

BLAVATNIK SCHOOL OF GOVERNMENT

PUBLIC LEADERS PROGRAMMES



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Take the next step



LEVEL UP YOUR LEADERSHIP

Today's fast-paced and complex world requires public leaders ready to tackle unexpected challenges and drive superior performance.

Designed to support leaders at senior levels in the public sector, our Public Leaders Programmes blend cutting-edge research with practice to equip participants with the skills, knowledge and frameworks essential for leading at scale. Whether you're a rising public leader or an experienced head of a public organisation, our unique, immersive programmes will allow you to learn from world-renowned scholars and leading practitioners, building life-long connections with like-minded peers.

Enhanced skills to meet the demands of the 21st century.



Communicate effectively

Explore how leaders of public organisations communicate to best impact.



Reduce cognitive bias in decision-making

Explore different forms of bias and the consequences for decision-making.



Harness digital technology

You will explore the complex political, regulatory, and technological challenges leaders face, using a case study on the development of 5G technology.



Negotiate in the public interest

Hone your skills in negotiating through complex and high-stakes situations to achieve outcomes that are wise, durable and in the public interest.



Strengthen organisational effectiveness

Gain insight into the patterns and dynamics of organisational reform and what evidence there is to support strategies of radical reform or incremental improvement.



Building integrity

Develop a strong framework to understand and address ethical dilemmas, and be empowered to lead teams with robust ethical cultures.



EXECUTIVE PUBLIC LEADERS PROGRAMME

Building excellence, connecting public leaders

[Register your interest](#)

AT A GLANCE

- Fee:** £18,000 per person
(Includes accommodation, meals, tuition, programme materials, executive coaching and extracurricular activities)
- Duration:** 12 days
- Language:** English
- Held in Oxford**

Typical class profile



Job titles include:
Attorney General,
Secretary General,
Chief Executive,
Deputy Governor

As a senior executive in government, an agency, ministry or a multilateral organisation, you are tasked with leading through complexity. From digital transformation and institutional reform to cross-sector collaboration and global diplomacy, your decisions carry weight far beyond your organisation.

The Executive Public Leaders Programme is designed for those at the forefront of public service. Delivered over two weeks by Oxford's world-class faculty and expert practitioners, this highly interactive experience equips you with the skills and frameworks to drive meaningful change throughout the institution you lead and across the public sector.

WHAT YOU WILL GAIN

- STRATEGIC INSIGHT:** Engage with the latest research and global case studies that challenge conventional thinking and illustrate new pathways for public leadership.
- PEER LEARNING:** Collaborate with a diverse cohort of senior leaders, sharing experiences, solving problems and building lasting networks.
- PERSONALISED COACHING:** Receive one-on-one guidance from experienced leadership coaches to refine your approach and strengthen your influence.
- APPLIED LEARNING:** Translate theory into action through simulations, debates, and real-world problem-solving tailored to your organisational context.

IS THIS YOU?

This programme is for senior public sector leaders who:

- Hold the top-level position in a government department, agency, ministry or multilateral organisation, or are preparing to step into such a role within two years.
- Seek to strengthen their leadership across people, technology and institutional culture.
- Value rigorous learning, global perspectives and practical application.
- Are committed to shaping the future of public service with excellence, effectiveness and integrity.

“A fantastic wake-up call – [the programme] took many of us with senior but partial experience and widened the spotlight, putting our shared experiences into a powerful context. A lot of practical ideas, and things to mull over. And fantastic socially.
”

Vijay Rangarajan
UK Ambassador to Brazil

“The Executive Public Leaders Programme has changed me as a person, leader and public servant. [...] I also feel better equipped to help our new generation of New Zealand public service leaders on their professional journeys.
”

Hoani Lambert
Deputy Chief Executive
Department of Internal Affairs
New Zealand Government



RISING PUBLIC LEADERS PROGRAMME

Propelling rising public sector leaders to the top

[Register your interest](#)

AT A GLANCE

- Fee: £10,250 per person (Includes accommodation, meals, tuition, programme materials, executive coaching and extracurricular activities)
- Duration: six days
- Language: English
- Held in Oxford

Typical class profile



Job titles include:
Secretary to the State
Government, Director of
Finance, Chief of Staff to
the Prime Minister,
Deputy Prefect

As a high-performing public sector professional, you are already making a meaningful impact. But the next step, toward senior leadership, requires a broader perspective and strategic insight.

The Rising Public Leaders Programme is designed to support your transition into a top leadership role over the next three to seven years. Through an intensive, hands-on learning experience, you will build the capabilities, confidence and global outlook needed to lead major public institutions in a rapidly evolving world.

WHAT YOU WILL GAIN

- LEADERSHIP FOUNDATIONS: Develop the core competencies required to lead people, manage systems and drive institutional performance.
- PRACTICAL TOOLS AND FRAMEWORKS: Learn actionable approaches to leadership, communication, innovation and change management.
- GLOBAL PEER EXCHANGE: Work alongside a cohort of ambitious public leaders from around the world, gaining fresh perspectives and building lasting professional relationships.
- IMMERSIVE LEARNING: Participate in simulations, group challenges and interactive small group sessions that push you to think critically and lead decisively.

IS THIS YOU?

This programme is for senior public sector leaders who:

- Are ready to expand their leadership toolkit and take on broader strategic responsibilities.
- Want to strengthen their ability to lead teams, manage change, and shape institutional culture.
- Value practical learning, global collaboration, and exposure to world-class academic thinking.
- Are looking to prepare for the challenges and opportunities of top-level public service.

“

The programme equipped us with the knowledge and practical tools public leaders need to make the best decisions in challenging circumstances, solve complex moral dilemmas, lead negotiations, build and manage a committed and efficient team, and add convincing stories to their narratives. [...] I left Oxford with lots of food for thought, good friends and the willingness to continue on my leadership learning journey.

”

Matthieu Hébert
Head of Unit (Comms and
inter-institutional relations), DG
for Economic and Financial
Affairs
European Commission Belgium

WHICH PROGRAMME IS RIGHT FOR YOU?

We offer two distinct pathways for public sector leaders at different stages of their journey.

CATEGORY	RISING PUBLIC LEADERS PROGRAMME	EXECUTIVE PUBLIC LEADERS PROGRAMME
AUDIENCE	Senior public sector leaders on a clear trajectory to the top leadership positions.	Senior executives currently leading major public institutions or stepping into top roles in the next two years.
PURPOSE	Develop leadership capabilities and strategic mindset for future top-level roles.	Strengthen strategic leadership across institutions, systems, and global partnerships.
FOCUS AREAS	Departmental leadership, communication, innovation, change management.	Institutional culture, cross-sector collaboration, global strategy, digital transformation.
LEARNING STYLE	Immersive and hands-on: lecture theatre style sessions with simulations, group work and practical exercises.	Strategic and reflective: small group seminar style sessions and peer learning, with one-to-one executive coaching.
PEER COHORT	Diverse group of rising leaders from across the public sector worldwide.	Global network of senior leaders with extensive leadership experience.
OUTCOMES	Expanded leadership toolkit and readiness for senior roles.	Greater strategic clarity and strengthened ability to lead complex institutions.

HOW TO APPLY

1



Complete the online application form.



2



Upload your CV/Resume and organisational chart



3



Call with Recruitment Advisor (RPLP) or Programme Director (EPLP)



IN-COUNTRY PUBLIC LEADERS PROGRAMME

Strengthening top public sector leadership worldwide

AT A GLANCE

- 📅 Fee: TBC
- 📅 Duration: two to six months
- 💬 Language: English
- ⭐ Distinctive feature: This programme is developed alongside an in-country partner to train a group of rising public sector leaders from one country or institution.

“ The AIG Public Leaders Programme, aimed at mid-level public servants, is enabling us to grow a new generation of public sector leaders who can drive and sustain change. Our programme alumni have developed and implemented several projects that are already having a positive impact on the performance of their organisations. We are confident that future programme participants will follow in their footsteps and create sustainable projects that will drive the change Africa needs. **”**

Aig-Imoukhuede Foundation

Drawn from the curriculum of our Rising Public Leaders Programme, but tailored to the needs of a specific country, this programme is aimed at rising leaders on track to move into top leadership positions in a national department, ministry, or similar public organisation.

Throughout the programme, participants from a single country receive world-class education from University of Oxford faculty members, beginning online and culminating in a one-week residential programme in their own country.

We design each programme in consultation with the partner, but an example of what and how you'll learn could be:

WHAT YOU'LL LEARN

Considering the current context for public sector leadership, the curriculum will be shaped from the following topics:

- Confronting global challenges.
- Communicating internally and externally.
- Harnessing digital technology.
- Decision-making under pressure.
- Strengthening organisational effectiveness.
- Negotiating in the public interest.
- Promoting and maintaining integrity in public life.
- Leading at scale .

HOW YOU'LL LEARN

The format of the programme is designed in four phases to fit busy public sector leaders, as follows:

- Phase I: Five consecutive half-days of live online sessions.
- Phase II: Several weeks of asynchronous material, which participants work through in their own time.
- Phase III: A five-day residential in the host country featuring lectures, workshops, case studies and simulations, attended by key Blavatnik School faculty.
- Phase IV (optional): A capstone project to apply programme learnings and concepts to a real-world problem within the participant's own organisation.

Programme example

AIG Public Leaders Programme

Our inaugural in-country programme ran from September 2021, in partnership with the Aig-Imoukhuede Foundation, in a blended format both online and in person in Abuja.

The AIG Public Leaders Programme 2021 afforded 50 high-potential men and women working in the Nigerian public service a unique opportunity to transform their leadership skills and improve public service in their country.



BE PART OF A LIFELONG NETWORK

Upon completion of any of the Public Leaders Programmes, you will become part of a network of exceptional public leaders who share the same commitment to improve public service globally.

This lifelong community will not only serve as a powerful reminder of a shared desire to make a real difference in the world, but also allow you to forge connections that you can turn to as trusted sources of advice and research.

As an executive programme alumnus, your connection to the School will continue beyond the classroom, and there are several ways for you to stay connected with us, including by:

- Collaborating with faculty on future projects.
- Attending and participating in events.
- Participating as a visiting expert, for example, at a career-focused seminar or practical skills session.
- Invitations to exclusive online events throughout the year, focusing on topical issues, featuring faculty and fellow participants.
- Gaining access to an exclusive LinkedIn alumni group.

WORLD CLASS FACULTY

Our Public Leader Programmes are led by renowned Oxford faculty and subject matter experts with years of experience in public sector leadership.

Their combined expertise ensures a fully rounded programme experience that's rooted in academic excellence and the latest research, but with immediate real-world application.

PROGRAMME DIRECTORS



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Professor of Practice in Public Policy



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FACULTY



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Anandi Mani
Professor of Behavioural Economics and Public Policy



Anna Petherick
Associate Professor in Public Policy and Director of the Lemann Foundation Programme



Maya Tudor
Professor of Government and Public Policy



IMPROVING GOVERNMENT WORLDWIDE

The Blavatnik School of Government is one of the University of Oxford's newest and most vibrant departments.

We draw on the range of Oxford University expertise from science, computing, to humanities and social sciences, and implement it in our teaching, research and wider engagement, with a mission to improve government worldwide.

Since our foundation in 2010, we have learned from and advised multiple heads of government, several civil service chiefs, and many C-suite executives from organisations like the UN and the World Bank. With a history of over 900 years of teaching, Oxford University has produced nearly 60 heads of state and government and countless leaders of major political organisations.



THE OXFORD EXPERIENCE

Our Public Leaders Programmes reimagine leadership education for the 21st century.

While studying one of our Public Leaders Programmes, you will be immersed in Oxford's academic rigour, learning from some of the world's leading scholars and practitioners. Emphasising a combined focus on academic theory and practical approaches will allow you to gain highly recognised Oxford credentials, renowned globally as a sign of excellence and authority, which could significantly elevate the contribution you make to your public sector organisation.

For our participants who join us in Oxford, there is a variety of unique opportunities and exclusive experiences to benefit from, including:

- Programme dinners and interactive sessions with your fellow participants at historic Oxford colleges.
- Special social events such as college visits, walking tours and refreshments at traditional Oxford pubs.
- Wandering the ancient, cobbled streets and taking in over 900 years of history.
- Trips to London, visiting landmarks such as the House of Lords, the House of Commons, Broughton Castle and the Royal Shakespeare Company.



TAKE THE NEXT STEP

Interested in finding out more?

Whether you are interested in a programme for individuals, or want to understand how we work with organisations, please contact our recruitment team for more personalised advice.

executive.education@bsg.ox.ac.uk



bsg.ox.ac.uk