

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE UK 2014/15

About the Programme

The aim of the programme *Professional Development in the UK* is to strengthen capacity of Serbian public administration in the process of accession to the EU. This programme continues the good practice of the EU-funded project *Speak European* which provided internships for 29 civil and public servants and employees of local self-governments in a number of institutions in Belgium, Italy, Ireland, the Netherlands and the UK. This is also a continuation of the *Internships Programme in the UK*, which was organised for 14 Serbian representatives in two cycles during 2013 and 2014.

The programme envisages work placements in UK institutions for up to eight civil and public servants in duration of six or four weeks over January and February 2015. The programme targets members of negotiation groups for Serbia's accession to the European Union who will be going through the selection process in September-October 2014.

Professional Development in the UK is funded by the British Embassy and is implemented by the British Council in cooperation with the Serbian European Integration Office, in the period August 2014 – March 2015.

Who can apply?

Applications are open to members of 35 negotiation groups for accession of the Republic of Serbia to the EU.

Applications will be evaluated based on job relevance, overall application quality and the level of English language skills of the candidate.

Programme participants need to be able to communicate fluently and effectively in English language from the date of arrival, and be able to work and participate in all work-related activities in the country of placement. Language tests will be applied as appropriate by the British Council to ensure that each candidate is able to fully satisfy this condition. All four English skills will be tested: writing, reading, listening and speaking.

Testing of English ([Aptis test](#)) will be organised only for the shortlisted candidates.

British Council and Serbian European Integration Office are committed to a policy of [equal opportunity](#) and welcome applicants from all communities. We work to ensure that people are not unjustifiably discriminated against on the basis of age, disability, ethnicity, gender, religion or belief, sexual orientation or any other irrelevant grounds.

What costs does the Programme cover?

The Programme will cover the following costs:

- UK visa costs
- Airfare: one return ticket, economy class, from Belgrade to the location of placement
- Travel/health insurance
- Local transportation at the location of placement. This is a fixed amount for each participant.
- Allowance for accommodation. This is a fixed amount for each participant.
- “Dnevnice” in the RSD counter value of GBP 55 per night.
Important note: this is to subsidise daily allowance for a business trip (dnevnice za službeno putovanje) that you are entitled to by Serbian law. Your home institution should pay only the difference, if any, to the full amount of daily allowance for your business trip.

Funds for some of the costs listed above will be transferred to the intern’s bank account in RSD (e.g. “dnevnice”). Some of the costs will be covered directly by the British Council.

The Programme will not provide an allowance for any loss of earnings resulting from the candidate’s absence from normal work duties in Serbia.

The Programme will not provide funds or cover costs of field visits, participation at seminars, conferences, trips out of the place of residence and similar activities.

Applying for the Programme

The applicants should complete an online application form. Links to the application form are available on the websites of the Serbian European Integration Office (www.seio.gov.rs) and the British Council (www.britishcouncil.rs).

The application form is in English and you are required to complete it in English.

The deadline for submitting applications is **21 September 2014 (23:59)**.

The selection schedule

The selection process will take place from 25 August until 3 October 2014, and it will consist of the following stages:

Application deadline	Sunday, 21 September 2014
English language testing in Belgrade (APTIS)	25 or 26 September (tbc)
Interview in Belgrade in English	30 Sept or 1 October (tbc)
English Speaking testing	1 or 2 October (tbc)

The final results are expected on 6 October 2014 at the earliest.

About the work placements

The specific location of each work placement within the UK will be decided on a case by case basis.

It is expected that the work placements will start in mid-January and finish by beginning of March 2015.

A meeting with the programme alumni will be organised prior to the trip to the UK which is an opportunity for networking, getting tips and support from colleagues.

During the stay in the UK all programme participants and their UK superiors/mentors will be visited by the programme monitor.

Upon return from the UK, all programme participants will be expected to contribute to sharing and presentation of knowledge and experience gained through participation in the internship, at the final presentations event and with your colleagues in your employing and other public institutions.

Final presentations event will be organised in mid-March 2015 by the British Council (date to be confirmed).

Presentation of work experience in the UK is mandatory for all programme participants.

For additional information you may contact:

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