

Guidelines on Professional Attachments during the John Smith Fellowship Programme 2009

Background

This brief is to help you complete part G of the application form relating to attachments.

The attachment period (8 or 9 days) is a key component of the Fellowship Programme. Former Fellows have found the attachments both valuable and enjoyable. Fellows draw upon lessons learned from their experiences to produce their Actions Plans.

The aim is to provide each John Smith Fellow with an individual insight into British organisations and institutions that make up part of the social and political structure in the U.K., building upon the seminars and group visits Fellows will have already undertaken. An attempt is made to find placements that match the Fellow's professional interests and may provide useful contacts for the future. This often means two or three placements during the period, generally reflecting the range of interests a Fellow has.

During this time most attachment hosts do not provide Fellows with a desk and project to complete: Instead the Fellow will be given a range of experiences within an organisation – such as attending meetings or conferences with key staff, briefing politicians or visiting local projects.

These attachments may be anywhere in the U.K. Each attachment is unique. In the past successful placements have been with Members of Parliament, central or local government departments, the BBC, think tanks, charitable organisations, campaigning groups, trade unions and academics, covering a wide range of interests and issues.

Placements are not subject to a contract of employment, and the participant will not be employed by the organisation on a contract for services in respect of any work with which s/he is involved. Prompt attendance at attachments is expected, however. All attachments are provided by the different institutions *free of charge* and as a matter of goodwill.

For these reasons we cannot guarantee to arrange an attachment with a particular organisation or institution, or even in a particular city or region. However, we do our best to find placements which reflect each individual's interests and abilities.

Examples of Attachments

The Trust works to ensure each Fellow meets experts in the UK who can be most useful to them. Some Fellows spend the entire attachment period with one organisation, looking in depth at its work. This is often the case for individuals interested in local government, who may spend considerable time looking at the way a particular local authority works and deals with a range of diverse issues.

Others Fellows visit a number of organisations and professionals who can advise on specific issues.

2003 Fellow David Avetissian, Deputy Minister for Finance and Economy in Armenia, spent time with the Bank of England, the Financial Services Authority, the Minister for Work and Pensions, and experts from Warwick University who advised on tax incentives for investment. He had meetings with Treasury officials and the Export Credit Guarantee Department of the Department for Trade and Industry. He met members of parliament who are active in Treasury and financial affairs. On his return to Armenia he produced a range of new government initiatives based on ideas gained during these visits.

2006 Fellow from the Ministry of Justice in Azerbaijan, Kamran Bayramov, had attachments with the Department for Constitutional Affairs Human Rights Unit, the Prison Inspectorate for Scottish Prisons, the Prison Reform Trust, Amnesty International and – with other 2006 Fellows – met country specialists in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

The list below gives an idea of the types of placements on offer. We have also suggested websites where you can find more information. In your application you should suggest the type of organisation and issues you might wish to explore further during your attachment period. Please provide as much information as possible.

Attachments are available in the following fields:

Central Government - including Parliament, government departments and political parties.

Devolved Government - Scottish Parliament and Executive and the Welsh Assembly.

Local Government and Administration - including local and regional authorities and local development agencies.

Non-governmental organisations - working in the areas of: human rights, conflict resolution, development, children, women’s rights, disability, employment, community action, minority rights, advocacy and other issues.

Media - including the BBC and other broadcasting companies, newspapers, on-line news agencies and internet campaign organisations.

Think Tanks - public policy think tanks – general and specialist. For example, think tanks working on economic/fiscal policy, family policy or foreign policy.

Academic Institutions - University departments with particular relevant expertise. Please state area of interest.

Legal Issues and Services - including the Ministry of Justice, Law Courts, Legal practitioners, law centres and legal specialists.

Other - if you would like your attachment to be in a particular area not covered in the list above, please make this clear in your application.

Further information:

The websites listed below give examples of some of the major organisations working in these fields in the UK:

The Houses of Parliament	http://www.parliament.uk/
The Labour Party*	http://www.labour.org.uk
The Conservative Party*	http://www.conservatives.com
The Liberal Democrats Party*	http://www.libdems.org.uk
The Department of Health	http://www.dh.gov.uk
HM Treasury	http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk
The Department of Work and Pensions	http://www.dwp.gov.uk
The Department of Education and Skills	http://www.dfes.gov.uk
The Welsh Assembly	http://www.assembly.wales.gov.uk/
The Scottish Parliament	http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/
Local Government International Bureau	http://www.lgib.gov.uk/
The City of Bradford Council	http://www.bradford.gov.uk
Luton Borough Council	http://www.luton.gov.uk
The London Borough of Lewisham	http://www.lewisham.gov.uk
Edinburgh City Council	http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk
The North East Assembly	http://www.northeastassembly.gov.uk
The Environment Agency	http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk
International Alert	http://www.international-alert.org
Amnesty International	http://www.amnesty.org.uk
NACRO	http://www.nacro.org.uk
Birmingham Voluntary Service Council	http://www.bvsc.org
Everychild	http://www.everychild.org.uk
One World Action	http://www.oneworldaction.org
Refugee Council	http://www.refugeecouncil.org.uk
The Community Relations Council, Northern Ireland	http://www.community-relations.org.uk

The Hansard Society	http://www.hansardsociety.org.uk
The BBC World Service	http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/index.shtml
Channel 4 News	http://www.channel4.com
Foreign Policy Centre	www.fpc.org.uk/
The Institute for Fiscal Studies	http://www1.ifs.org.uk/
The Royal Institute of International Affairs	http://www.riia.org/riia
The Ministry of Justice	http://www.justice.gov.uk/
The Court Service	http://www.courtservice.gov.uk/
The Law Society	http://www.lawsociety.org.uk

*Political Parties only offer placements to Fellows working for one of their registered sister parties.

Attachments are not limited to these organisations, and include many diverse organisations. Applicants should remember that we cannot guarantee to arrange an attachment with any particular organisation or institution. However, we will do our best to find placements that reflect each individual's interests and abilities. Placements may be anywhere in the UK, and Fellows will be expected to travel if necessary to attend them (with costs covered by the Programme).

Please provide as much information as possible about your interests on your application form. This will assist us in finding the best placements for you.

The Trust encourages all Fellows to maintain contact with their attachment hosts after the Fellowship Programme.