



Government Policy



Freya Hughes Campbell

What were the circumstances that led you to apply for the Civil Service Fast Stream programme?

Having been a teacher for the last 5 years, I decided I wanted a career and lifestyle change. I loved teaching and working with children, but my personal circumstances changed, and I needed a job with more flexible hours and the option to work from home occasionally. I had built so many skills as a teacher that I thought could benefit me in my career with the Civil Service and thought the programme would be a good way to develop my governmental knowledge and skills before eventually applying for teaching-related roles in the DfE.

What attracted you to the programme and the particular stream that you applied for?

Policy (specifically education policy) was something I was very interested in. I liked that the scheme put you in 12 month postings so you could really get to know the department and your colleagues and build up good relationships.

How did you first hear about the Civil Service Fast Stream programme?

I went out looking for roles to move into after teaching, and there were lots of people out there writing about transitioning into the Civil Service. I thought to reach out to some online and had some really insightful conversations about the benefits of bringing those teaching skills into the Civil Service.

Tell us a bit about yourself outside work.

Outside of work I spend a lot of time swimming, running and playing tennis with friends. I love being outdoors and having a more flexible life and working pattern has helped me to be able to spend more time doing things I enjoy. I am a part time carer so I spend a lot of time with my family which I feel very grateful to be able to do, and again, this wouldn't have been possible in my previous career.

How have the connections and networks you have made via the Fast Stream enabled you to succeed/benefited you?

I have made a huge range of connections through my Fast Stream journey – especially in my current role, as I have to regularly check in with all government departments who offer the policy apprenticeship programme. I have also made connections with people in local authorities, in the charity and private sector, and of course, lots of other Fast Streamers!

What is your ultimate aim or career ambition after you complete the programme?

My ultimate goal was always to work in the Department for Education on education policy, but as my experience in the Civil Service has grown, I have realised that there is so much to explore and try, I am happy to continue learning new and exciting things for the foreseeable future and see where that takes me!

What advice would you give to someone else considering applying to the Civil Service Fast Stream programme?

I would recommend applying for the Fast Stream to anyone who is in need of a career change and is looking for something fast-paced, interesting and broad to stretch and develop their skillset.