

Policy Practitioner

Following the UK's departure from the EU in January 2020, the nature of the work being done by many departments is changing significantly. Addressing this challenge requires those departments to put in place the right mix of people and skills. When considering what these new, in-demand skills are, 70% relate to policy-making, according to research from the National Audit Office.

It is for this reason that two policy capability programmes have been made available to civil servants whose work is directly related to policy development and implementation.

Description

The policy practitioner programme is aimed at civil servants with some existing policy experience. It is one of two programmes (alongside policy essentials) created to ensure that policy advisers have the skills and knowledge required to advise and support ministers, senior officials and Parliament during these unprecedented times.

Both programmes will also benefit other Civil Service professions and specialisms involved in supporting the UK's changed relationship with the EU.

These programmes serve a dual purpose. Firstly, they help address the ongoing task of maintaining business as usual across government. The processes of working with EU institutions and member states is fundamentally changing – and provides new opportunities for new relationships and new areas of cooperation across the globe. Secondly, the programmes support identifying the impact of the UK operating in a policy-making environment outside the EU; one where the EU becomes a new multinational partner and the UK works with other partners around the globe to help secure growth and prosperity for the country.

What does it involve?

This programme can be undertaken over a 4 month period or as an accelerated learning programme with all digital learning taking place prior to face to face workshops over 5 consecutive days.

The 4 month programme allows learners already established in their policy roles to undertake the various learning activities over a longer timeframe, minimising any impact on their day-to-day work. The intention is that learners will look to develop their own peer group networks and build self-directed learning group support beyond the workshop sessions.

As with the essentials programme, how to collaborate with analytical specialists is covered and builds to develop the learner's own analytical skills as a policy adviser through the 'quality of evidence' workshop. These topics feature alongside introductions to systems thinking (a way of systematically framing and tackling complex issues within policy development work), the essentials of the EU and the issues emerging as a result of the new UK – EU relationship.

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Policy Practitioner (cont.)

Five further workshops are included within the practitioner programme. These range from a more in-depth look into the UK Parliament and the devolved administrations through to policy framing and communicating with influence. A 1-day workshop on new partnerships is included and will help refresh and support those familiar with EU fundamentals by providing official, up-to-the-minute developments on evolving agreements with the EU and the rest of the world.

What's the outcome?

Both these programmes are designed to improve the Civil Service's policy capability at this critical time for the UK.

This practitioner programme will help you to build on your existing knowledge, assisting you to coordinate policy design and development with support from specialist colleagues from other professions, functions and external organisations. You will be better equipped to consider the challenge of policy creation – and the impact those policies will have – within the context of the UK's changed relationship with the EU.

On the essentials programme, those new to policy work will gain a thorough understanding of policy design, how Parliament and the EU works and will benefit from being able to practice vital briefing and submission skills.

This learning is undertaken in peer group cohorts. This approach provides an opportunity to develop a networked community of policy advisers. Sustaining such a network will be essential as departments and their policy teams adapt to life outside the EU.

Learning activities

Delivery method:

F2F 

VLE 

How to book

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