

CONNECT ● GRADUATE PROGRAMME

ABOUT CONNECT

We open minds

From politicians to the public, from communities to the commentariat, we open minds to new thinking, new ideas, new arguments and new developments.

We have an exciting client base spanning charities, business, local government, trade unions and property clients with an interest in a wide range of policy areas from housing, to apprenticeships, to public services and utilities.



THE CONNECT GRADUATE PROGRAMME

Connect has been at the forefront of graduate recruitment within the public affairs industry, and has operated a Graduate Programme since 2005. To support our growth, and our recent wins, we are looking for candidates with the potential to become excellent consultants to join our graduate programme.

We are delighted that so many of our previous graduates have gone on to be leaders in the sector, working for organisations such as the British Medical Association, Guide Dogs, Macmillan Cancer Support, Heathrow Airport, G4S, EEF, the LGiU, Department of Health, the European Labour Party, Secret Escapes and the Rail Delivery Group, as well as holding senior positions at Connect.

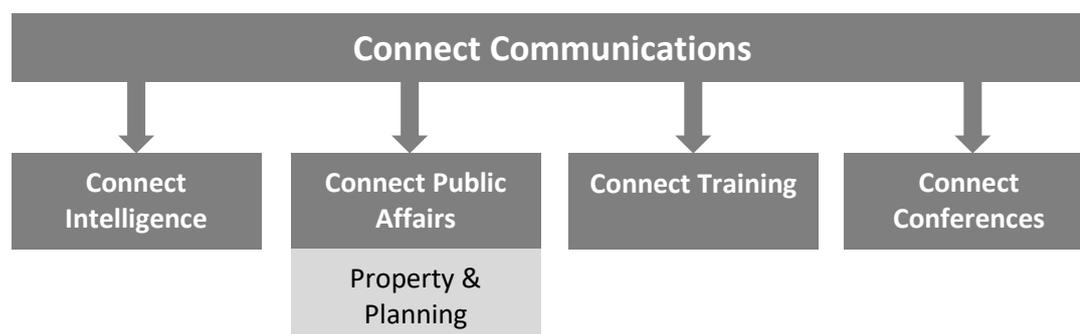
As an Investor In People (Gold Standard) we are committed to developing the skills of our staff, and see our Graduates as our future leaders. Our ambition is for our graduates to develop their careers at Connect, and we are now looking for an outstanding graduate to join us.

You will be working with a cross party, dynamic team with experience in Parliament, the political parties, trades unions, charities, local government and business across a range of policy areas.

OUR PROGRAMME

We are a 'hands-on' consultancy and our fast-track programme makes sure that our graduates quickly learn about the people, policies and processes they will need to kick-start their careers. You will be a core member of our client services team from day one and quickly gather a detailed understanding of client and project management, business and financial systems, as well as developing detailed policy and political knowledge.

Drawing on external and internal resources, you will gain experience across a range of services:



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Our programme is designed to support our graduates' professional and personal development, giving them the tools to become successful political consultants. Our graduates also benefit from our own training arm, Connect Training, which offers a range of training courses both to external audiences and our in-house team.

During the programme, Connect Graduates will:

- Develop a strong understanding of central, devolved and local government across the UK and the role of the public affairs industry;
- Develop a strong understanding of the UK media and the role of the public relations industry;
- Become a core part of our Connect Intelligence team to provide monitoring services to clients;
- Provide research and support across our client base;
- Take responsibility for delivering a major event;
- Support a planning application with local engagement, consultation, exhibitions and liaison with local press;
- Contribute to Connect's social media presence;
- Attend events to provide reportage for clients;
- Learn how to network and establish new contacts;
- Learn how to identify, develop and secure new business for Connect;
- Undertake a number of internal and external training courses.

WHO DO WE WANT?

Connect only employ the best candidates and we are looking for people with a passion for politics and for people. We are looking for someone who can show evidence of:

- education to degree level or equivalent;
- a passion for politics, policy-making and current affairs;
- exceptional written, presentational and interpersonal skills;
- the ability to assimilate, analyse and summarise written material quickly;
- excellent listening skills, as well as the ability to take an impartial view;
- the ability to inspire trust and confidence in clients;
- a team player;
- commercial awareness and good business sense;
- enthusiasm and self-motivation.

SALARY AND BENEFITS

Graduates join the company as Graduate Trainees on a starting salary of £20,000 (+ bonus) with the potential for a pay rise after six months. You will receive benefits including:

- 25 days paid holiday per year (in addition to public holidays)
- Full training programme
- Employer pension scheme (after six months)
- Private healthcare scheme
- Annual season ticket loan (interest free)

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- Company mobile phone (after six months)
- Annual company away day

APPLICATION PROCESS

Applicants should complete the application form by 9 am on Thursday 14 September and send it to Lora Shopova, Company Secretary at info@connectpa.co.uk

Successful applicants will be invited to take part in an assessment day at our Millbank Tower offices on Thursday 21 September.

The assessment day will include:

- Coffee and chat with current and former Graduate Trainees
- A group discussion with other candidates on current political issues
- Candidate presentations (topic will be assigned along with invitation to assessment day)
- A written assessment
- Psychometric testing
- Interview