to restructure labour market regulations in order to accommodate the expanding independent workforce. For the first time in two years, many independent and gig workers were provided the same unemployment and other benefits as hourly paid workers. There were primarily temporary measures in various countries so far. More

work on permanent rules that are better adapted to the modern labour market could be beneficial.



There are various potential approaches to improve the working environment, encourage choice, bridge the gender gap, reverse the impact of global inequality, etc. However, none of this will happen on its own. Without immediate action, we will be heading toward a society that exacerbates current inequalities and uncertainties, just as it did when the ILO was founded in 1919. Governments, companies, and workers' organisations must collaborate to establish a new path through reinvigorating the social impact.

READING LIST

- [UPSKILLING & RESKILLING: THE FUTURE OF WORK \(linkedin.com\)](#)
- [7 EMPLOYABILITY TRENDS IN 2021 \(linkedin.com\)](#)
- [OPTIMISING WORK FROM HOME \(linkedin.com\)](#)
- [Placement Cell, Miranda House on LinkedIn: #interviews #interviewtips #interviewprep | 25 comments](#)
- [THE GUIDEPOST \(fliphtml5.com\)](#)



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