

## 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.



## JOINING CONNECT

To support our growth, and our recent wins, we are looking for candidates who are interested in working in public affairs, ready to start from day one and with potential to become excellent consultants. We will consider applicants with a degree in any subject – the most important thing is a passion for politics and a desire to make a career in public affairs.

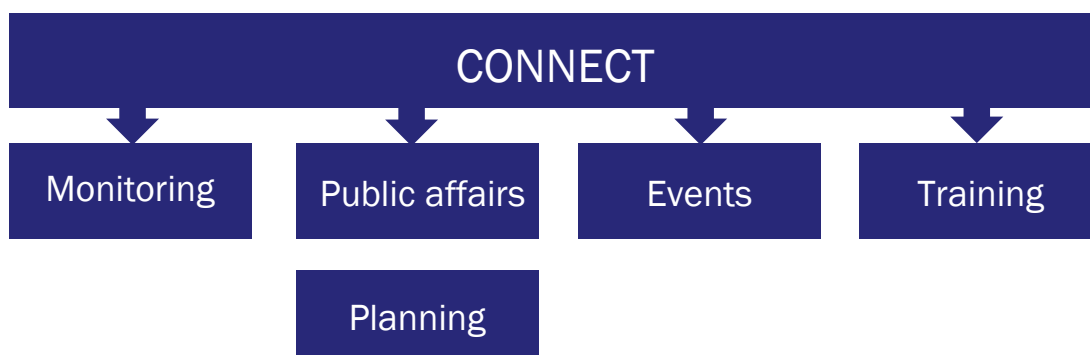
You will be working with a cross-party, dynamic team with experience in Parliament, the political parties, trades unions, charities, local government and business across a range of policy areas. You will be working from day one directly for our clients, as a member of our monitoring team and as a consultant on client accounts.

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 recruits to develop their careers at Connect, and we are now looking for new members of our team.

## WORKING WITH US

We are a ‘hands-on’ consultancy and new recruits quickly learn the how to deliver high-quality work under pressure, respond to client needs and become experts in the political process. 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:



In your first six months you will:

- Develop a strong understanding of UK politics and processes in Westminster, Whitehall, the devolved parliaments and in regional and local government;
- Understand the role and shape of the public affairs industry;
- Become a core part of our politics team providing monitoring services to clients;
- Provide research and support across our client base;
- Work on events and conferences, including providing logistical and administrative support
- Support on planning applications with local engagement, consultation, exhibitions and liaison with local press;
- Contribute to Connect's social media presence;
- Learn how to network and establish new contacts;
- Learn how to identify, develop and secure new business for Connect;
- Undertake a number of internal 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;
- capable of delivering work at pace, on time and to standard;
- 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
- Annual season ticket loan (interest free)
- Annual company away day

## APPLICATION PROCESS

Applicants should complete the application form by 9 am on Thursday 4 July 2019 and send it to Pav Basra, Operations Manager at [p.basra@connectpa.co.uk](mailto:p.basra@connectpa.co.uk)

Successful applicants will be invited to take part in an assessment day at our Millbank Tower offices on Tuesday 16 July 2019.

The assessment day will include:

- 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
- Interview