



Government Statistical Service



Kevin McCafferty

Tell us a bit about yourself. Are you a recent graduate? How do you feel you can use your degree in the Civil Service?

I studied for an undergraduate degree in Mathematics from the University of Bath and did a year-long industrial placement as part of the course. I knew I didn't want to go back to market research after graduating and I also realised I wasn't done with learning, so I did a master's in Statistics and Data Science. After completing that course, I had a week-long summer holiday and joined the Fast Stream. I'm now in the third year of the programme.

The technical skills I learned through both degrees have been invaluable to my Fast Stream roles and to the impact I have made.

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

I was partway through my master's in Statistics and Data Science. My dad, an ex-Fast Streamer, suggested I look at the Statistics Fast Stream as it would give me the opportunity to use those skills as well as develop my non-technical skills through continuous professional development. Having seen how varied and interesting my dad's Civil Service journey has been following his time on the Fast Stream, I decided to apply.

How did you first hear about the programme?

My dad completed the scheme and has had a long career in the Civil Service. Growing up I remember seeing first-hand where the Fast Stream can take you in your career and the opportunities that it provides. I also saw the work making a difference in people's lives.

How have the skills and knowledge you have acquired through the Fast Stream training helped you in shaping your future?

The training has allowed me to be more confident in myself and my way of working. It has also shown me that I don't have all the answers and people don't expect me to be an expert immediately. The experience will make me more effective as a leader as I can draw on multiple different leadership styles that have influenced me as I've moved through the programme. I am ready to move into higher roles and take on more responsibility as a result.

Is a STEM degree beneficial to working in the Civil Service?

The technical expertise that I have from my background in mathematics and statistics has been invaluable. I have been able to push projects forward due to my skills. The problem-solving skills and ability to think logically and methodically have also been useful when working under pressure.

What advice would you give to someone considering applying to the programme?

Prepare well, be yourself and keep an open mind. It's an exciting time in government and the shift to using innovative technologies is happening right in front of us. That being said, if you don't have a technical background, the Fast Stream will provide the perfect opportunity to learn those skills on the job.