The Foreign & Commonwealth Office
An insight into our world

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
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IZS_v7_KgoU&list=UUWI6ZVke4P2GYpk6eq4BPlQ&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.<<
160 countries in which we are based (and growing)

270 diplomatic posts worldwide

UNCLASSIFIED
14,000 Staff working in FCO.

2/3rds are staff hired locally.

74% of our diplomatic staff have a registered language skill.
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.
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
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.
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
- First year delivering policy (for example, dealing with security and defence issues or working to improve human rights abroad)
- Second year delivering a service (for example, providing assistance to British citizens who are forced into marriage overseas)
- Second year learning a hard language (such as Mandarin or Arabic)
- Then go on a three-four year posting overseas
- You apply and interview for all of the positions you are interested in overseas
- Enter at middle management
- Responsibility from the start