

The Prosperity Institute's Fortescue Fellowship



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The Fortescue Fellowship is a training programme for experienced leaders aspiring to serve in government as representatives, advisers and executives.

The United Kingdom is a country rich in cultural, human, and financial capital, yet it consistently underperforms relative to how prosperous it could and should be. A leading cause of this is the ineffectiveness of our government institutions. Britain needs leaders with dedication, courage, and humility to tackle this challenge.

Capable leaders from outside politics perceive the salience of this task. Many driven, public-spirited entrepreneurs and professionals want to lend their hand to the plough.

However, routes to serving in Westminster as legislators, advisers, and executives can seem opaque and daunting. The dynamics of

government and politics are different to those of the commercial world. Consequently, effective leaders accustomed to getting things done often find Parliament and Whitehall frustrating.

The Fortescue Fellowship responds to this by identifying high-calibre leaders with substantial professional experience and equipping them to serve in public office.

On completing the Fellowship, participants will be equipped to pursue senior leadership roles in government as representatives, advisers, and executives; understand the distinctive challenges of operating in government institutions; and translate professional skills into the context of public administration.



What does the Fellowship cover?



The Fortescue Fellowship provides participants with an overview of routes into senior political and government roles. The bureaucratic complexity of British government institutions presents distinctive challenges for navigating and delivering within them. The Fellowship therefore enables leaders entering public life from other fields to translate their skills into the context of government.

Participants receive guidance on the practical realities of becoming effective legislators, advisers, and executives, and will become familiar with the respective challenges of operating within Parliament, ministerial offices and Whitehall departments.

The Fellowship will enable participants to hear from and discuss with leaders experienced in these roles. This will enable frank discussion of the obstacles to effective delivery at different stages of public administration. Through these sessions, participants will glean strategic and tactical insight distinctive

to the public realm as well as an appreciation of the personal pressures that can come with holding public office.

The communication challenges faced at different stages of public administration are distinct from those encountered in other sectors. Participants will be equipped with strategies for handling the regular cadence, intense scrutiny, and robust rhetoric of communication in the political realm. Opportunities to practice skills such as giving press conferences, broadcast interviews, press writing, and digital communication will be available.

The Fellowship will offer an opportunity to reflect on the personal and professional virtues needed to lead with character in public office. Through hearing from experienced public leaders about how, if they had their time again, they would have prepared themselves for public service, participants will be able to put themselves in the best position to serve with excellence.

What commitment is involved?



A small and highly selective cohort will come together for a structured programme lasting for ten weeks. Together, participants will join training days, evening workshops, online seminars, and preparatory work undertaken individually.

It is designed to be feasibly undertaken by senior professionals with pressured schedules. As such, engagements take place approximately once every two weeks, thereby striking a balance between time commitment and content substance.

Preparation will involve activities such as familiarising oneself with an area of public policy and using this to prepare (for training purposes) press articles, briefings, and speeches.

Overall, participants commit to preparing for, and joining, the following:

- One day-long training day on a weekday at the Prosperity Institute
- Three in-person evening training sessions at the Prosperity Institute
- Three online evening sessions held on Zoom
- One final afternoon and closing dinner in central London

On completion, participants will be invited to apply for enrolment in the Prosperity Institute's alumni network.

Who is eligible to participate?



The Fortescue Fellowship is open to capable leaders who share the Institute's mission to advance British prosperity. Applicants should be willing and able to take up senior positions of responsibility in government in the coming years.

Most applicants will have at least ten years' professional experience and have served in executive leadership positions. This is an approximate guide, not an absolute requirement, and exceptionally talented individuals at an earlier career stage will be eligible.

Applicants should be personally committed to taking up leadership roles as legislators, advisers, and executives in Parliament and Whitehall. A background in public affairs and / or administration is by no means a requirement. Indeed, it is

envisaged that the Fellowship will provide a point of entry into these fields for those with little or no experience of them.

Nevertheless, applicants should be able to demonstrate how their experience has enabled them to develop transferable skills relevant to these roles.

Applications are reviewed in the round. Leadership competence, demonstrated by an excellent professional track record, is necessary. We look for a commitment to public service in alignment with the Institute's vision to advance prosperity. In addition, we look for character; leaders primarily driven by a commitment to advance national prosperity rather than achieving power and public recognition for their own sake.





Applying to the Fortescue Fellowship

Places on the programme are limited. Therefore, we operate an application process which starts with submitting written materials through our online form. This requires:

- A CV detailing relevant professional, civic, military and / or voluntary experience
- A covering letter outlining personal motivation for entering public service and how the Fellowship will enable this.

Following submission, we review applications and candidates may be invited to one or more interviews either online or at the Prosperity Institute.

Successful applicants will be made a formal offer of participation. After this, an onboarding process will follow with orientation material provided.





FAQs

Are you a party-political organisation?

No. We are not affiliated with any political party. Participants from different parties are welcome.

Where will training sessions take place?

There will be nine training sessions overall. Training sessions will, for the most part, take place in person at the Prosperity Institute, 11 Charles Street, Mayfair. Two of them will be training days (on weekdays or a weekday afternoon) and three evening sessions at our premises. In addition, three training sessions will take place online.

What experience is needed to participate?

Applicants should make the case that they would be capable of taking up senior positions as representatives, legislators, advisers and executives in government. We ordinarily look for ten years' service as a professional or entrepreneur with senior executive experience. However, this is not an absolute requirement, and

exceptionally talented applicants will be considered at an earlier career stage.

What happens on completing the Fellowship?

On completing the Fortescue Fellowship, participants will be invited to apply for enrolment in our alumni programme, the Prosperity Leadership Network, as a Fortescue Fellow. Enrolment is not automatic and is an intentional step of commitment subsequent to completing the Fortescue Fellowship.

Will the Fellowship lead to a job in government?

The Fellowship is intended to put participants in a strong position to apply for and thrive within senior political and government roles. As part of the content, routes to positions in Parliament and Whitehall will be outlined, but as a non-governmental and non-party political organisation, we are not in a position directly to place anyone in government roles ourselves.

FAQs

Is there a cost to participation?

There is no fee to participate, as operational costs are covered by the Prosperity Institute. However, participants will need to cover costs of travel to and from the Institute and will need to take one and a half days' annual leave if in full-time employment to join the training days.

Is participation in all sessions mandatory?

Participants are expected to place strong priority on joining the sessions. This is important to ensure a culture of honour, to build relationships among the cohort and to glean the most from group activities. Participants must therefore inform us of any absences, providing justification in good time.



About the Prosperity Institute



The Prosperity Institute is committed to advancing and protecting the principles and ideas that create national prosperity.

We seek to ensure the United Kingdom is one of the world's most prosperous, innovative and inspiring democratic countries.

Our policy research and advocacy centre on areas that determine national prosperity such as national sovereignty, liberty, free markets, enterprise, energy, and the flourishing of families.





Why Fortescue?

Sir John Fortescue (1394-1479) was one of our most significant constitutional thinkers. He served as a Member of Parliament and later became Chief Justice of the King's Bench.

Deeply versed in principles of English constitutional government, he wrote landmark treatises explaining the institutional arrangements tending to cultivate national prosperity. One of these, *In Praise of the Laws of England*, was written to prepare the young Prince Edward for public leadership in the highest of offices as a constitutional monarch.

The core principle that animates his work is that English government is *politicum et regale*: political and royal. We have a monarchy, but it is a constitutional one in which power is not absolute and political accountability is indispensable.

In an era where concerns about the accountability of government institutions are highly salient, we feel his example of public service as a legislator and jurist, as well as the principles he defended, are a fitting name for this fellowship.

*“We shall now be able to enjoy our own goods
and live under justice, which we have not
done for a long time, God knows.”*



SIR JOHN FORTESCUE, *THE GOVERNANCE OF ENGLAND*, C. 1471.

Translation: Lockwood, 1997.



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