Internship Title: Trade policy – government procurement

Non-Academic partner: Trade Policy Group, Department for International Trade

Role/Sector: Government

Location: Central London (Westminster)

Duration: 3 months minimum

Start date: tbc

Full or Part time: Potential flexibility, but we expect that the candidate would get the most out of the experience if they were full time

Who are you going to work with

The Department for International Trade (DIT) is a department for the whole of the UK. We have overall responsibility for promoting UK trade across the world and attracting foreign investment to our shores, under the leadership of the Secretary of State, the Rt. Hon Liam Fox MP.

We are a specialised body with significant trade negotiating and trade promotion activity. We have oversight of the Defence and Security Organisation and UK Export Finance is an integral part of DIT's operations and strategy.

The Department’s vision and mission are pursued under four key objectives:

• Support and encourage UK businesses to drive sustainable international growth.

• Ensure the UK remains a leading destination for international investment and maintains its number one position for international investment stock in Europe.

• Open markets, building a trade framework with new and existing partners which is free and fair.

• Use trade and investment to underpin the Government’s agenda for a Global Britain and its ambitions for prosperity, stability and security worldwide.

How do you expect to spend your day

Public procurement – the purchase of goods and services by public bodies – represents a huge market for UK businesses. Governments worldwide can choose whether or not to open their public procurements to international competition – public procurement is exempt from the main World Trade Organisation (WTO) agreements – and these decisions form part of trade relations between countries. Bilaterally, there are ‘Government procurement’ chapters in many free trade
agreements (FTAs); at a multilateral level, there is a specific Government Procurement Agreement (GPA) under the WTO umbrella. In developing the UK’s trade policy, we want to understand more about the potential value and structure of overseas public procurement markets for a number of reasons, including:

- understanding the value of what we are negotiating
- knowing what barriers we might face in those negotiations
- knowing which industries are likely to benefit from the opportunities.

We would look to work with the individual candidate to define the exact scope of their work and the products they produce depending on their interests and prior experience. However, we have identified the following areas that we are most interested in covering:

**Project 1 – Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP)**

CPTPP is a trade agreement between 11 countries (Australia, Brunei, Canada, Chile, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore, and Vietnam). It is an ambitious and relatively deep trade deal with a bloc of countries representing 13-14% of the global economy and covering 500m people. Trade with CPTPP member countries covers approximately 7% of UK trade. The UK is considering seeking accession to the agreement. We would like to develop a better understanding of procurement market access in CPTPP. This would include:

- Comparative assessment of market access coverage offered between CPTPP parties, both against GPA baselines and their typical FTA offers.
- Analysis and identification of any patterns within the market access offers and chapter text (particularly provisions given to developing countries)

Dependent on time available, the candidate could develop this project further by:

- Working with in-house analysts to understand the value of these markets to the UK.
- Consider the parameters of an appropriate potential UK offer.

**Project 2 – China’s application to the GPA**

Conducting an assessment of China’s most recent market access offer to the GPA, focusing on whether China is offering coverage that is commensurate with the other GPA parties and those parties’ views on China’s offer. This would include:

- Looking at the history of China’s accession attempt and understanding how its offer has developed through successive iterations
- Developing an understanding of the purpose, role and responsibilities of China’s central and subcentral entities to enable the UK to scrutinise China’s current offer
- Looking at the extent to which China’s offer sufficiently incorporates its many State-Owned Enterprises
- Considering whether China has the legal framework necessary to implement the GPA

Depending on time, the candidate could also look at the extent to which tensions between China and Taiwan (currently a member of the GPA) could impact on other members including the UK.

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<th>The ideal intern’s personality and qualifications</th>
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<td>The candidate would be expected to operate as a full member of the team and Department. This would give them the opportunity to gain exposure to the wider government environment and trade policy work, as well as experience working with a range of internal and external stakeholders – for example, in-house analysts. There will be opportunities for them to undertake additional learning and development, with in-house events and external speakers. A typical day might include:</td>
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<td>- A team meeting, discussing issues of wider interest such as the strategic direction of the Department and progress of relevant legislation;</td>
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<td>- A meeting with an external stakeholder (e.g. academic, industry, trade body) to seek information for the project;</td>
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<td>- A meeting with another government department to explain the project and seek input (e.g. Foreign and Commonwealth Office);</td>
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<td>- Desk research and drafting memoranda;</td>
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<td>- Project management, including updating project plans;</td>
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<td>- Attending a talk from an external speaker on a trade-related issue (e.g. on gender aspects of trade policy);</td>
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<td>- Presenting material to in-house analysts;</td>
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<td>- Undertaking a regular review with their activity manager.</td>
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**How do you expect the intern to spend his/her day**

- Given the nature of the project and the timescales involved, the candidate would benefit from being proactive and resilient. They will find the experience most rewarding if they are curious, flexible, willing to pitch in with a variety of tasks, and happy to talk to and ask questions of a wide group of colleagues. Ideally, qualifications would include experience of quantitative and qualitative research (interviews) with a focus on economics, economic geography, trade
or international relations. Candidates with a knowledge of China and the organisation of Chinese state entities would be particularly welcome for the second project.

**Wat are the benefits of Interning at this project**

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Ideally, qualifications would include experience of quantitative and qualitative research (interviews) with a focus on economics, economic geography, trade or international relations. Candidates with a knowledge of China and the organisation of Chinese state entities would be particularly welcome for the second project.

**Apply for this role**

If you are interested in applying for this opportunity, please email the completed application form and a CV to esrcdtp@admin.cam.ac.uk.

Please note that all applications must be approved by the applicant's PhD supervisor.

**The application deadline is Sunday 2 June 2019**