

CAMBRIDGE SOCIAL SCIENCE PARTNERSHIP – INTERNSHIP PROJECT

General Information

Title: Policy Advisor at the Cabinet's office Open Innovation Team

Non-Academic partner: Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy

Location: 1 Horse Guards Road, London, SW1A 2HQ

Duration: 3 to 6 months depending on candidate availability

Start date: March 2018 or later (Negotiable)

Full or Part time: Both part of full time is available. We are offering 4 vacancies.

Who are you going to work with

The Cabinet Office supports the Prime Minister and ensures the effective running of government. It is also the corporate headquarters for government, in partnership with HM Treasury, and takes the lead in certain critical policy areas.

Project overview and objectives

The Cabinet Office's Open Innovation Team helps government departments generate analysis and ideas for priority projects by deepening collaboration with academics. We work across Whitehall on a wide range of issues, including economic growth, labour market reform, mental health, community integration, education, machine learning, cyber security, food standards, environmental sustainability and public sector efficiency. PhD students working with the Open Innovation Team join us either as generalists working across a range of issues or as specialists concentrating on a theme (e.g. digital transformation) or specialist project (e.g. Robotic Process Automation). Where there is a good fit we are also able to place PhD students in other government departments, including HM Treasury, Health, Education, Business and Work and Pensions.

Project objectives vary significantly between placements. We have arranged for more than 20 PhD students to work either in our team or in other parts of Whitehall over the past 12 months. They are a valuable resource for us and we treat them as such, inviting them to work on a wide range of priority projects and giving them as much freedom and responsibility as they can handle. It gives the student an exciting, unvarnished experience of what it's like to work at pace in the heart of government on some of the most important challenges facing the country.

How do you expect to spend your day

PhD students working with the Open Innovation Team on placement will be expected to carry out a range of tasks, including:

- Reviewing evidence to inform policy discussions and help scope out projects
- Generating analysis and policy ideas working alongside officials and outside experts
- Developing project plans to ensure projects remain on track
- Pitching new projects to Whitehall departments and non-government partners
- Managing stakeholders inside and outside Whitehall
- Organising academic engagement activity, including arranging meetings, university visits and Whitehall policy seminars

The ideal intern's personality and qualifications

We are looking for PhD students who can:

- Communicate well, including translating complex ideas to non-expert audiences
- Manage their time effectively, juggling a variety of tasks with minimal supervision
- Collaborate with a 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

Colleagues in HM Treasury and the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy are particularly interested hearing from economics PhDs to work on growth and labour market reform projects.

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What are the benefits of Interning at this project

PhD students working on placement in the Open Innovation Team benefit in a number of ways, including:

- Understand more about how Whitehall works and how policy is developed
- Hone writing and communication skills, especially for non-expert audiences
- Develop networks in government, including Cabinet Office and other departments
- Build knowledge of new policy areas
- Apply research skills in a different way, producing outputs that could impact government policy

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 **22 February 2018**. Results will be announced early March 2018.