



The CARE
Leadership
Programme

The Institute
for Faith
& Culture





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My year as a CARE intern in 1996-1997 gave me invaluable insights into the life of an MP; the whole experience established my resolve to seek a career in Parliament. I will always value the training and relationships that were formed during this exhilarating year working in Westminster - even if one of the MPs I worked for lost his seat!"

Former Minister and current MP

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ABOUT THE LEADERSHIP PROGRAMME

For nearly 30 years CARE has been equipping a generation of Christians to be salt and light in our culture. This 12 month graduate programme gives a unique insight into Parliament, political advocacy and Christian leadership.

The Leadership Programme provides talented Christian graduates, who have a desire to serve the Lord in public life, the opportunity to experience a year in Parliament or a policy-shaping NGO.



For four days a week, graduates are placed with a Parliamentarian or in an NGO, helping with speech writing, research, advocacy and public relations. Most internships are London-based, but we also offer Parliamentary placements in Edinburgh at the Scottish Parliament and occasionally media and business placements. This eleven month educational programme provides a unique insight into Parliament and how it works.

Successful applicants are matched with an internship tailored to their interests and career plan.

Additionally, for one day a week, graduates participate in an intensive study programme that includes theology, political theory and training in leadership skills. The Programme includes termly residential weekends, essays, presentations and projects, pitched at post-graduate level.

Placements are with Parliamentarians across the political spectrum.

This is a purely educational programme. Graduates on the Leadership Programme do not work for CARE and are neither asked nor permitted to lobby on behalf of CARE.

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My time with a Liberal Democrat MP in Westminster was an incredibly eye-opening and fulfilling experience, giving an inside view into the way the world of politics works...I quickly had to get to grips with parliamentary procedures, Bills, how a busy MP's office runs...The programme was formative in cementing my faith, my worldview, my politics and my plans for the future."

Former CARE Leadership Programme Graduate

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"The leadership programme encouraged me to think about how to love God and neighbour in the public arena, and it opened up some great opportunities to do just that."

CEO of an NGO

IS IT FOR ME?

Education: applicants must have a strong academic track record, including a good University degree.

Experience: It is important for applicants to display previous areas of leadership and an interest in politics, media or social action at a grassroots or national level. This could include, but is not limited to: voluntary work for a charity, community action projects, student politics, writing for a university newspaper or involvement in radio broadcasting. All candidates must possess good interpersonal skills, enthusiasm, an excellent ability to communicate and, above all, a willingness to serve.

Faith: CARE's Statement of Faith is the driving force behind everything we do. Applicants will need to understand and be in agreement with it.

HOW DOES IT WORK?

How is the year structured?

The Leadership Programme is an eleven month, full-time commitment that runs from early September to the end of July each year. We begin with a month of intensive training and teaching. From October to the end of July, graduates spend four days each week in work placements arranged by CARE. The majority of placements are based in the Parliaments of the UK or the third sector, but participants can also be placed in media and business organisations. Every Friday, all members of the Programme gather in London for a day of study.

Support and mentoring

Each year we recruit around 10 graduates. This group of like-minded Christians working in similar

roles provides a unique supportive community.

In addition, each graduate is mentored individually. The support and personal development of each graduate is hugely important to us. The Leadership Programme is an intensive year of spiritual, professional, intellectual and emotional growth.

How does it work financially?

Some placements pay a salary, others are voluntary. If the placement is voluntary CARE can offer a monthly educational bursary which helps towards making the Programme accessible to any candidate. Generally, participants will need to supplement this bursary with some private fundraising or by finding particularly cheap accommodation.



To be on the CARE Leadership Programme is an extraordinary opportunity. The weekly contact with wise and experienced speakers and leaders, the chance to work at the centre of British politics, and the rigorous study programme are of huge value. Above all, however, is that we are gathered as graduates from across the political spectrum - yet, united in Christ, we can have the deepest of honest and gracious conversations about life, faith, and politics. It is a rare and beautiful thing"

Former CARE Leadership Programme Graduate

PLACEMENTS

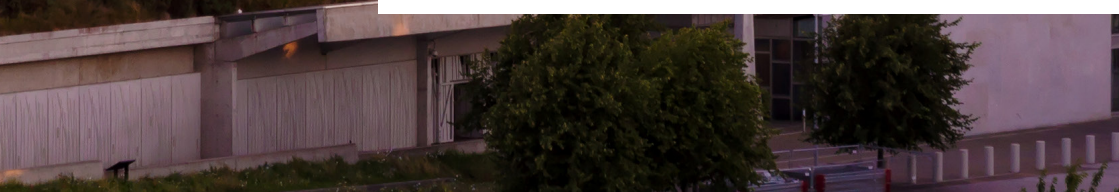
How do placements work?

Each placement runs from October to July. All placements are organised by CARE. Once you have been accepted onto the Programme, CARE commits to finding you a placement for year. We seek to give each graduate a placement that matches their interests and career aspirations.

Most placements are in the office of a Parliamentarian. Graduates work for Members of Parliament in Westminster, Peers in the House of Lords or Members of the Scottish Parliament in Edinburgh. These placements span all the main political parties and provide an exceptional insight into the workings of Parliament and the life of political leaders.

We also offer placements in the advocacy teams of Non-Governmental Organisations. Examples include Christian Solidarity Worldwide, Tearfund, Epiphany Trust and XLP. These placements provide great insight into political advocacy and the not-for-profit sector.

Every placement provides a challenging experience which helps equip our graduates for future success and leadership. The work involved is broad: graduates gain experience in research, public relations, marketing, media engagement, speech writing, administrative tasks, advocacy and campaigning. Many alumni use these experiences to build careers in politics, advocacy work, charitable work or business.



WHAT YOU WILL STUDY

The study programme is pitched at postgraduate level. It gives graduates the space to think through a wide variety of crucial questions, including:

- What is the role of Christianity in politics?
- How has God gifted you? How can your gifts be used in the public square?
- What does faithfulness in the workplace look like?
- What is the relationship between social justice and evangelism?
- What sort of leadership does Jesus model?
- How should Christians engage with culture?

- What does the Bible say about the role of government?
- What makes an exceptional leader?

The Programme involves weekly seminars, reading, discussion groups, termly essays and presentations. We work hard to bring in a variety of outside speakers who are experts in their field. We are looking to cultivate an intellectually and Biblically rigorous approach to addressing contemporary cultural issues.

Once a term we do a residential study weekend, one of which is usually abroad. These provide an opportunity to reflect more deeply on a particular topic.



FAQs

I don't live in the UK, does this mean I can't apply?

While we are happy to accept overseas applications, you must be able to attend a selection day in London should you be successful in the first stage of the application process.

I applied to the Programme last year. Can I apply again?

If you have applied for the Programme in previous years and been unsuccessful, you are welcome to submit an application again.

I will be unable to attend the Selection Day, does this exclude me from applying?

Yes. If you are successful in the first stage of the application process you must be able to attend the Selection Day in London.

Is there an upper age limit for applicants?

While there is no official age limit for the Programme, please bear in mind that the Programme is designed for and aimed at recent graduates in their early twenties.

Do I have to apply online?

As a general rule we cannot accept paper-based applications or CVs. However, if you have a valid reason for being unable to complete an application online, please contact us directly.





CARE
FOR WHAT
YOU BELIEVE

The Institute
for Faith
& Culture



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