

General Information

Title: Trade policy – public procurement

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

Role/Sector: Government

Location: Central London (Westminster)

Duration: 3 months

Start date: Negotiable

Full or Part time: Preferably full time but with some flexibility

Who are you going to work with

The Department for International Trade 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 new trade negotiating capacity, taking on the responsibilities of UK Trade & Investment, along with the relevant trade functions of the former Department for Business, Innovation and Skills. We have oversight of the Defence and Security Organisation and UK Export Finance is an integral part of DIT's operations and strategy.

To deliver an outward-looking trade diplomacy strategy, the department's key priorities are:

- To promote UK exports of goods and services, to support a growing economy that creates wealth for all, supports jobs and meets our wider national interests;
- To deliver the best international trading framework for the UK outside the EU, including through building our capacity to negotiate and administer a national trade policy;
- To maximise opportunities for wealth creation through supporting Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), with a renewed focus on outward FDI (overseas direct investment) to support the Current Account

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 agreements) and these decisions form part of trade relations between countries. Bilaterally, there are 'Government procurement' chapters in many free trade agreements; at a multilateral level, there is a specific 'Government Procurement Agreement' under the World Trade Organisation umbrella.

In developing the UK's trade policy, we want to understand more about the potential value of overseas public procurement markets for a number of reasons: firstly, we want to know the value of what we are negotiating; secondly, we want to understand which industries are likely to benefit from the opportunities. We would work with the candidate to design the exact scope and product from the project, but would be interested in:

Project 1: Quantitative and qualitative characterisation of UK business opportunities in overseas public procurement markets, with a particular focus on the supply chain impacts. It would include:

- Which industries and businesses in the UK win most contracts from international public procurements;

- Which industries and businesses are most *dependent* on international public procurement;
- What supply chains are involved in public procurement contracts.

Project 2: Quantitative and qualitative assessment of potential opportunities in the opening of public procurement markets in Latin America. This is an area of the world that has been targeted for outreach by the WTO Government Procurement Agreement with a view to extending its membership. We would want to our engagement to be informed by an understanding of the value of opportunities in this region.

- What data exists and how good is it?
- What volume of contracts are public procured?
- What is the breakdown of these contracts by sector?
- Is procurement centralised or decentralised?
- Are there relevant trends in public spending that we might expect to continue?

The intern would be expected to be a full member of the team and department, gaining exposure to the wider government environment and trade policy work as well as working with in-house analysts. There will be opportunities for learning and development, with in-house events and external speakers. A typical day might include:

- A team meeting, discussing issues of wider interest such as the strategic direction of the Department and progress of relevant legislation;
- A meeting with an external stakeholder (e.g. academic, industry, trade body) to seek information for the project;
- A meeting with another government department to explain the project and seek ideas and input (e.g. Foreign and Commonwealth Office);
- Desk research and writing up;
- Updating the project plan;
- Attending a talk from an external speaker on a trade-related issue e.g. on gender aspects of trade policy;
- Presenting the project to in-house analysts;
- Review with supervisor.

The ideal intern's personality and qualifications

Personality-wise, we like to think that we can accommodate most people. Given the nature of the project and the timescales involved, however, the candidate should be 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.

Essential skills:

- Qualitative research (interviewing)
- Quantitative research (economic focus)
- Project management
- Report-writing

- Development and delivery of presentations
- Ability to get up to speed with a new area quickly
- Ability to identify relevant material and lines of inquiry from a potentially wide range of possibilities
- Flexible communication style, suited to a wide variety of colleagues and stakeholders
- Pragmatic; comfortable with ambiguity or imprecision

Desirable skills:

- Experience with public policy
- Experience with datasets on public spending
- Experience of industrial or microeconomic analysis
- Familiarity with international trade
- Spanish language (desirable for Latin America project)

What are the benefits of Interning at this project

The Department for International Trade is a relatively new organisation, formed after the referendum to take forward the task of developing a trade policy for an independent UK. It currently undertaking a variety of projects which are high on the political and public agenda and the candidate would be exposed at first-hand to many of the issues which are frequently discussed in both the press and academia. We would undertake to provide a wide-ranging experience of what life is like as a government official and what is involved in developing public policy.

Depending on the candidate's preferences and career aims, we would work with the candidate to ensure that they take home skills which benefit them in future – be that how to give academic research a higher impact on public policy, or how to make the transition from academia to the public sector.

Apply for this role

If you are interested in applying for this opportunity, please email the completed [application form](#) and a CV to esrcdte@admin.cam.ac.uk.

Please note that all applications must be approved by the applicant's PhD supervisor. The application deadline is **September 20 2017**. Results will be announced early October 2017.