

Understanding the European Union

There is a pressing need for civil servants to improve their understanding of how the EU operates, both legally and institutionally.

The public is relying on ministers and civil servants to help achieve the best possible outcome from the UK's evolving relationship with the EU, securing the country's longterm prosperity and growth. Ensuring that we have the skills, knowledge and confidence to deliver what the public expects of us at this unprecedented time is therefore of critical importance.

Description

This topic has been designed to develop, increase and help embed your knowledge of the European Union (EU) and its working practices.

The UK's withdrawal from the EU and the changing administrative and legislative relationship between the EU and the UK as a 'third country' (non – EU member) will affect departments across government in an extensive range of areas both now and in the coming years. It is therefore vital that civil servants develop their understanding of how the EU operates, both legally and institutionally, to ensure we help sustain and secure the country's long-term prosperity and growth.

The workshop includes an up-to-the-minute analysis of the status and implications of the ongoing UK–EU relationship on the day of the workshop's delivery.

What does it involve?

Four online tutorials, lasting no more than 20 minutes each, introduce you to the EU's founding principles, the UK's relationship and history with the EU, the roles and functions of the EU's major institutions and its legislative procedures.

Once you've completed the online learning, you'll attend a workshop that includes expert presentations, group practice work and case study analyses. Sessions cover EU and UK policy and legislative arrangements and consider the ongoing negotiations concerning future relations. These learning activities bring to life and reinforce what you have learned during the online tutorials.

You will have the opportunity, working with your manager, to identify and look to apply the knowledge from the topic back in your day-to-day work using a purpose-built knowledge application plan, to be reviewed both before and after the workshop.

What's the outcome?

Completing this topic will help you familiarise yourself with the most important EU concepts and principles including EU law, freedom of movement and the single market. You will know how EU treaties and institutions are structured and how decisions are made. You will be able to describe UK parliamentary scrutiny of the UK's treaties and trade agreements with the EU and other international partners and evaluate the EU's interest in your department's priority policy areas.

Learning activities



Online
resources



Online
tutorial



Workshop

Delivery method:

F2F

VLE

Estimated learning time:

9 hours

How to book

bookings.governmentcampus.co.uk

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