

BELIEF IN DIALOGUE

UNDERGRADUATE
PARLIAMENTORS

JULY 2011
Application Pack



Undergraduate ParliaMentors®

Undergraduate ParliaMentors (UP) is an award-winning initiative (winner of the UN Award for Intercultural Innovation), launched in 2007 by 3FF. The initiative was set up to equip the next generation of politicians and community leaders in the UK with the skills, experiences and networks they need to advance their leadership careers.

In 2011–2012, 3FF will partner with the British Council to introduce an international dimension to the Undergraduate ParliaMentors initiative. Cluster groups will develop social action and empowerment projects in the UK with support from leading NGOs, enabling them to bring about social change today.

Each cluster will carry out a cross community project based around the broader Belief in Dialogue theme of living with diversity and difference – the aim of the initiative is to bring together communities - whether they are geographical communities, communities of interest or communities of different faiths.

All Travel to the UK will be covered by the British Council.

The working language for the project will be English

During the UP programme participants:

See politics in action – through regular meetings with MEPs in Brussels, constituency visits and shadowing.

Create social change – by working in groups of 4 to create empowerment projects with expert support from NGOs, think tanks and other key organisations.

Attend leadership development workshops – including networking, public speaking and project management.

Network with leaders – in the fields of politics, media, and the NGO sector at exclusive events in the Houses of Parliament, Brussels and other high-profile venues.

Key Dates

Close of applications
8 August 2011

Interviews
Conducted by telephone 17-18 August 2011

Applicants informed
19 August 2011

Induction
12-14 September 2011

Programmes ends
June 2012

Applications

Send your completed form along with a covering letter to [BID@britishcouncil.org](mailto: BID@britishcouncil.org) by 8 August 2011

For enquiries email the above address or call
+44 28901922237

About the UP programme

Mentored by a parliamentarian

Each group is mentored by a MEP during the second semester of the programme (January-June 2012). They meet with their mentor several times and gain an insight into their work. Groups can be offered the opportunity to attend political functions, shadowing days, Parliamentary committee meetings and constituency offices. Participants are matched as closely as possible with parliamentarians of similar party affiliations and political interests.

'Empowerment Projects' with support from NGOs

Each group creates a project with the aim of increasing political participation and/or encouraging social responsibility. In the past projects have included: running political empowerment sessions in schools and youth groups, working with refugees, homeless people and the elderly, and producing resources on themes such as identity, citizenship and democracy.

After developing their ideas in a workshop, groups are matched with an NGO or think tank to provide expertise in the area they have chosen to focus on. Organisations that supported past projects include the Citizenship Foundation, Refugee Council and the British Institute for Human Rights.

Receive leadership training

Whilst on the programme, students receive training in areas including public speaking, networking skills and project management. These are run by experts in the respective fields.

Work with others to build lifelong professional and social networks

As well as working in groups, participants on the programme will spend time with all 45 undergraduates from universities across the UK and Europe. On graduating from the programme, participants join the Alumni Network of over a hundred UP graduates, many of whom are currently studying and working in politically related areas.

In addition, participants are able to widen their networks by meeting politicians, NGOs and media personalities throughout the year and beyond.

Key dates and events

Programme dates

Semester one:

12th-14th September 2011 - Induction (in London)

*Please note, there will be a compulsory three day residential induction event including training, project development workshops and a trip to Parliament. Prayer rooms, suitable accommodation and food suitable for dietary requirements will all be provided at no cost to the participants.

September 2011 – June 2012 - Group meetings are ongoing between the induction event and the graduation the following June (EU wide).

Semester two:

January 2012 - Mentoring with MEPs commences (Europewide)

*Mentor meetings take place three-to-four times during the second semester of the programme i.e. January to June (excluding Parliamentary recess and university vacations) in cities where each group is based, with the possibility of a meeting in Westminster/Brussels.

February 2012 - Annual UP Lecture with leading media personalities. Former speakers include Jon Snow (Channel 4 News), Jon Sopel (BBC Politics Show) and Samira Ahmed (Channel 4 News) (in London)

March 2012 - 'Empowerment projects' to be completed (UK)

Mid-June 2012 - Graduation Ceremony (in Westminster, London)

NB. 3FF and British Council staff will meet with cluster groups to support and monitor progress in the Autumn term and in the Spring term.

Application Dates

Application deadline – Monday 8 August 2011

Interviews will be conducted by telephone to 17-18th August 2011

Applicants informed by 19th August 2011

Applications

Eligibility

Applicants must:

- identify with a community of interest (geographical/ethical community, faith community, etc).
- be based at universities in France, Germany, Finland, Denmark, Sweden (other universities may be considered subject to demand)
- study a politics related degree course OR express a proven interest in politics
- be going into their second or third year of a bachelors degree in 2011/12. Students studying for a Masters degree will also be considered, however, undergraduates will be prioritised in the first instance.

Commitment

Participants are expected to take an active role in all areas of the programme outlined above for the duration of the year. They are required to attend the following events and meetings:

- residential induction event
- two meetings a month in their groups (meetings can be conducted by telephone or video conference)
- mentor sessions with an MEP mentor between January and June 2012
- occasional meetings with supporting NGOs and think tanks
- graduation ceremony

How to apply

To apply for Undergraduate ParliaMentors 2011/12 please send a completed application form along with a one-page personal statement to [BID@britishcouncil.org](mailto: BID@britishcouncil.org). Your personal statement should refer to any particular qualities, interests or experiences that you feel will support your application.

If you have any questions, please email the above address or call +44 28901922237.

Testimonials

UP Mentors

Rt Hon Dominic Grieve MP (Conservative): “I have no doubt that this year’s class will go on to play important roles in the future – both in their local communities, and maybe even on the national or international stage”

Rt Hon Sadiq Khan MP (Labour): “Undergraduate ParliaMentors is a fantastic initiative. Young adults of faith are having their views heard at the very heart of government.”

Lynne Featherstone MP (Liberal Democrat): “My trio had started barely being able to talk to each other – and now they are inseparable friends. The understanding that we all as humans have far more in common than we have in differences will stay with them all their lives.”

UP Graduates

Muna Abbas (2010-11): “Undergraduate ParliaMentors proves that religion and politics can come together to encourage social harmony and understanding whilst making a positive contribution to society. This project has taught me how to use my beliefs as a tool to improving not only myself, but the world in which I live in.”

Daniel Heller (2009-10): “The things we did were great. I made some good friends on the programme, and really enjoyed events such as the Networking Workshop and the trip to Parliament. On top of that, the project we did was fun to plan, and made a positive difference.”

Anna Dyachenko (2008-9): “Not only did I have a chance to cooperate with people who share my political and social aspirations; I made friends with amazing individuals! Our cultures, customs, habits and beliefs may well be different in many ways, but we’ve grown and shared a lot whilst building this friendship.”

Sayed Khan (2008-9): “An excellent programme. Working on a project and being mentored by an MP gave me a real insight in to the world of politics. I now feel more confident and enthusiastic about engaging with politics and people of other faiths”

Oliver Hyams (2007-8): “I regard my involvement in the programme as one of the high points of my undergraduate years. I made good friends, achieved something real, and showed myself as well as a class of young people that at its best, politics really does work.”

Andrew Jude Rajanathan (2007-8): “The UP programme is one of the best political initiatives that cater to pro-active students with a keen interest in politics and the workings of government.”

Some opportunities taken up by participants on graduating from the programme

- Work for BBC 1's 'The Politics Show'
- Intern at the Home Office
- World Youth Congress Delegate
- Student Union Campaigns Officer, Education Officer & Anti-Racism Officer
- Chair, local Green Party
- Parliamentary assistant to Minister
- Refugee Council internship
- Work with Conservative MP
- Branch Secretary, Labour Party
- Standing as a local Liberal Democrat Councillor
- British High Commission in Nigeria
- London Delivery Coordinator & Research Officer for Mosaic

