



A message from Sam...

“I am incredibly proud of the work of economists in the civil service.

Our relevant, rigorous and respected analysis has put us at the heart of major policy decisions over the years and the GES has come to be recognised as a highly effective body of professional economists.

A key part of this is our commitment to having a diverse workforce, attracting the brightest and the best, and creating an environment in which economists from all backgrounds thrive and succeed.”

- Sam Beckett, Head of the GES



Sam Beckett



Government Economic Service (GES)

- Our members are based across the UK. Including **London, Darlington, Bristol, Cardiff, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Leeds, Liverpool, Manchester, Newcastle, Newport, Sheffield** and **Titchfield**
- Remote working may be considered, depending on business needs.
- **Eligibility:** EU & EEA (2021 update), Commonwealth, Swiss, Turkish

Largest recruiter of economists
in the

UK

3,000+

professionals across
government



Government
Economic
Service



What departments do our economists work for?



HM Revenue
& Customs



Department
for Transport



Office of the
Advocate General
for Scotland



Department for Levelling Up,
Housing & Communities



Department for
Business & Trade



The Scottish
Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba



Cabinet Office



HM Treasury



Ministry
of Defence



Department
for Work &
Pensions



UK Government Scotland



Office of the Leader
of the House of Lords



Department for
Science, Innovation,
& Technology



Department
of Health &
Social Care



Department
for Culture
Media & Sport



Ministry
of Justice



Office for
National Statistics



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government



Department
for Education



Department for
Energy Security
& Net Zero



Home Office



Northern
Ireland
Office

And many more!



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs



Foreign, Commonwealth
& Development Office



Office of the Leader
of the House of Commons



Wales Office



What do government economists do?

The central role played by economists in government will become increasingly important as we move towards new economic arrangements for the UK and the associated challenges.

- **Analysing evidence to inform policy**
- **Advising on choices and alternatives**
- **Bridging gaps between academia and government**
 - **Advising how markets work**
 - **Advising on macro-economic policy**



Role of Government economists

**Competition
policy and
regulation**

**Behavioural
Economics**

**Macroeconomic
modelling**

**Competition
policy and
regulation**

Taxation

**Welfare and
Employment**

**Labour
Market
Analysis**

**Public
Health**

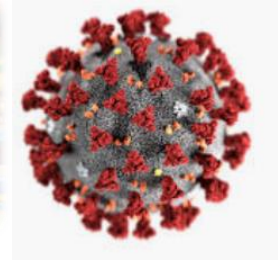
**Criminal
Justice**

My Journey


Department
for Transport




Department
of Health &
Social Care




Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs




Department
for Education




Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs



Sandwich Placement


Brunel
University
London


Department
for Work &
Pensions


European Union
European Social Fund
Investing in jobs and skills



Learning and development



**Formal training
(Civil Service & Department)**



Reading groups



**External lectures
(LSE, UCL, Chatham House)**



Conferences and Seminars



Secondment opportunities



Networking



Other benefits



**Influence government
thinking and policy**



**Make a difference
on important issues**



**Work-life balance
(flexible working)**



**Great variety
of locations**



**Season ticket loans
and cycle to work
scheme**



**Sport and social
activities**



**RCTs
(Randomised Coffee
Trails)**



GES Sandwich Placement

Our sandwich year scheme is designed to give students a taste of working as an economist in government. During your 9-12 months, you will be an integral team member, working on issues that society faces and influencing policy decisions. The scheme also comes with a guaranteed interview for our graduate schemes.

Entry Requirements*:

- Undergraduate students in their penultimate year of undergraduate study and are on track for a 2:1 or first.

Application Process:

- Online application form
- Numerical test

Eligibility Requirements*:

- Nationality (UK/EU & EEA (2021 update), Commonwealth, Swiss, Turkish)

Application dates:

- **Applications open:**
 - Wednesday 18th October 2023
- **Applications close:**
 - Tuesday 7th November 2023

Key Facts

- Salary of at least £20k (2022 figure)
- Work on the real issues facing society
- Excellent exposure to high-level stakeholders & ministers
- Positions across government
- Fast track to a graduate role



GES Summer Placement

Our vacation scheme is similar to our placement year but for 6 or 12 weeks instead of the entire year. Our scheme looks to students interested in a career in economics and who are keen to experience what a career would be like in government.

Entry Requirements*:

- Undergraduate students in their penultimate year of undergraduate study and are on track for a 2:1 or first.

Application Process:

- Online application form
- In-person interview

• Eligibility Requirements*:

Nationality (UK/EU & EEA (2021 update), Commonwealth, Swiss, Turkish)

Application dates:

- **Applications open:**
 - 8th January 2024
- **Applications close:**
 - 5th February 2024

Key Facts

- Work on the real issues facing society
- Excellent exposure to high level stakeholders & ministers
- Positions across government



GES Fast Stream

On the Government Economic Service Fast Stream you'll embark on a career path in economics that influences policy, shapes the government's response to the key issues of the day, and helps to improve the delivery of public services.

Entry Requirements*:

- 2.1 or above in economics, or for combined degrees, at least 50% of the modules must have been economics

Application Process:

- Online application form and tests
- Video interview
- Invite to an assessment centre

Eligibility Requirements*:

- Nationality (UK/EU & EEA (2021 update), Commonwealth, Swiss, Turkish)

- **Applications open:**
 - Thursday 12th October 2023
- **Applications close:**
 - Thursday 9th November 2023

Key Facts

- Tailored to provide accelerated progression
- Starting salary of at least £28k (2022 figure)
- Promotion to Economic Advisor within 3 years, with a salary of £45k+ (2022 figure)
- Make a real difference on the issues facing our society



GES Assistant Economist Scheme

This is a recruitment scheme for economics graduates which sits beside the fast stream as a main route into a role as an Assistant Economist in the Government Economic Service. To help us deliver analysis we are looking for over 100 economists to join us and influence the day-to-day lives of every person in the UK.

Entry Requirements*:

- 2.1 or above in economics, or for combined degrees, at least 50% of the modules must have been economics

Application Process:

- Online application form and tests
- Video interview

Eligibility Requirements*:

Nationality (UK/EU & EEA (2021 update), Commonwealth, Swiss, Turkish)

Application dates:

- **Applications open:**
 - 5th Feb 2024
- **Applications close:**
 - 18th March 2024

Key Facts

- Starting salary of at least £27k (2022 figure)
- Heart of every decision the government makes
- Great progression and development opportunities
- 100+ hired a year, which leads to a great social life
- Being involved in meaningful work that makes headline/front pages news, which impacts the day to day lives of citizens across the county



Government
Economic
Service

Economic Assessment Centre (EAC)

You will be assessed against 3 competencies throughout the EAC:

- Knowledge of Economics
- Application of Economics
- Communication

You must pass all three competencies to be successful at the Economist Assessment Centre

Technical report: 30 mins

Short answer questions: 30 mins

Presenting your technical report and follow up questions: 20 mins

Interview (including discussion on specialist topic and behaviour questions): 20 mins



EAC Exercises

- **Technical report**
 - Given a question beforehand with a reading list. Understand the topic but focus on economic theory. Practice a few times before the day as you'll have to write it on the day. You then will have to present it to non-economists.
- **Short Answer questions**
 - 10 questions, mix of micro, macro and 1 econometrics question. Usually only cover 1 year economics in there questions. Later on they will give you a chance to answer these verbally after the presentation.
- **Strong topic to present**
 - You will need to give a topic to your assessor of which they will ask you questions on. Don't pick something too broad or narrow. Good examples include Inflation, monetary policy, macro-stability, growth, international trade, labour markets



Top tips for EAC

- **Technical report**

- Quick intro, including rationale for intervention. Economic arguments for intervention are Economic arguments against intervention are.
- The key word here is economic arguments, **don't get side tracked especially around the topic**
- Refer briefly to empirical findings from reading list in your arguments and conclusion but don't get too hung up.
- Last years question was: Should the government introduce a tax on unhealthy foods?

- **Short Answer questions**

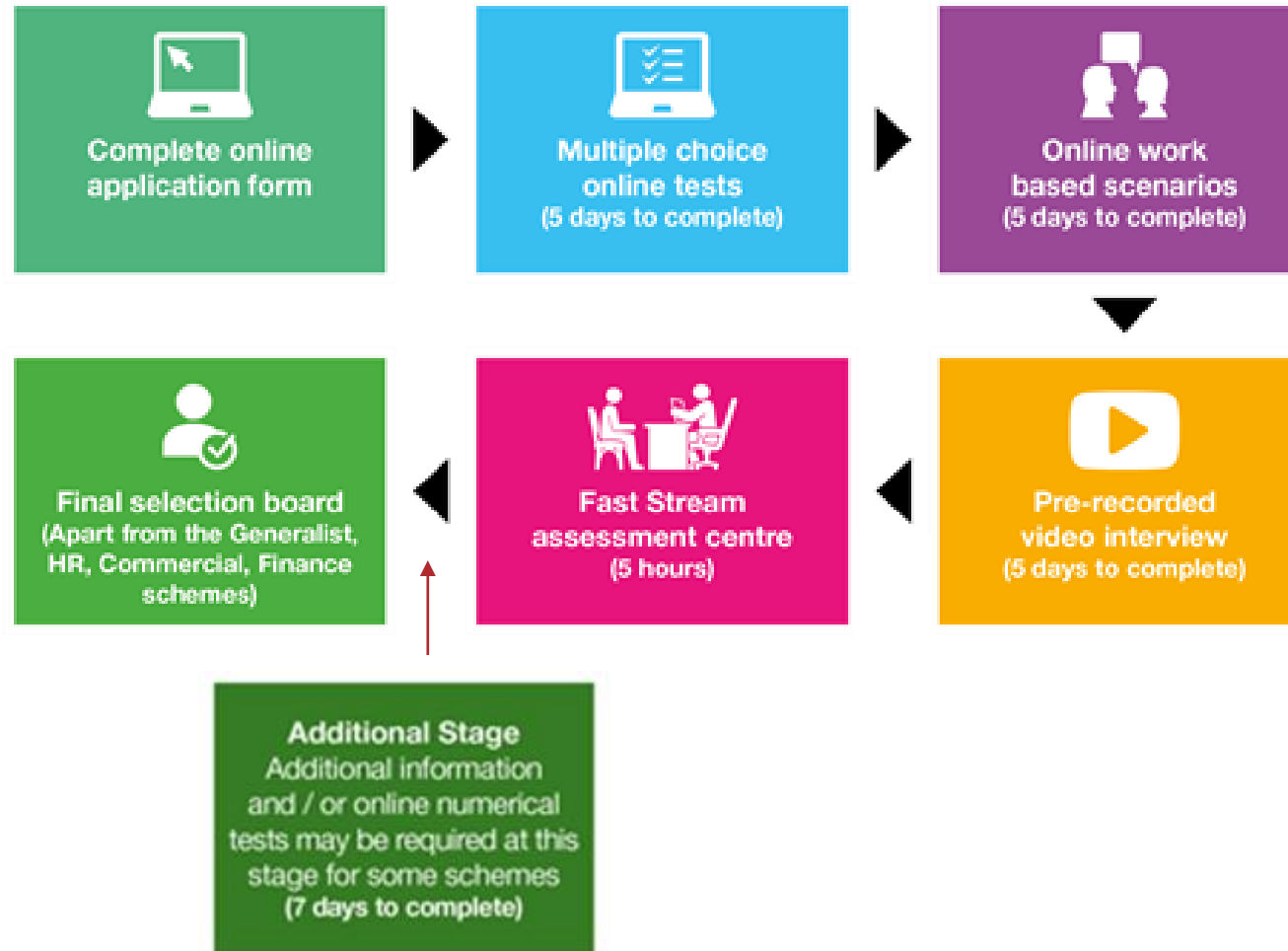
- Scan the questions through so that you complete answers for those items that you can answer most easily
- The pass mark is only 40 per cent and will have a further opportunity to demonstrate the breadth of your knowledge during the interview
- Keep your answers brief - avoid spending more than 3 minutes on each question
- The questions can be very applied - always think back to first principles
- Think what key economic terms assessors might want you to cover in your answer

- **Strong topic to present**

Pick the area of economics you are most comfortable showing a well rounded knowledge of
You might need to demonstrate your ability to think things through from first principles



Fast Stream Application Process





FSAC Exercises

- **Group Exercise**
 - Given fictional projects and ask to agree as a group. You would be going into the meeting representing a government department and aim is to come out with a agreement on a project.
- **Analysis Exercise**
 - Analyse issues and results. Headings are provided and you would have to out in a recommendation based on the evidence present
- **Leadership Exercise**
 - Designed to test your ability to take on a leadership role, dealing with team members and stakeholders. Assessor will be your senior manager and you will play the role of a new line manager of a team of project.



Top tips for FSAC

- **Leadership exercise**
 - Make the most of the preparation time by really familiarising yourself with the brief so you are confident in what you present. This will really help with the questions! You can take notes in and write down a few key stats to use in your presentation. Don't say all your points in the first question otherwise you'll have nothing else to say.
- **Group exercise**
 - Get 3 solid points for the project your supporting, and then spend time in picking apart others so you have some counter arguments. Think of it like a friendly debate.
- **Analysis exercise**
 - A lot of material to read so be specific on what you need. Look at the sources and how you use them (e.g. cost of something would need a reliable source, but you may use opinion pieces from newspapers to highlight the risk of a policy). Important to ensure your using the information from different sources in the most appropriate way.



Questions?





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