

Princess Fiona

Ms. Casarez

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Happily Ever After: How to Become a Successful Princess

According to WISCareers, people who are artistic, social, enterprising, and conventional will be most satisfied if they find employment in Education and Training; Arts, Audio/Video Technology, and Communications; or Human Services (Interest Profiler). Though the options amidst these career clusters are plentiful, one often overlooked career that did not appear on these lists includes the ever popular childhood dream of becoming a member of royalty. While some princesses are born into their roles, others would have to work their way into these prestigious positions, and in both cases, there are several guidelines that one should adhere to.

One important consideration includes acknowledging not only the responsibilities and expectations of any member of royalty, but the necessary job skills as well. As a member of the Royal family, one is expected to “support The Queen in her many State and national duties, as well as [carry] out important work in the areas of public and charitable service, and [help] to strengthen national unity and stability” (Palace). Typically, this means princesses must attend national events, and while this may seem somewhat luxurious, attending as many as “2,000 official engagements throughout the UK and worldwide” (Palace) requires a great deal of commitment and flexibility in regards to one’s personal schedule. Job skills that would increase an individual’s success in this field include a working knowledge of government and the ability to write and effectively give speeches in front of large audiences (Paxman).

As with many careers, one must receive training and education before becoming a princess. While formal training is often limited, any “heir to the throne traditionally receives lessons in protocol,

history, and other aspects of royal duty... [in order to effectively] manage royal life” (Brewington).

Training itself can vary greatly depending on location; however, princesses such as Kate Middleton were expected to attend “private meetings with...senior members of the Royal household, key advisors... and representatives from some of [her family’s] charities and other affiliations” (Brewington) in order to become better acquainted with not only the royal lifestyle but also the expectations that are being set for this particular position.

In addition to receiving informal training from family members, formal education such as a bachelor’s degree in political science is extremely helpful. One school that offers this particular degree is the University of Wisconsin Madison, whose Political Science program is not only “one of the nation’s oldest and most respected” (The University of Wisconsin-Madison Department of Political Science) but is also “highly ranked in national surveys...[with an] award-winning faculty...known for innovative research on the discipline’s most current and important questions” (The University of Wisconsin-Madison Department of Political Science). Given its popularity, admission to the University of Wisconsin-Madison can be rather selective, and incoming freshmen typically have grade point averages that range from a “3.5 and a 3.9, and a class rank in the 85-96 percentile” (The University of Wisconsin-Madison Office of Admissions and Recruitment). While there is no official minimum ACT score, strong candidates for admission typically obtain “between 27-30 on the ACT” (The University of Wisconsin-Madison Office of Admissions and Recruitment) and have a variety of extracurricular activities to include on their applications. Once accepted, students can expect to pay tuition rates of approximately \$11,000 per year, as well as room and board fees that average \$8000-\$9000 annually (The University of Wisconsin Madison Office of Student Financial Aid).

While holding a position in royalty will certainly bring fame, most members of the royal family “will not get a salary for their royal duties; however, they may be reimbursed for any expenses incurred

while on ambassadorial duties or appearances” (DiscoveryFinance.com). This does not, however, mean that members of the royal family live in poverty, as many inherit a substantial amount of money from relatives while others hold paid positions in the military—which is important, as it is not clear whether health insurance is provided by the government simply because one is a member of royalty. It should be noted that “the biggest allowance the Royal Family can get from the government/taxpayers is the rental of the palaces they reside” (DiscoveryFinance.com), which eliminates the need to invest in property and home expenses, thus freeing up money for investments and other financial opportunities (DiscoveryFinance.com), and while there are no direct health or safety concerns associated with this career, fame is often accompanied by constant scrutiny from the press and media. Other benefits to becoming a member of royalty include “services like travel [and] security” (Warner) as well as increased media attention and publicity for charities of his or her choice.

The prospect for employment when considering a career in royalty is extremely low, as anyone who is not born into royalty must marry into the position. One factor that plays a direct role in the availability of jobs in this field includes the number of princes that currently reside in the world: Although “there are 26 monarchies in the world...who rule or reign over 43 countries in all” (Dewey and Fisher), not all of these families have children or princes eligible for marriage, further complicating the odds for obtaining work in this career. Growth potential in this career is impossible to speculate, given the unpredictable nature of falling in love, maintaining healthy relationships, and birth rates among royal families.

While the typical work day for a member of royalty varies depending on an individual’s position, a princess devotes much of her time to “carrying out engagements in support of The Queen” (The Official Website of the British Monarchy). These duties can range from “under[taking]... official engagements...both in the UK and overseas” (The Official Website of the British Monarchy) to holding “a

number of appointments in the...armed services" (The Official Website of the British Monarchy). In addition, much time is spent to making public appearances and raising awareness and money for assorted nonprofit organizations.

Princesses have strong public speaking skills and a willingness to help others, which would make me a perfect candidate because I am an extremely gifted speaker and am conscientious of other's needs. Not only am I able to convey my ideas in a concise and accurate manner, but I am confident, which is a skill that any public figure must master. My experience working for Disney in *Shrek*, *Shrek 2*, and *Shrek 3* have helped strengthen my memorization skills, and I would therefore do well in the event that I was asked to give a pre-written speech; however, I would struggle with any issues regarding government, as my knowledge in these areas is fairly limited. In addition, I have the good fortune of being born royalty, so I did not have to go through the trouble of finding a prince to fall in love with, so I am happy to discover that not only am I interested in the field, but I am already working my way into higher positions within this type of employment.

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