



HISTORY & POLICY

Connecting historians, policymakers and the media

Consultancy opportunity: History & Policy partnership with Cabinet Office

Role

History & Policy (H&P) at King's College London aims to improve public policy and social wellbeing by enhancing public and policymakers' understanding of history. We actively work with policymakers to encourage and enable them to make greater use of historical research and historians' expertise.

Thanks to support from the Business Futures Fund at King's, we are now seeking a dynamic and confident historian to help advance our relationship with Cabinet Office. This is a rare opportunity for a historian to engage directly with government policymakers.

The person appointed will carry out a scoping project, working with civil servants in Cabinet Office to examine the potential for a fellowship programme. She/he will consider how history might contribute to specific policy areas, and to policy development methodology.

Aims

In the course of the scoping project the consultant historian will:

- Evaluate whether and to what extent history is currently used within Cabinet Office, how that expertise is sourced and the potential for historical research to be usefully incorporated into current policymaking processes.
- Identify specific policy areas, and aspects of policy development methodology, which could demonstrably benefit from greater historical knowledge and understanding, and indicate which outputs would best meet these needs.
- Explore the logistics of a fellowship scheme in Whitehall, including management, resources, physical location, duration and how the impacts of the scheme could be evaluated.
- Identify areas of current or emerging policy concern and practice that could form the basis of future fellowships.
- Present his/her findings to civil servants and H&P managers and incorporate their feedback into the final outputs of the scoping project.

Outputs

We envisage the scoping project delivering the following key outputs:

- A note outlining how history is currently used and sourced in the Cabinet Office and examining whether it could usefully be better incorporated into policymaking methodology.
- Building relationships with officials in policy areas which could benefit from additional historical analysis.
- A list of current/emerging policy issues that would benefit most from a historical perspective, the time period in which they need to be addressed and the most appropriate format for meeting these needs.
- A range of outputs, including at least one historical briefing note to meet civil servants' information needs during the project period or to provide an overview of key issues/periods.
- A detailed report describing the logistics of a fellowship programme, a draft role and person specification for the historian fellow/s, an agreed list of policy areas that might be covered and suggestions for how its impacts could be evaluated.

Timescale and remuneration

The project has been made possible with funding from the Business Futures Fund at King's College London. The project is expected to commence by early November 2011; it will operate on a consultancy basis, managed by H&P at King's College London. It is expected to involve approximately 20 days' work, over a period of up to five months, with the exact schedule of work to be agreed between the historian and Cabinet Office. The consultancy fee is £4000, to be paid in two tranches, with a modest budget for travel expenses. The successful applicant will be required to sign a confidentiality agreement.

Person specification (Essential/Desirable)

Education

- Completed, or nearly completed, PhD in an aspect of British social, political or economic history relevant to the efficiency and reform work of Cabinet Office (E)

Knowledge

- Good general knowledge of 20th century British political, social and economic history (E)
- Understanding of some or all of the following issues in the current British policy and political environment: the machinery of government and Parliament, public service resourcing and reform and initiatives to strengthen civil society and voluntary action (E)
- Understanding of some or all of these issues in an international context (D)

Skills

- Excellent written and verbal communication skills (E)
- Ability to network and negotiate with internal and external stakeholders (E)
- Strong organisation and project management skills (E)
- Confident presentation skills (E)
- Good IT skills (in particular Microsoft Office suite) (E)

Experience

- Proven project management experience (E)
- Experience of writing for non-academic audiences (E)
- Experience of consultancy/research in a non-academic environment (D)

Application process

Please send your CV (up to 3 sides of A4, including contact details for two referees who will be available in September) and covering letter (up to 2 sides of A4) explaining why you are the right person to take on this role and why it interests you. Your application should make clear the relevance of your historical research and knowledge to the efficiency and reform aspects of Cabinet Office's work. For further information please see the [Cabinet Office website](#).

Please send your application to: mel.porter@kcl.ac.uk by 5pm on Thursday, 15 September 2011. Late applications will not be considered. Interviews will take place at King's College London in the week beginning 26 September.