



Department for International Development (DFID) www.faststream.gov.uk

A presentation to Careers Advisers 9th August 2006

The presentation covered the Fast Stream as a whole and this report only highlights the small part of the programme that featured DFID.

DFID take a small number of graduates each year from the General Fast Stream. The programme designed to provide the senior civil servants of the future. The Graduate Fast Stream runs alongside other Fast Stream programmes such as Economists
Statisticians
GCHQ
Technology in Business

The Graduate Fast Stream is an umbrella scheme for a number of central Civil Service departments of which DFID is only one. Other destinations from this route include the FCO, DTI and The Department for Work and Pensions. Applicants for the Graduate Fast Stream are not able to specify DFID though efforts will be made to accommodate preferences. In addition it is worth noting that DFID is also a destination for a number of graduates who are recruited through the Economists Fast Stream. Also Development related work is available in departments other than DFID. For example through the Diplomatic Service (FCO), the European Fast Stream and even the Clerkships option.

The DFID Technical Development Option – this is part of the Faststream but has slightly different entry criteria. A relevant postgraduate degree and at least 12 months work experience in either a developing country or a development organisation or context.

Recruitment Dates – 18th September – 30th November 2006. This is for the online application section of the process. There are several other stages successful applicants have to complete

Competition – The Fast Stream is the most sought after graduate recruitment scheme with around 500 recruited from 20,000 initial expressions of interest for all the schemes. The Graduate Fast Stream had 8179 applicants with 336 eventually recommended for appointments. DFID took 4 Fast Streamers from this total. Three SOAS students got as far as the assessment centre stage and of these one was recommended for appointment. However, those recommended for DFID's Technical Development option (the main way DFID recruits Fast Streamers) also have a DFID Technical Selection Board

Entry Requirements – For DFID you will need

- At least 12 months experience in a developing country or a development organisation or context related to their chosen discipline
- Knowledge of Development
- UK nationality. Occasional opportunities for Commonwealth citizens or European Economic Area nationals with unrestricted right to reside in the UK

- While some work experience is required it is stressed that this is a training post and the extensive amount of experience that had been previously required for DFID is no longer needed.

Entry Requirements - continued

Different sections within DFID also have specific requirements. These include

- **Conflict** – relevant postgraduate degree. Ideally conflict resolution but development studies, human rights or things such as social sciences are considered.
- **Education** – Relevant degree and postgraduate qualification. Field should be related to education or development
- **Enterprise Development** – post graduate qualifications in, for example. MBA, finance, accounting or Development
- **Environment** – at least a masters with an environment emphasis
- **Governance** – Post grads in politics, economics, law, human rights etc
- **Health** – Masters or equivalent in public health or directly related area from a recognised academic/professional institution.
- **Infrastructure and Urban development** – At least a masters in a technical area – eg Water resources management and planning. Preferably a technical first degree in things such as engineering, planning or architecture
- **Rural Livelihoods** – First degree in disciplines such as agriculture, forestry, fisheries, agricultural economics etc complemented by a development policy related post graduate course in a development policy related discipline. Or a more general social science first degree with a more technical higher degree with a focus on rural issues and business development
- **Social Development** – a postgraduate degree in a relevant subject: Social anthropology, sociology, political science, human geography

Training – the training programme within DFID combines different areas of experience. Fast Streamers for example have been sent to Bangladesh to work on health issues, have shadowed colleagues at Minister level meetings about Human Rights together with international experience in Zambia. Another Fast Streamer has worked with the World Bank and subsequently worked for a period in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

The Summer Placement Scheme

Not a DFID specific programme but recently one of the students on placement worked in the Sustainable Development team in the Cabinet Office. The scheme is for under-represented groups – ethnic minority undergraduates and undergraduates with a disability. Applications for the summer 2007 placement are invited from December 2006

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More reports like this are available in the book, 'Getting Into Development' published April 2006. Buy a copy online at www.careers.lon.ac.uk/output/books or call in to your university careers office. Visit the book's website at www.careers.lon.ac.uk/development/