



The
STRAND
Group

THE
POLICY
INSTITUTE

KING'S
College
LONDON



Employability review

MA GOVERNMENT STUDIES



2024/5 Cohort

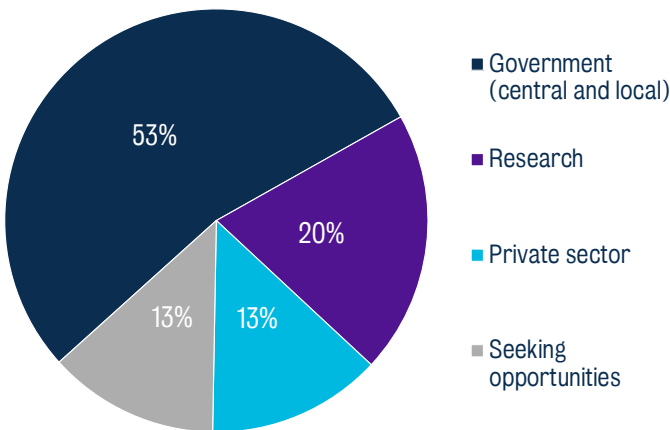
A unique learning environment

The Strand Group's teaching team prides itself on its student-centric approach with a focus on employability and we are delighted with the impact this had on our first MA Government Studies 2025 graduating cohort.

The programme's unique design has been key to producing a high level of employment amongst its graduates.

Firstly, experts in the classroom deliver *authentic learning*, as a practitioner's reflections bring theory to life. The *Strand Group networking events* enable engagement with future employers, and the *masterclasses* help prepare the students for their careers including advice from current officials to navigate the Fast Stream civil service application process. Finally, we offer the students *internship* opportunities that provide a platform to advance their careers.

87% of alumni are now employed in relevant sectors



Government, Business and Academia employment initiative

One of our paid internship schemes was created through an innovative collaboration between government, business and academia. This partnership was made possible through our sponsor Workday's engagement with the Government's Shared Programme Strategy for HR and Finance, enabling this new enterprise, which represents the cornerstone of their Social Value commitment to this transformational government initiative.

Workday, working with Department for Science, Innovation and Technology and the Department for Business and Trade, offered four of our MA students a fully funded, immersive placement in the heart of government.

Jack Jamison, Sharon Adebola, Jennifer de Blaquiere-Tosh, and Judah Bajela worked on a range of projects and shaped policy strategy. It helped develop their communication and presentation skills, whilst being a valued resource to their teams.

When they presented their achievements to leadership, the message was clear:

“Not just learning but actively contributing.”

Judah, Policy Advisor

“Operationally delivering at pace”

Sharon, Ministerial Visits Officer.

This initiative is close to our hearts because it specifically supports students from non-traditional backgrounds, ensuring the Civil Service pipeline is as diverse as the public it serves. We are incredibly proud of the standard these graduates set and the fact that this opportunity is only available through our programme.

The students' hard work paid off with three of the students now in full-time work within the Civil Service. Jack renewed his role within DBT, Sharon is now in HM Treasury, a position she declared she desired on her first day on the MA programme and Jennie has just recently been employed on a full-time basis with HM Treasury.

Workday are renewing the scheme for this year's cohort.

at Opportunities opening up

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MA Government students completing their eight-week paid internships in the Department for Business and Trade

Profile: Dilara Saglam, UK Home Office

The MA gave Dilara Saglam insider knowledge on how government departments actually operate, how policy is developed behind the scenes, and what's truly expected of civil servants in practice. By the time she entered the UK Home Office she wasn't starting from scratch – she hit the ground running with confidence.

Through the MA programme's strong industry networks, Dilara secured a prestigious public affairs internship (paid) at Cardew Group, gaining hands-on experience in political engagement and stakeholder relations that proved invaluable.

The applied learning approach bridged the gap between academia and professional environments, giving Dilara the practical toolkit to transition seamlessly from student to successful policy professional.

“The MA's emphasis on professional development, networking, and applied learning gave me the confidence and clarity to take the next steps in my career. I'm proud of what I've achieved over the past year and grateful for the support and opportunities the programme has provided.”

We are pleased to say that Cardew have offered two internship places this year.



MA Government Studies student Dilara Saglam undertook an internship at Cardew Group

Profile: Gabriel Galowicz, Ofgem

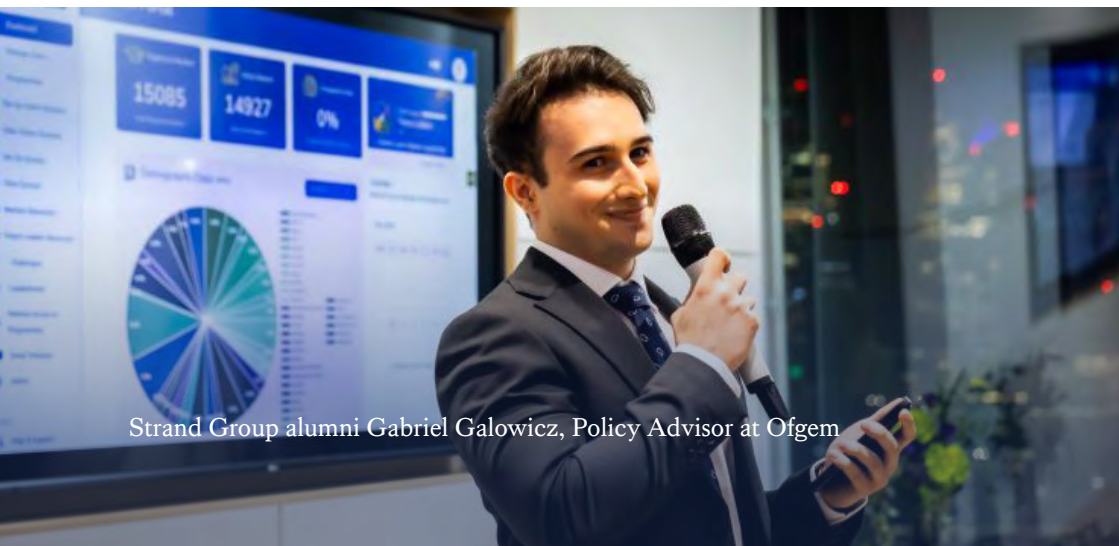
After several years working across the third sector, delivering programmes, building partnerships with government, and driving measurable social impact, Gabriel sought to deepen his understanding of how policy is designed and implemented at the highest levels of the state.

This led him to the MA Government Studies programme. Graduating with distinction, the programme strengthened his ability to translate complex political and economic theory into practical, delivery-focused policy insight. Through its focus on the 3Ps – Policy, Process and People – he developed a clear understanding of how decisions are made, challenged, and executed across government.

A defining experience was the HM Treasury module, which deepened his interest in economic policy and strengthened his understanding of how governments respond to crises, manage markets, and drive long-term growth.

He now applies these skills as a Policy Advisor at Ofgem, working at the heart of energy regulation during a critical period for affordability, energy security, and sustainability.

“The MA Government Studies programme didn’t just build my knowledge, it gave me the confidence and practical capability to operate in high-stakes policy environments and contribute meaningfully from day one.”



Strand Group alumni Gabriel Galowicz, Policy Advisor at Ofgem

Profile: Jonathan Graham, Rothschild & Co

Graduating with distinction from this prestigious programme, Jonathan developed the analytical, research, and interpersonal skills employers are looking for, while collaborating with high profile figures across government, journalism, and business.

The programme brings government to life by focusing on the 3Ps – Policy, Process and People – revealing the hidden wiring of how the British state actually works and turning academic learning into real world capability.

A standout moment was the HM Treasury module, which sparked a strong interest in finance and economics and laid the foundations for a deeper understanding of industrial policy.

Those skills are now being put into practice in a research placement with the Rothschild Archive, where Jonathan applies his MA training daily – proving how adaptable and career ready Government Studies graduates really are.

“Moving to London to study the MA Government Studies was a big decision, but absolutely the right one. The course gave me the confidence, knowledge, and practical skills to succeed, and opened doors I never thought possible.”



Profile: Jake Brown, UK Cabinet Office

Jake joined the MA Government Studies to build the foundations for a career in public service. The MA gave him insider knowledge of how government departments actually operate, so that upon entering the Cabinet Office he hit the ground running.

“The Government Studies MA helped me move from an academic interest in government to my first role within the British Civil Service in the Cabinet Office, supporting parliamentary engagement for the department and ministers. The programme’s unique mix of lessons, workshops, events and trips with high-profile guests gave me the confidence and understanding of British history to succeed in my new role. The brilliant teaching team’s support, both in and beyond the classroom, has been invaluable and I highly recommend this MA to anyone eager for a career in public service.”



Strand Group alumni Jake Brown, now a civil servant in the Cabinet Office

The Strand Group

The Strand Group examines the contemporary history of the institutions of British Government.

The Group delivers the MA Government Studies Programme, and undertakes professional education, along with a number of Visiting Professors and Fellows who contribute to its research, teaching and events, and partners with various government departments and businesses.

The Policy Institute

The Policy Institute at King's College London works to solve society's challenges with evidence and expertise.

We combine the rigour of academia with the agility of a consultancy and the connectedness of a think tank.

Our research draws on many disciplines and methods, making use of the skills, expertise and resources of not only the institute, but the university and its wider network too.



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