

The Foreign & Commonwealth Office

An insight into our world



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Office



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Speakers:

- Helen Chorlton
- Kathryn Lawrie
- Emily Farrow





Today's talk will cover:

1. An introduction to the work of the FCO
2. Moments from my career from each of our staff members
3. Details on the recruitment process



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http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IZS_v7_KgoU&list=UUWI6ZVke4P2GYpk6eq4BPIQ&feature=player_detailpage



The FCO is responsible for...

- Promoting British interests overseas
- Safeguarding Britain's security
- Supporting our citizens and businesses around the globe

>> Our ambition is to be the best Diplomatic Service in the world and the best we can be. <<



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160

countries in which we are
based (and growing)

270

diplomatic posts
worldwide



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14,000



Staff working
in FCO.



2/3rds

are staff
hired
locally



74%

of our diplomatic staff have
a registered language skill

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Helping British Nationals Overseas in a crisis

We help British nationals by:

- Finding out who is affected and contacting families back in the UK.
- Sending out Rapid Deployment Teams - trained volunteers who are prepared to deploy anywhere in the world at a moment's notice to provide front line assistance to British nationals.
- And, in very exceptional circumstances, organising charter flights or an evacuation to ensure a safe route home for nationals.



THE FCO Rapid Deployment Team (RDT) take details from British nationals on the quayside in Benghazi, Libya

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Making Britain Prosperous

Working with partners across Government we aim to help double exports to £1 trillion by 2020 and increase foreign investment to £1.5 trillion by 2015.

- Break down trade barriers and promote trade agreements
- Open and transparent global economy, free from corruption, crime and guarded against political crisis
- Leading world efforts to build a low carbon economy and actively engage business in reducing the effects of climate change



The GREAT Britain campaign was launched to take advantage of the Olympic and Paralympic legacy to increase trade, tourism and investment.

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Keeping Britain Safe

We aim to make a difference to peoples' lives through tackling the most serious threats to global security. Break down trade barriers and promote trade agreements

- Managing terrorist incidents
- Making the best use of our intelligence
- Creating national cyber strategies
- Preventing organised crime and drugs smuggling
- Supporting the Foreign Secretary in his responsibilities for GCHQ (Government Communications HQ, an intelligence agency) and the Secret Intelligence Service (also known as MI6).



The FCO has been a key player addressing the challenges presented by the networked world including cyber crime that threatens individuals, companies, and governments.



Human rights

In 2012-13 the FCO dedicated £6.5 million to human rights and democracy.

This went towards projects on:

- Preventing torture and the death penalty
- Promoting women's rights
- Protecting freedom of religion

This year we also launched a new initiative to combat sexual violence in conflict leading world efforts.



UN High Commissioner for Refugees Angelina Jolie speaking at the launch of the G8 Declaration on Preventing Sexual Violence, 11 April 2013



Fast stream recruitment

To join the FCO ***you must:***

1. Be a British Citizen
2. Have resided in the UK for a certain length of time over the last 10 years
3. Choose the Diplomatic Service as your first choice
4. For economists you need (or need to expect) a 2:1 in an economics degree

You don't:

1. Need specific language skills
2. Need to have studied at a particular university
3. Need to have studied a particular subject
4. Be well travelled



Time frame for applications

1. Online self assessments – 7 days
2. Online practice tests – 7 days
3. Online selection tests (verbal and numerical) – 7 days
4. Online selection and online application – 7 days
5. Online e-tray – 14 days
6. Analytical specialist assessment (economists) – 0.5 days
7. Fast stream assessment centre – 1 day
8. Final selection board – 0.5 days



Competency based assessments

Faststream candidates should demonstrate...

- Drive for results
- Learning and improving
- Decision-making
- Constructive thinking
- Building productive relationships
- Communicating with impact





Life as a faststreamer

- Two years spent in London
 - a hard language (such as Mandarin or Arabic)
- First year delivering policy (for example, dealing with security and defence issues or working to improve human rights abroad)
- Then go on a three-four year posting overseas
- Second year delivering a service (for example, providing assistance to British citizens who are forced into marriage overseas)
- You apply and interview for all of the positions you are interested in overseas
- Enter at middle management
- Responsibility from the start
- Second year learning



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