



Human Resources



Zoe Corker

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

After completing my master's in 2019, I began looking for roles in HR. One night, I was mindlessly scrolling and I came across the Civil Service Fast Stream programme. I liked the different programme elements, the progression opportunities and the way it would allow me to develop my HR skills while serving the public. Through my university, I met a handful of people who had previously completed the scheme, and this only solidified that the Civil Service Fast Stream was where I should be.

What attracted you to the programme and this particular stream?

I just love HR. It allows me to help our colleagues develop and focus on their skills, ensuring the civil service can be its very best. For me, HR has all the professional development points I crave, like the CIPD qualification. While I could have applied for up to four schemes on the application, and I would suggest doing this, I just knew HR was for me.

How did you first hear about the programme?

It was a simple search on Indeed. Then, using my university alumni network, I connected with others who had done the scheme. Their passion and knowledge just sold the programme to me. Through the application process, I attended job fairs, where I met with people currently on the scheme. Again, they were lovely and welcoming. They provided all the information I needed to complete my application.

Are you a recent graduate? Or were you seeking a career change?

I graduated with an undergraduate degree in Marketing from Manchester Metropolitan University and spent a few years working in university admissions. While I loved supporting others, I felt a little stuck. In 2018, I took a leap of faith and completed my master's in human resources with CIPD at the University of Leeds – although you do not have to study HR before you join the HR Fast Stream.

Tell us a bit about yourself outside work.

I moved to London from Yorkshire when I joined the Fast Stream (not that I needed to, but I wanted to after the pandemic). So, I spend my weekends exploring all the markets and shops London has to offer. I have also built a great network of friends on the Fast Stream, so I will often head out for tea after work. The Fast Stream can be full on at times, so it is important outside of work you do whatever you need to enjoy a little self-care.

Tell us about your Civil Service Fast Stream experience. What kind of projects have you been involved in?

It has been a journey! In my first 18 months, I have led massive diversity and inclusion projects affecting over 25,000 colleagues, as well as being part of a high-profile employment relations case. I have also delivered a training programme to over 9,000 colleagues. On the Fast Stream, the opportunities and exposure you get to senior leaders, ministers and staff initiatives are endless. It really is what you make it!