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Purpose of Visit Research towards book on Careers In Development. In particular to find out more about ODI's Fellowship Programme for Economists. This report supplements the extensive web site

ODI – Britain's leading think tank on international development and humanitarian issues.

Mission – Works with partners in public and private sectors, locking together high-quality applied research, practical policy advice and policy-focused dissemination and debate.

The Fellowship Programme – Two year programmes for postgraduate economists to work in the public sectors of developing countries. Around 35 per year from over 400 applications of whom 70 are interviewed. The Scheme aims to provide experience for economists who it is hoped will go on to pursue a career in development economics. Statistics held by ODI indicate that the overwhelming majority of Fellows do indeed develop their career further after the programme. Some with the ODI in research others with DFID and other government departments

Employing Institutions – Fellows work in a range of arenas. The largest sector is in government finance and planning departments. More recently increasing numbers have been placed in trade & industry sections as developing countries seek to engage with global and regional trade agreements. Other potential sectors include health – on HIV/Aids oriented programmes for example. Economists in this area may for example, analyse the impact on teacher supply or provide data to justify a budget for Aids awareness.

Some consideration might be given to applicants as to which type of employer they want their placement to be with. Though, at the time of the interview the ODI may not know this level of detail. The choice of placement may ultimately play some part in how future career paths unfold. For example, those intending to eventually work for an NGO may negotiate a placement that would buttress this choice rather than a traditional government placement.

Pressure Points – Fellows will be taking up new posts with managers they have never met and probably in a country and culture that is unfamiliar to them. Clearly this is a primary source of pressure for which a robust personality will be needed.

The role are described as junior but employing institutions may have very high expectations.