Generation Purpose

EARLY TALENT TOOLKIT

UK Government Graduate Schemes and Internships October 2026 edition

A strategic toolkit for students, graduates & careers advisers consolidating live undergraduate and graduate opportunities from across the UK Government, Local Government Association & Parliament from October 2026

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Notice: This toolkit is an independent resource published by Generation Purpose and is not an official UK Government product. Information consolidates live employer campaigns recruiting from October 2026.

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Empowering the Next Generation of Purposeful Leaders



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Hi aspiring Government professionals,

I'm Anum Ahmed, a proud British Muslim with Pakistani and South African heritage, born and raised in East London to parents from the teaching profession.

Over 12 years ago, I began my Civil Service career via the now defunct Department for International Development's Graduate Scheme. Since then, I have become a **social justice policy expert, delivering national and international Prime Ministerial policy priorities** from climate change to children's social care, working across a range of central Government departments, including, at the **Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office, Office for Equality and Opportunity, Cabinet Office and the Department for Education**.

Alongside my Government career, I've passionately used my platform to empower the next generation of social impact talent - sharing my industry knowledge, lessons and acting as a guiding light for young people to realise their career ambitions. Now more and than ever before, I'm determined to equip our diverse early talent workforce with the confidence and tools to make a purposeful contribution to society, which is why I've recently pivoted from my civil service career and founded **Generation Purpose**. I offer a varied package of tailored services for young professionals, schools, universities and youth organisations, catalysing young people to land purposeful roles that will have real world impact.

In Oct 2025, I made a viral post consolidating live Government grad schemes, reaching 36,000+ LinkedIn users! I then spoke directly with undergrads about their biggest challenges with navigating Government grad schemes and the resounding consensus was disparate information, making it difficult to know what's out there and what's relevant to them. I knew I could offer them a solution, so I spent the Summer of 2026 creating the **first ever toolkit designed for students and grads to learn about live UK Government & Parliament grad schemes and internships all in one place**.

The idea is that this toolkit will help maximise your knowledge and time, supporting you with making an informed decision about which opportunities are best suited to your skills and interests and producing impactful applications instead of having to endlessly scrolling through multiple job boards!

Good luck to everyone preparing or applying for the opportunities featured here and remember even if your desired route into Government doesn't work out – learn, pivot and use your transferrable skills to secure meaningful roles in think tanks, charities and wider public sector organisations. **YOU'VE GOT THIS!**

How to Maximise This Toolkit: User Guide

Scope & Focus

This toolkit is **designed for students and graduates navigating a multitude of professional opportunities that are live from October 2026** across the UK Parliament, central and local Government.

The information included in this resource has been taken directly from the employer's official websites and **serves only as a consolidation of existing information all in one accessible place.** Whilst this is not a UK Government product, it has been developed using my professional experience as a former civil servant of 12 years.

Use this resource to deepen your understanding of the diverse student internships and graduate-level opportunities available and to develop a targeted application strategy.

There are several other graduate schemes across Government and the wider public sector that are outside of the scope of this time-bound toolkit found here: https://publicsectorgradschemes.

Audience

→ **For students in their first two years of university**:

- Use this toolkit to learn about live internships and sandwich programmes across the civil service which will strengthen your experience and exposure to a Government career.
- Identify your preferred graduate scheme(s) early-on, so you can use your time strategically throughout university to build your skills and experience aligned with your preferred schemes' criteria and be best prepared for when you do apply in final year.

→ **For final year students and those who have recently graduated**:

- Use this toolkit to develop to shortlist your chosen schemes(s) and submit tailored applications.

→ **For careers advisers and youth employment organisations:**

- Use this toolkit to guide your students and graduates about the plethora of opportunities available in October, alongside the openly advertised roles in Parliament, the civil service and local councils throughout the year.

Guidance

The content in this toolkit will be up to date at the point at which it was published (12.10.2026), it cannot account for any subsequent changes made by employers once opportunities have gone live. **It is therefore advisable to cross-reference the information within this toolkit with that available on the employer's official websites** (as hyperlinked throughout this pack).

This toolkit should be used to help you broaden your knowledge of live opportunities that are best aligned to your motivations, interests, skills and experience. As with any careers support aide, using this toolkit cannot guarantee you a successful application.

If you are unsuccessful within this round of graduate schemes, you can apply next year (if eligible) and you can also consider applying directly for local council roles and roles across 450+ civil service organisations advertised on www.civilservicejobs.gov.uk.

If you have **specific questions** about any of the opportunities featured here**, please contact the relevant scheme employer** (contact information can typically be found on their official websites).

I would welcome your feedback on how this toolkit could be improved for future iterations both in terms of accessibility and content, therefore, please do share these via contact@generationpurpose.co.uk.

Understanding the UK Government Landscape



PILLAR 01

UK Parliament

As the UK's supreme legislative authority, Parliament operates across two chambers—the elected House of Commons and the appointed House of Lords—to perform three main functions: scrutinising government actions, drafting and passing legislation, and approving public spending.

Graduates can serve as parliamentary clerks for select committees and as researchers for MPs and Peers via the Houses of Parliament Graduate Development Programme.



PILLAR 02

Central Government

The civil service is responsible for formulating national policy, implementing legislation passed by Parliament, and managing public services and finances.

Graduates can be responsible for translating political priorities into actionable policy, analysing complex data, managing public budgets, and delivering the frontline public services that directly impact daily life across the nation.

Graduates can apply via graduate schemes featured in this pack as well as others released at other points in the year or apply directly for roles across 450+ civil service organisations advertised via www.civilservicejobs.gov.uk.



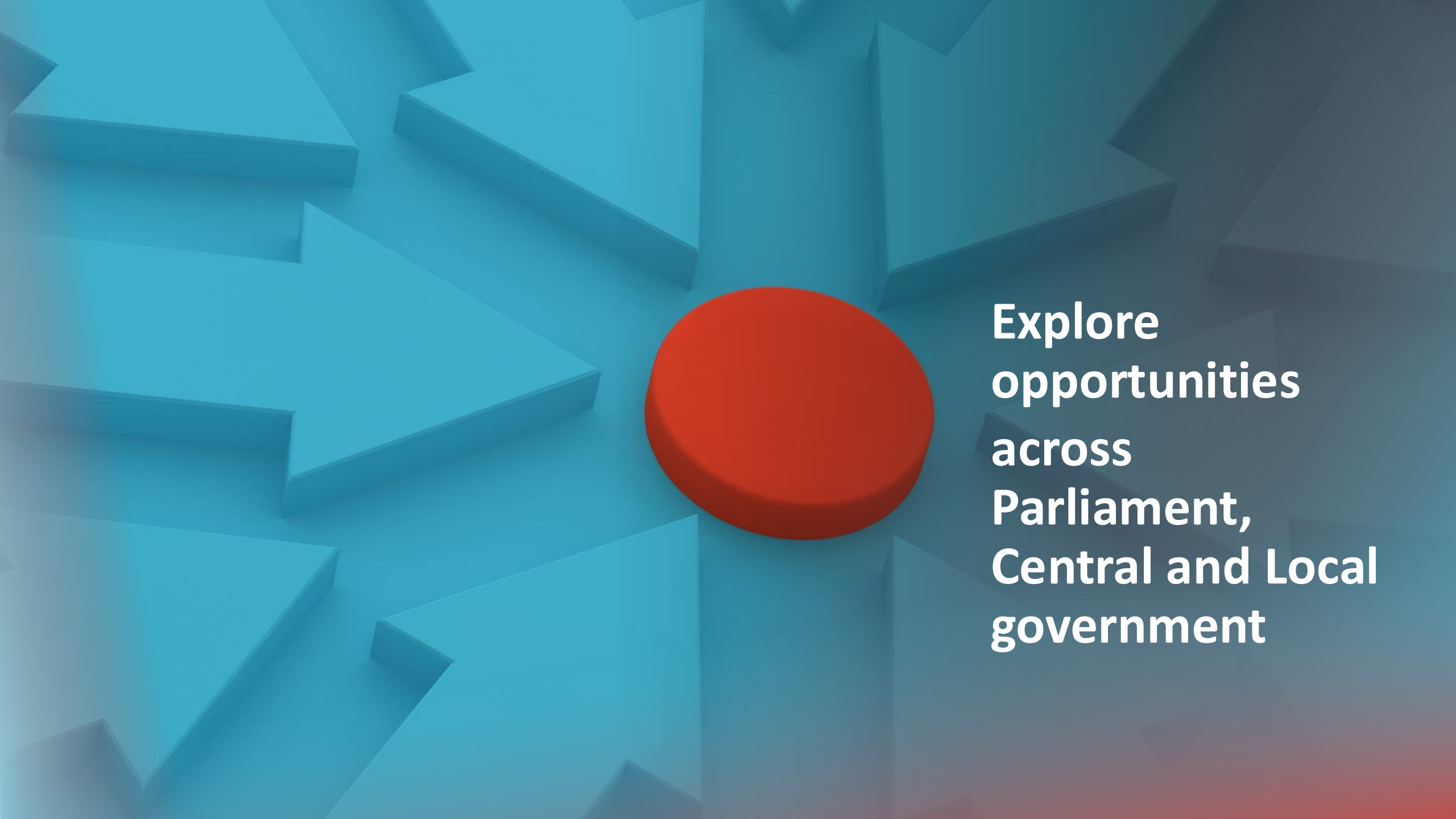
PILLAR 03

Local Government

Elected local councils and their administrative officers are responsible for designing and delivering essential public services directly tailored to the specific needs of local communities - managing local planning, social care, housing, public health, waste management, and local economic development.

Graduates can apply via local government grad schemes as featured in this pack or for specialist roles directly via council websites. Local government careers offers direct, visible impact, placing you on the frontline of community leadership, localised crisis management, cross-sector partnership, and hands-on execution of public services that directly shape citizens' daily environment.

Watch this video for local government career insights.


Explore opportunities across Parliament, Central and Local government

PARLIAMENT SCHEME

Houses of Parliament Graduate Development Programme

The Houses of Parliament Graduate Development Programme allows you to play a part in the political events that will shape the future of our nation.

You'll work with politicians from across the political spectrum on a day-to-day basis, helping to scrutinise government policy and support the UK's parliamentary processes.

Employed by the House of Commons (not the civil service).

Location: Central London

Duration: 2–4 Years

Salary: £32k (£57k+ after promotion)

Apply here by midday Thursday 5th November

Programme Overview

Serve as parliamentary clerks in the House of Commons. Manage select committee inquiries, host evidence sessions, support Chamber business, and assist in drafting and passing UK legislation.

Watch this video to find out more about the expectations of the programme from those who have experienced it firsthand.

Eligibility Criteria

- **Achieved or expecting 2:2 degree or higher in any degree discipline**
- **UK work eligibility & UK residency for 3 of last 5 years**
- **Able to demonstrate the following skills:**
  - excellent written and oral communication skills
  - the ability to build and maintain effective working relationships
  - the potential to provide politically impartial advice
  - skills in analysis and rapidly acquiring knowledge in unfamiliar areas
  - influencing and persuasion skills

The Houses of Parliament Graduate Scheme is not part of the Civil Service Fast Stream, but you can apply for it alongside the Fast Stream as one of your three preferences.

Generation Purpose

Want to see the rest….

Find the prefect opportunity by downloading the complete toolkit here with a £5 payment: https://generationpurpose.co.uk/resource-hub

The full toolkit gives you information about all 11 UK Government paid opportunities, a 4 step shortlisting strategy to help you choose the right schemes to apply to and inspiring testimonials from recent Government graduates!

What are you waiting for?