



Undergraduate ParliaMentors®

2010/11

To apply

Download an application form at www.threefaithsforum.org.uk/mentoring

Send your completed form along with a covering letter to apply@threefaithsforum.org.uk by 1st June 2010.

See page 3 for further details.

For enquiries email the above address or call 0207 485 1350.

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Key dates

Close of applications
1st June 2010

Interviews
June-September 2010

Applicants informed
3rd September 2010

Induction
20th-21st September

Programmes ends
June 2011

Undergraduate ParliaMentors (UP) is a pioneering initiative launched in 2007 that equips the next generation of politicians and community leaders with the skills, experiences and networks they need to advance their leadership careers. Trios of Muslim, Christian and Jewish politics students are mentored by parliamentarians, as well as developing 'empowerment projects' with support from leading NGOs, enabling them to bring about social change today. Participants on the programme receive training and attend events helping them to widen their professional and social networks.

During the UP programme participants:

- work in trios to create their own empowerment project - with support from experts at NGOs, think tanks and other key organisations
- see politics in action - with regular meetings with MPs and Peers in Westminster, constituency visits, shadowing, and the chance to see Prime Ministers Questions, parliamentary debates and committees first-hand
- attend skills 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 and other high-profile venues

ABOUT THE UP PROGRAMME

Run 'empowerment Projects' with advice from NGOs

Each trio 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, trios 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.

Be mentored by a parliamentarian

Each trio is mentored by MP or Peer during the second semester of the programme (January-June 2011). They meet with their mentor several times and gain an insight into their work. Trios 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.

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 and build lifelong professional and social networks

As well as working in trios, participants on the programme will spend time with all 45 undergraduates from universities across the country. 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

- **Application dates**

Application deadline - Tuesday 1st June 2010

Interviews - June-September 2010 (in London)

Applicants informed – Friday 3rd September 2010

- **Programme dates**

Semester one:

20th-21st September 2010 - Induction (in London)

*Please note, there will be a compulsory two day residential induction event including training, project development workshops and a trip to Parliament. Prayer rooms, suitable accommodation and kosher and halal food will all be provided at no cost.

September 2010 – June 2011 - Trio meetings are ongoing between the induction event and the graduation the following June (Nationwide).

Semester two:

January 2011 - Mentoring with MPs and Peers commences (Nationwide)

*Mentor meetings take place around once a month during the second semester of the programme i.e. January to June (excluding Parliamentary recess and university vacations) in cities where each trio is based, with the possibility of an additional meeting in Westminster.

February 2011 - Annual UP Lecture with leading media personalities. Former speakers include Jon Snow (Channel 4 News) and Jon Sopel (BBC Politics Show) (in London)

End of April 2011 - 'Empowerment projects' to be completed (Nationwide)

Mid-June 2011 - Graduation Ceremony (in Westminster, London)

NB. Three Faiths Forum staff will meet with trios to support and monitor progress in the Autumn term and in the Spring term. These will take place in the cities participants are based in.

APPLICATIONS

Eligibility

Applicants must be:

- going into their second or third year of a bachelors degree in 2010/11
- based at universities in London, Leeds, Manchester, Birmingham, Nottingham, Cambridge (other universities may be considered subject to demand)
- studying a politics related degree course OR express a proven interest in politics
- of Muslim, Christian or Jewish backgrounds

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 trios to work on projects
- mentor sessions with an MP or Peer mentor between January and June 2011
- occasional meetings with supporting NGOs and think tanks
- annual lecture
- graduation ceremony

How to apply

To apply for Undergraduate ParliaMentors 2010/11 please send a completed application form (downloaded from www.threefaithsforum.org.uk/mentoring) along with a covering letter to apply@threefaithsforum.org.uk. The cover letter must be no more than 300 words. You should refer to any particular qualities or experiences that you feel will support your application.

If you have any questions, please email the above address or call 0207 485 1350.

Closing date for applications: Tuesday 1st June 2010

Interviews: June-September 2010

Applicants will hear if they have been successful: Friday 3rd September 2010

Programme begins: 14th – 16th September 2010

TESTIMONIALS

UP Mentors

Sadiq Khan MP, former Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Communities (Labour)

“Undergraduate ParliaMentors is a fantastic initiative. Young adults of faith are having their views heard at the very heart of government”

- Whilst being mentored by Sadiq Khan, Oliver, Rayyan and Angelica created ‘Politics Works’ - a project teaching a group of twenty disadvantaged fifteen year olds how to effect change in

Tooting, their local area and Sadiq’s constituency.

Dominic Grieve MP, Shadow Secretary of State for Justice (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”

- During their year under the mentorship of Dominic Grieve, Yasmina, Edita and Marcelle worked with faith schools to understand young people’s attitudes to other communities and develop strategies to address conflict in the classroom.

Lynne Featherstone MP, Shadow Minister for Youth and Equalities (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.”

- Amina, Michelle and Eva spent their year identifying the impacts of policy on refugees and asylum seekers. With Lynne Featherstone’s support, they were able to overcome serious tensions and conflict within the group and went on to travel India together the following summer.

UP Graduates

“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”

Andrew Jude Rajanathan (Mentor: John Battle MP)

“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.”

Oliver Hyams (Mentor: Sadiq Khan MP)

“Undergraduate ParliaMentors is an important programme especially now that racism and all sorts of fears against other faith groups is so wide spread”

Rugena Ali (Mentor: Simon Hughes MP)

Some opportunities taken up by participants on graduating from the programme include:

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| Stand as a local Liberal Democrat councillor | Chair, local Green Party |
| Intern at the Home Office | Parliamentary assistant to Minister |
| World Youth Congress Delegate | Refugee Council internship |
| Student Union Campaigns Officer, Education Officer and Anti-Racism Officer | Branch Secretary, Labour Party |
| Work for BBC 1’s ‘The Politics Show’ | Work with Conservative MP |
| | British High Commission in Nigeria |

Undergraduate ParliaMentors is a project of the **Three Faiths Forum** (www.threefaithsforum.org.uk). TFF has worked for more than ten years to encourage harmony and confront prejudice. Our objectives are to build lasting relationships between people of different faiths (and those of no religious belief), to achieve a society where religious and cultural differences can co-exist through empathy, respect and engagement.