Parliamentary Internship Programme

A collaboration between the British Society for Antimicrobial Chemotherapy (BSAC) and Baroness Bennett of Manor Castle, Green Party Peer, and Secretary of the All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on Antibiotics

Part-time / Fixed-term

Virtual / Houses of Parliament

Start: September 2022

OPEN TO ALL STUDENTS WHO ARE EXISTING OR PROSPECTIVE BSAC MEMBERS AND ENROLLED ON A UK PhD PROGRAMME

About the Programme

This programme offers a unique opportunity for students undertaking a PhD in the UK to engage directly with the inner workings of government. All candidates must be a BSAC Member – or be in the process of applying to be a BSAC Member.

BSAC represents one of the world’s most influential networks of infection specialists (including, but not limited to, infectious disease physicians, microbiologists, pharmacists, researchers, and nurses).

This programme is one of the ways in which the Society hopes to foster a greater understanding between the scientists and healthcare professionals in its network, and the politicians and policymakers who make the laws and set the budgets which impact the collective effort to save lives by fighting infection.

Successful candidates will work 7 hours per week (0.2 FTE) alongside their academic studies – and will be paid via BSAC payroll at the rate of National Living Wage. Each placement will run for six months, with the potential to extend for a further six months, following a review.

About the Role

Interns will work alongside Baroness Bennett and BSAC, with the opportunity to observe and, indirectly, contribute to the proceedings of the Lords. They will work independently and through the wider Westminster network that includes APPGs, select committees, and awareness-raising events.

Individuals will work with Baroness Bennett and BSAC to identify and agree areas of forthcoming business, providing research support, written briefings or summaries, preparation for committees and support to all aspects of the Lords, including:

- Legislation
- In-depth considerations of public policy
- Holding government to account
This is an ideal opportunity for candidates looking to bring their academic studies to life by developing knowledge and skills, while gaining invaluable experiences and contacts.

Core tasks will include:

- Horizon scan for forthcoming issues that lie within Baroness Bennett’s areas of interest
- Analysis, evaluation, and interpretation of data to ensure they are accurately informed
- Preparation and presentation of research and analysis for the purposes of briefing notes for committees, articles, and press releases
- Preparation and presentation of research and analysis for drafting of oral and written questions
- Preparation and presentation of research and analysis for spoken contributions in debates
- Research into aspects of legislation and policy to support engagement with bills at all their stages in the Lords
- Research into specific policy areas, as agreed, to support development of Private Members’ Bills
- Drawing, where possible, on peer reviewed evidence as it pertains to issues of interest
- Monitoring media coverage and briefing accordingly
- Advising on policy matters
- Keeping abreast of developments relating to key issues of interest, as agreed, to ensure she is well informed in a fast-changing environment
- Dealing with particularly complex queries on the Peer’s behalf, including drafting letters
- Communicating findings and insights to fellow BSAC members

The above list of responsibilities may not be exhaustive, and the post holder will be required to undertake such tasks and responsibilities as may reasonably be expected within the scope and grading of the post.

Desirable criteria

Knowledge

- Knowledge and/or awareness of the UK policy landscape
- Demonstratable interest and understanding of the Parliamentary and legislative processes

Skills and attributes

- Application of both qualitative and quantitative research methods, specifically those applied in social research, data management and statistics
- Excellent and concise writing skills, including reports and briefings
- Ability to review documentation, policy and reports and clearly articulate salient points to different audiences
- Ability to confidently present findings to different audiences and Parliamentarians
- Confidence and ability to work flexibly, coping with multiple tasks, projects and reports and competing demands in an agile fashion
- Collaborative approaches to delivery – solution-orientated, pro-active and self-motivated
- Strong interpersonal skills and the ability to communicate clearly, concisely and persuasively in writing, and orally
• Ability to work independently where needed
• Ability to communicate complex information clearly in a multi-faceted environment to Peers and a range of other stakeholders at various levels of seniority.

Experience

• Experience working in a policy-related field
• Strong digital capabilities, including use of business communication platforms and research packages.

Further information

Your application should consist of a CV and a cover letter, clearly setting out how you meet the desirable criteria. These documents will help the recruiting panel shortlist for interviews.

Timeline

• Application deadline: Friday August 5
• Interviews [via video call]: w/c August 15
• Start date: w/c September 5

Applications – and all enquiries – should be directed to Michael Corley, BSAC’s Head of Policy and Public Affairs via mcorley@bsac.org.uk.

Placement will be conducted in a hybrid fashion – remotely but with potential for undertaking work on the Parliamentary Estate (following COVID guidance and at the discretion of Baroness Bennett and BSAC). It is anticipated that each intern will be given at least three opportunities to visit UK Parliament during the course of their placement. A travel and out of pocket expenses allowance will be made available for this purpose on the basis of securing advance approval from BSAC.