



Houses of Parliament Fast Stream

**Would you like to
work at the heart
of democracy?**

faststream.gov.uk



“You are trusted with some big responsibilities from your very first year so you feel valued and encouraged to engage with senior colleagues on complex issues.”

NINA, HOUSE OF COMMONS



Welcome to the Houses of Parliament

The UK Parliament is the home of British democracy. Members of the House of Commons and Lords hold the Government to account and make and amend the laws that affect us all.

Thousands of impartial parliamentary staff support the work of Parliament and this is your chance to join us. The Houses of Parliament Fast Stream is a unique scheme, giving participants a front-row seat to British politics and enabling them to directly support the work of either the House of Commons or the House of Lords.

Staff of both Houses form part of a parliamentary community that is inclusive, diverse, and committed to the highest standards of professionalism and integrity.

“If you are interested in politics and governance, I cannot think of a more interesting graduate opportunity.”

MICHAEL, HOUSE OF LORDS

What is the Houses of Parliament Fast Stream?

As a Houses of Parliament Fast Streamer, you'll be based in either the House of Commons or the House of Lords. You'll be employed directly by whichever House you work for.

You'll work with politicians from all parties to scrutinise Government policy and support the UK's democratic process. You will learn to command the confidence of MPs or members of the House of Lords by providing them with impartial and assured advice, no matter how challenging the issue may be.

Through a variety of roles you might manage inquiries and evidence sessions for a select committee, or be involved in directly supporting the work of the Commons or Lords Chamber and assisting in the progress of legislation through Parliament on its way to becoming law.

You'll be working closely with MPs or members of the House of Lords from day one and will learn the intricacies of how Parliament works. You are likely to find yourself working on high profile select committee inquiries or watching MPs or peers in the Chamber act on advice you've given.

You can expect to be given responsibility from the start, but you'll be supported throughout. As well as learning on the job, you'll receive:

- an induction when you first arrive;
- regular training sessions and seminars;
- a specialised programme of learning to help you gain an understanding of Parliament and parliamentary procedure;
- training and development opportunities, including visits to organisations relevant to Parliament; and
- support from your line manager, the Fast Stream lead in whichever House you're based, a peer buddy, and a senior mentor.

This scheme will give you the experience and skills you need to develop your potential to be a future leader in the Parliamentary service.

The training you receive both on the job and in your training programme is designed to support you to achieve the full range of competencies required for promotion, which happens through an application process. You'll be supported through the process, and when successful, your salary will increase to around £50k. The time it takes to be promoted varies for each individual, but you can expect to be promoted within 2–4 years.



Why work for us?

The House of Commons and the House of Lords are committed to increasing diversity and to maintaining an inclusive workplace culture. We strongly welcome and encourage applications from under-represented groups and diverse backgrounds.

We continue to develop working practices which will allow every member of staff to contribute their best, regardless of race, sex, marital status, religion, age, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity or any other characteristic. Both Houses have diversity and inclusion strategies and have established Workplace Equality Networks, which support the equality, diversity and inclusion agendas of both Houses, and provide a forum for people to discuss important issues in a supportive environment.

As well as having the opportunity to work on the biggest political issues of the day, and to develop your skills in a variety of areas, there are a number of additional benefits to working in Parliament, including:

- annual leave starting at 30 days and rising to 35 days after your first full year;
- access to a subsidised in-House gym;
- season ticket and bicycle loans; and
- childcare vouchers.

We welcome applications from candidates who have, or expect to achieve, a 2:2 degree or higher in any degree subject. We're looking for individuals who have:

- excellent written and oral communication skills;
- the ability to build and maintain effective working relationships;
- the potential to provide politically impartial advice;
- skills in analysis and rapidly acquiring knowledge in unfamiliar areas; and
- influencing and persuasion skills.



“It is such a privilege to be so close to the heart of British politics. You get to be in the room where important decisions that affect British political life are being made and you actively collaborate and work with MPs on a daily basis.”

MEDHA, HOUSE OF COMMONS

How to apply

We recruit through the Civil Service Fast Stream. You can find out more information, including how to apply, at

www.faststream.gov.uk/houses-of-parliament

If you would like any more information, please email faststream@parliament.uk

