

PhD placements in HM Government's Open Innovation Team

HM Government's *Open Innovation Team* generates analysis and insight for priority projects by helping officials collaborate with outside experts. We are supported by *Research Councils UK* and sponsored by four leading universities — *Essex, Lancaster, York* and *Brunel* — but our relationship with our sponsors is not exclusive. Over the past three years, we have had more than 50 PhD students join our team, or departments we are working with for placements, with many going on to policy jobs after completing their studies.

Our recruitment round for placements between Spring — Autumn 2021 is now open. We are inviting PhD students to join our team for a minimum of 3 months to help us deliver projects on a wide range of policy areas. PhD placements will normally be three months in duration, and organised for dates no less than six months in the future.

Responsibilities

PhD students working with us on placement will be expected to carry out a range of tasks, including:

- Reviewing evidence to inform policy discussions
- Generating analysis and policy ideas working alongside officials and outside experts
- Pitching and scoping new projects
- Managing stakeholders inside and outside Whitehall
- Organising engagement activity, including arranging meetings and policy seminars

Required skills/experience

We are looking for PhD students who can:

- Communicate well and translate complex ideas to non-expert audiences
- Manage their time effectively, juggling a variety of tasks with minimal supervision
- Collaborate with variety of team members, government officials and academics
- Adapt as projects and partners evolve
- Demonstrate an interest in policy and a willingness to learn about new issues

Training and experience expected to be gained on the placement

The placement involves a full training programme, covering the skills we use on a daily basis (writing for officials, translating research, conducting research interviews, etc), and will provide an excellent opportunity to:

- Understand more about how Whitehall works and how policy is developed
- Hone writing and communication skills for non-expert audiences
- Develop networks in government, including a wide range of central government departments
- Build knowledge of new policy areas

Please note

At the time of writing (October 2020) we are still operating under Covid-19 social distancing measures. Circumstances may change, but placements are likely to be conducted on a fully or partially remote basis, subject to discussions between successful placement students and their assigned line managers. No placement student will be required to attend an office environment unless they are comfortable with doing so, and subject to the approval of their university.

How to apply

Applications are open until midnight on Friday 13th November. To apply, please send a CV and short statement of no more than 500 words setting out why you are interested in the role, and your relevant skills and experience to oit-recruitment@cabinetoffice.gov.uk. Students who are successful in their applications will be expected to secure funding for the placement from their university, DTP or other funding bodies.

We value diversity and inclusion and actively encourage and welcome applications from people of all identities and backgrounds, especially those who are under-represented in our workforce.