Brussels and European Careers

Jonathan Millins
European Policy Officer
Introduction

- About me
- Living in Brussels
- East of England Brussels Office
- Job opportunities:
  - European institutions (traineeships)
  - European Parliament
  - EU Concours
  - Outside the institutions
About me

- University of Kent
- Graduated 2007 with a BA (Hons) in Politics and International Relations
- Began a Postgraduate Diploma at University of Leeds in European Parliamentary Studies in October 2007
- Moved to Brussels in January 2008
- Only intended to stay five months!
About me

- January 2008 – Stagiaire (intern), Robert Evans (Labour MEP for London)
- July 2008 – Information Officer, Greater Manchester Brussels Office
- May 2009 – Economic Development Officer, Canterbury City Council
- November 2009 – European Policy Officer, East of England Brussels Office
- May 2013 – Election Observer (ad hoc)
Living in Brussels...
...More than just the EU!
East of England Brussels Office

➢ Four permanent members of staff
  – Head of Office x 1
  – Senior Policy Officer (part-time) x 2
  – European Policy Officer x 1

➢ Office established in 1998 and funded by local authorities, universities, Local Enterprise Partnerships and others

➢ We assist people, businesses and organisations in the East of England to maximise the benefits of EU membership

➢ We seek to influence EU legislation, access EU funding opportunities, promote regional interests to EU decision-makers and assist partners on EU funded projects
Traineeship / Stage
EU Institutional Traineeships (1)
Why do a stage?

➤ “Try before you buy”
➤ Get an inside understanding of the EU – not just for work but also for MA / PhD
➤ Meet new people and gain EU contacts
➤ Practice your foreign language skills (or start a new one!)
➤ Enhance your CV
➤ If you’re a graduate you will be paid!
European Commission Traineeships statistics (2)

- Statistics from the October 2013 intake:
  - 18,707 total applications
  - 664 recruited

- UK applications:
  - 378 applications
  - 45 recruited
EU Institutional Traineeships (3)

- Duration: 5 months (February / October)
- Allowance: €1100 per month
- All EU institutions run traineeships!
  - European Commission
  - European Parliament
  - Council of Ministers
  - Committee of the Regions......

- Not a way of getting a permanent job!
EU Institutional Traineeships (4)
Application Periods

- 15/03 – 15/05: European Parliament (Start October)
- Until 31 March – Committee of the Regions (Start October)
- Until 31 March – Economic & Social Committee (October)
- Council of the European Union 2014 applications closed. 2015 application procedure opens 2 June 2014
- Closes around April 2014 – European Commission (October)
- European Court of Justice must speak French
- + check EU executive agencies and outside bodies e.g. European Railways Agency (France), Executive Agency for Media, European Maritime Agency (Portugal)... lots more!
European Parliament
European Parliament Traineeship (1)

Different types of parliamentary traineeship:

- **Parliament secretariat** (application process similar to Commission – politically neutral position)
- **Political Group secretariat** (application process similar to Commission – but working for political group)
- Working for an **MEP**
European Parliament Traineeship (2)

Parliament Secretariat:

➤ Complete application form online (find via Parliament website)

➤ 80% of trainees based in Brussels, some others in Luxembourg & national capitals

➤ Politically neutral positions working in Committees, press service, translation, logistics, President’s office etc.
European Parliament Traineeship (3)

Political Group Secretariat:

➢ Complete application form online (find via Parliament website – specify interest)

➢ Working for political group: People’s Party (EPP), Socialists (S&D), liberals (ALDE), Greens, ex-Communists (GUE/NGL), Conservatives (ECR) and Eurosceptics (EFD)

➢ Committees, policy, media, events…
MEPs Office:

➤ Direct application to MEP – either from job advert or spontaneous application
➤ Paid and unpaid positions – MEPs choice!
➤ More flexible – from one week to one year
➤ Different MEPs will have different expectations
➤ *Tailor your CV and letter to each MEP!!!*
Concours
(EU entrance exam)
Register an EPSO account NOW - it lasts a lifetime!

Concours (competition) opens March 2014

Job profiles could include:
  - European Public Administration
  - Law
  - Audit
  - Communication
  - External Relations....
Application Procedure

Online application via EPSO

Invitation to test centre (CBT)

Invitation to Brussels Assessment Centre

Reserve List

Job Offer

40,000 35,000 1,000 300 25-50
EU Administrator – AD5

- Good starting salary: AD5 = €4200 + 16% expat allowance per month (+ family allowances)
- After two years, flexibility to move jobs
- Minimum 24 days annual leave + 17 public holidays
- Work all over the world – not just Brussels!
- Responsibilities can include drafting legislation, policy development, trade negotiations, project management, auditing...
Outside the EU Institutions
Outside the Institutions

More than 30,000 people thought to be working in Brussels on EU affairs (this excludes the 30,000 EU Civil Servants)

Thousands of different sectors and jobs

- Specific sectors include:
  - Non-governmental Organisations (NGOs)
  - International Organisations (non-EU)
  - Trade federations / non-profit networks
  - Private sector
Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs)

➢ Officially there over 1,200 registered NGOs operating in Belgium
➢ Including large organisations such as Amnesty International, Red Cross and Greenpeace
➢ Also, smaller and less known groups like Dyslexia International, African Development Association and International Crisis Group
➢ NGO salaries are slightly lower than in other sectors
➢ Internship opportunities – many unpaid!
International Organisations

Brussels is home to more than just the EU institutions...
Trade Federations

➢ A federation or network for everyone!
➢ Different sizes – 1 person through to 50 people
➢ High-profile examples: FoodDrinkEurope (25 staff), European Wind Energy Association (30 staff), BusinessEurope (40 staff)...
➢ Every possible interest is represented:
  – European Envelope Manufacturers Association
  – European Starch Industry
  – Poultry Europe
➢ Over 80% of job vacancies never advertised
Private Sector

- Brussels is home to hundreds of consultancies, law firms and lobbying agencies
- Higher salaries but normally paid on a Belgian contract = around 50% income tax
- Internships often advertised – paid, unpaid and expenses
- Jobs include: policy analysis, client managers, communications, legal advisors, public affairs...
- If you’re interested in a company – approach directly with tailored CV and letter!!
Jobs currently being advertised...

Assistant to the Secretary General

Intern – Digital Economy Policy

Internship Communications Division

EU Advocacy and Research Intern

Research Assistant
Top Tips

- Research the sector you’re interested in – know what they do before you apply (not always clear!)
- Always tailor your CV and letter
- Tell them what you can bring to their organisation
- Better to send speculative applications to a named person for example Executive Director, Chief Executive, Secretary-General (look this up online)
- If you do an internship in Brussels – network!
Online Resources

Job Sites
➢ www.eurobrussels.com
➢ jobs.euractiv.com
➢ European Voice (in print and online)
➢ www.eu-careers.eu (EPSO)

Political Parties
➢ Google European People’s Party, Party of European Socialists, Alliance of Liberal and Democrats in Europe.... etc
EU Transparency Register

- Visit the Joint European Commission – European Parliament Transparency Register
- All organisations that wish to lobby EU institutions listed
- Contact details, includes names, address and email address all available

Thank you for your attention

jonathan.millins@east-of-england.eu