

From LSE to Westminster

20 years of LSE Parliamentary Internships



It gives me great pleasure to congratulate the Parliamentary Internships Programme at the London School of Economics and Political Science on its 20th anniversary.

The LSE Parliamentary Internships Programme was established in 1998 by Alumnus and Governor Barry Sheerman MP. Over the twenty year period since, over 500 high-calibre LSE graduate students have been placed in the corridors of Westminster, providing a wide range of support to MPs, and gaining invaluable skills, knowledge and networks in the process.

LSE was founded in 1895 by the Fabian Socialists to 'know the causes of things' and 'for the betterment of society'. The Parliamentary Internships Programme is emblematic of this dedication to rigour, and to public service.

As we shape our new School strategy to 2030, I want to continue to ensure that LSE provides its students with the opportunity to benefit from its location at the heart of London and its unparalleled policy and political networks, in order to gain the skills and experience necessary to succeed in their future careers.

I would like to thank all those parliamentarians and organisations who have hosted LSE students over the past twenty years, and to commend participating students past, present and future, for their achievements.

Minouche Shafik

Director, LSE



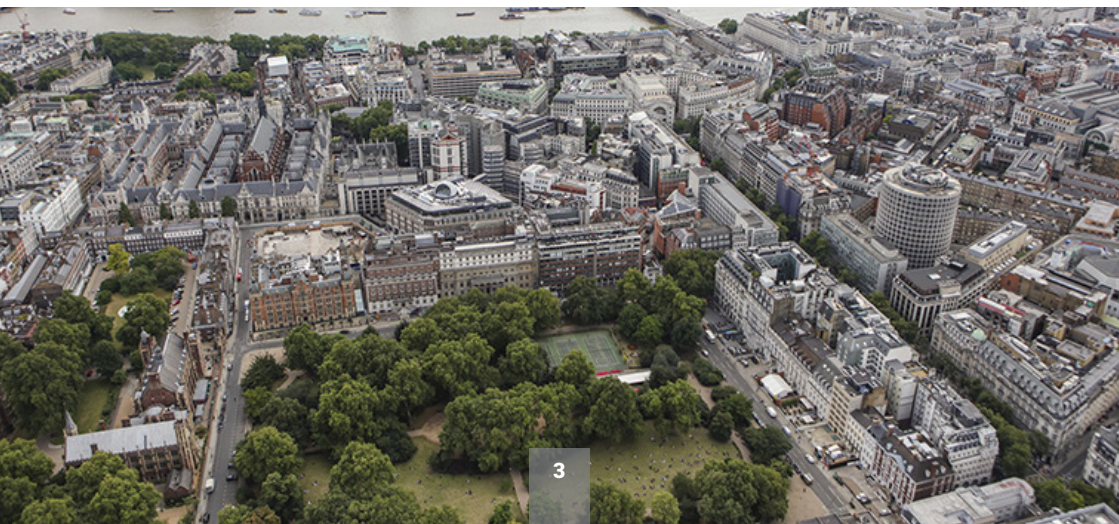
Since 1998, over 500 graduate-level LSE students have been placed in the parliamentary offices of every major political party. Throughout the last two decades many of these students have played their part in the success of three different governments, while others have helped to scrutinise and hold to account the very same administrations.

These contributions have taken the form of research projects, policy work, scrutiny and monitoring, constituency casework and countless other parliamentary duties.

Internships are conducted on a part-time basis, up to 15 hours per week. They take place anytime between October and March and are open to students from all programmes and disciplines.

LSE Careers advertises and promotes each Parliamentary Internship individually, using the brief and selection criteria that your office provides. As well as being highly motivated to experience life in a Parliamentary office, the shortlist of candidates that you receive will also be able to demonstrate what they can add to your office in particular. This will often involve experience in a relevant area of policy or knowledge of the issues that are affecting your constituents.

Feedback from parliamentarians consistently focuses on the excellent analytical and research skills offered. This is complemented by the uniquely international perspective many LSE students possess. In return, interns gain the invaluable experience of being involved in the parliamentary process, as well as the opportunity to apply their academic knowledge to an exciting real-world context.





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Dan Jarvis, Labour MP for Barnsley Central and Mayor of Sheffield City Region



“*The Parliamentary Internship scheme has offered a learning opportunity for both sides. I know my team in Westminster have welcomed the chance to share their understanding of the British political system and learn more about Parliamentary politics in France and Norway [where my intern has previous experience].*”

Robert Halfon, Conservative MP for Harlow

Thomas Hyde,
Director, RBC Treasury & Market Services
LSE Parliamentary Intern 2005/06



My experience as an LSE Parliamentary Intern with Sally Keeble has been an excellent talking point on my CV – every interviewer I have had was fascinated about my experience of the inner workings of British politics.

Increasingly I think it's important for candidates in finance to demonstrate experience in thinking 'outside the box' rather than just talking about them theoretically – my experience in briefing Sally has given me this material in spades.

My LSE education helped me to digest and analyse very large volumes of varied material and my time in Westminster gave me lots of experience in delivering key messages to very senior people. A perfect example of how the LSE programme develops 'real-life' skillsets applicable across industries!

Robert Halfon,
Conservative MP for Harlow

I cannot speak highly enough of my LSE intern and the programme itself. I'm a keen campaigner so there's always much to do. My intern has been an invaluable addition, collecting and analysing data, drafting Commons motions and meeting national charity representatives. He also joined me in my constituency, Harlow, for my community work and on an Education Select Committee visit.

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Arianna Kelly,
Barrister, Kings Chambers

LSE Parliamentary Intern 2012/13

I undertook an internship through LSE on the Parliamentary Scrutiny Committee. I had actually gone to interview for a different internship, but was called back for a role with the Scrutiny Committee, which was in the middle of reviewing a number of different bills. I ended up working for the committee scrutinising the Draft Care and Support Bill (later, the Care Act 2014).

The experience was an extremely positive one: the committee staff were intelligent, lively, friendly people and I learned a terrific amount both about the subject matter of the bill and the legislative process from them. They went out of their way to aid in my learning and continued to be very supportive even after I left.

The job was an extremely fortuitous one for me, as I am now a barrister specialising in Court of Protection and Community Care law. Following the implementation of the Care Act 2014, I gave over 70 trainings to local authorities on the changes which were brought in by the Act, which was a real boon to me as I was starting in practice. I will always be really grateful to LSE for helping me get this opportunity.



“*The interns placed through the LSE Parliamentary Internships Programme have made a positive contribution to my office and work as an MP.*”

Bridget Phillipson, Labour MP for Houghton and Sunderland South

“*To any LSE students considering a parliamentary internship, my advice to you is: Do it.*”

Matt Peterson, Senior Editor, The Atlantic

Dan Jarvis, Labour MP for Barnsley Central and Mayor of Sheffield City Region

The LSE Parliamentary Internships Programme is an excellent scheme and I wish it a very happy 20th Birthday. Not only is it a fantastic resource for MPs to call upon, but it is also an opportunity to invest in some of society's best and brightest and give them a unique insight into the workings of parliament.

Over the past couple of years I have had a number of LSE students working in my parliamentary office; each has always proven to be a fantastic addition to my team.

The diversity and quality of LSE masters students means that every individual has brought with them unique skills, experiences and perspectives. This in turn has allowed me to work with each of them on the policy areas that they are best suited to, and where they can add the most to my team. Each and every one has been involved in some of the most high profile work that my staff do, including the drafting of speeches, articles, press releases and parliamentary questions - one student was even part of the team that helped produce my mayoral manifesto!



Marc LeBlanc, Policy Advisor, Federation of Canadian Municipalities

LSE Parliamentary Intern 2013/14

As a Parliamentary Intern, I was responsible for analysing regulatory and legislative initiatives and developing policy recommendations for my MP. I also reviewed constituent cases and prepared formal correspondence. I was assigned to a Conservative MP with over three decades of experience in the House of Commons.

I gained my experience in Westminster as the Brexit Referendum Bill was first being drafted, and I learned a great deal on Britain's economic and political relationship with Europe in a very short period of time.

As a Canadian, my internship enriched my experience at LSE by providing me with a deeper understanding of both UK and EU economic and social policy. In a sense, Westminster was a "living laboratory" for many of the issues and theories we were studying in my classes. It provided me with a better perception on how policy and politics intersect and how law-making is often a compromise of multiple perspectives and interests. It also helped build on my experience in policy analysis and stakeholder engagement, which has certainly complemented my work as a Policy Advisor at the Federation of Canadian Municipalities.



“*My time as an LSE Parliamentary Intern in Dr Roberta Blackman-Woods MP’s office in 2013 was one of my best experiences during my time at the LSE.*”

Rose Lemardeley, Senior Consultant, Bearing Point



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Thomas Hyde, Director, RBC Treasury & Market Services

Justin Madders,
Labour MP for Ellesmere Port and Neston

I was incredibly impressed by the quality of candidates who applied for my LSE Internship and we have been delighted with the knowledge and commitment demonstrated by our intern.

Research and analysis conducted by my intern led to a major news story in every significant media outlet and I anticipate that further research may have a similar impact in due course. Stories of this significance, based upon original research are hugely beneficial in illustrating the impact on the ground of policy decisions made by the government, as well as potentially impacting future decisions.

My intern has been a fantastic addition to the team and we are very grateful for the contribution that she has made.



Rose Lemardeley,
Senior Consultant, Bearing Point
LSE Parliamentary Intern 2012/13



My time as an LSE Parliamentary Intern in Dr Roberta Blackman-Woods MP's office in 2013 was one of my best experiences during my time at the LSE, and remains one of the best memories from my student life in London.

It was an exceptional opportunity to dive into British parliamentary debates and policy-making, which was particularly exciting as a French student passionate about politics. I thought the LSE Parliamentary Internship Programme would only be open to native English speakers, but to my delight I was proved wrong.

Being part of an MP's team in the House of Commons was also thrilling: attending parliamentary sessions, discovering some of the secrets of Westminster, I even met Hugh Grant when he was campaigning on behalf of Hacked Off!

Bridget Phillipson, Labour MP for Houghton and Sunderland South



The interns placed through the LSE Parliamentary Internships Programme have made a positive contribution to my office and work as an MP. Whether through preparing casework, undertaking policy research, or drafting media content, interns are exposed to the wide variety of tasks carried out by MPs' staff, while benefitting from the opportunity to develop their skills and political understanding in a number of areas.

I have been consistently impressed with the quality of the candidates put forward, with some interns going on to permanent roles in my office and the wider Westminster environment.

“*The LSE Parliamentary Internship is an opportunity to learn but as important, to make a positive difference in people’s lives.*”

Andrew Stephenson, Conservative MP

Matt Peterson,
Senior Editor, The Atlantic

LSE Parliamentary Intern 2004/05

To any LSE students considering a parliamentary internship, my advice to you is: Do it. You never know where it will take you. For me, at the very start of my career, it gave me direct experience with the questions I’m still trying to answer as a journalist many years later: How does political power work, and who wields it? More than anything else I did early on, that experience has stayed with me.



Andrew Stephenson,
Conservative MP for Pendle

Having hosted an LSE student as a Parliamentary Intern in almost every year I have been an MP, I always find them to be bright, hard-working and a credit to their university. Of those I remain in contact with, all have gone on to great jobs and careers.

Aside from the experience they gain, LSE Interns make important contributions to the work I do on behalf of my constituents. The LSE Parliamentary Internship is an opportunity to learn but as important, to make a positive difference in people’s lives.



Andreas Sowa,
Head of Office to an MEP

LSE Parliamentary Intern 2013/14

The LSE has an outstanding academic reputation. Luckily, classrooms and libraries are not all the school has to offer its students. In 2013, I had the good fortune to secure a place on LSE's Parliamentary Internship Programme, and even better, to be placed with Lord Anthony Giddens. Lord Giddens, a former Director of the LSE, a Member of the House of Lords and a prolific thinker and writer, was generous with his time, anecdotes and with opportunities for me to contribute to his work.

Whilst the internship added tremendously to my LSE experience in London, it had an even greater impact afterwards. Moving to Brussels to start a career in the European institutions, the name of Lord Giddens stood out for my current employer. And if the global LSE Alumni network was not enough, Lord Giddens has continuously put me in touch with other former interns of his who are moving to Brussels. Thus, even now, five years on, I am benefiting personally and professionally from the parliamentary internship experience.



Jamie Stone, Liberal Democrat MP for Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross

This is the first year that my office has hosted an LSE Intern and I will definitely be doing so again. From a selection of highly impressive candidates my intern stood out and has been an asset to our office. From helping with casework to researching for our defence brief she has become a great member of the team.

The LSE Internship Programme not only allowed Corinna the chance to experience Parliament but also my office the opportunity to host an intern who was fully engaged in their work here and had a lot to contribute to the office. LSE offered great support throughout and I would encourage all students with an interest in the British political system to apply to this programme.



Analiz Vergara,
Program Officer, WWF

LSE Parliamentary Intern 2012/13

During my time at the LSE I had the opportunity to do an internship at the Environmental Audit Committee of the House of Commons. The internship completed my LSE experience because it allowed me to get to know British culture better, perfectly complementing the LSE's highly international environment.

The interaction with my host office not only allowed me to experience British culture more directly, but pushed me to improve my level of written and verbal communication as well as my research skills to meet the high standards needed for parliamentary documents and debates.



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Analiz Vergara, Program Officer, WWF



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Opening hours

Monday – Wednesday: 9:30am-5:00pm

Thursday: 9:30am-8:00pm

Friday: 9:30am-5:00pm

This information can be made available in alternative formats, on request. Please contact: Rob Cannings
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