

FURTHER PARTICULARS

Seminar Leaders for Foundations Michaelmas 2025

Overview of role

The Blavatnik School of Government invites applications for multiple Seminar Leader positions within the teaching team of the Foundations core course within the [Master of Public Policy](#) (MPP) in Michaelmas Term 2025.

Foundations is a compulsory subject for all MPP students. It aims to provide students a foundation in political philosophy for the purposes of public policy. It introduces students to theories of justice, feminism, authority, democracy, and equality, and focuses on applied topics such as immigration, post-colonial justice, ethics in public life, protest and revolution, and war.

As a Seminar Leader, you will have the opportunity to lead seminars, attend lectures and team meetings, and assess student work.

This is a unique opportunity for postdoctoral researchers, college lecturers, and late-stage doctoral students to gain valuable teaching experience at a graduate level and in a seminar, rather than tutorial, format.

You will be required to undertake the Social Sciences Division Preparation for Learning and Teaching course if you have not already received equivalent training. <http://www.learning.ox.ac.uk/support/teaching/programmes/plto/>.

The Master in Public Policy (MPP)

The MPP aims to develop practitioners rather than academics. Our current MPP class consists of 150+ students from a very wide spread of countries and territories around the world. Our students, who are aged between 20 and 49 years old, have all been selected because of their outstanding academic achievements, their proven commitment to public service, and their capacity to show leadership and have real world impact. Students come from a range of different academic and socio-economic backgrounds and come with different levels of policy experience and exposure. Student profiles are available at <http://www.bsg.ox.ac.uk/people>.

Responsibilities

You will join the Foundations teaching team:

- Dr [Eniolá Anúolúwapó Sóyemí](#) (course convenor)
- Professor [Tom Simpson](#) (course convenor)

Duties:

- Act as seminar leader for four seminar groups, holding 75-minute long weekly seminars with these seminar groups. Seminars are currently held on Wednesdays to cover the relevant content and material of each week.

This will require you to:

- Attend weekly lectures
- Read core material
- Attend weekly working lunch meetings.
- Convene 90-minute student drop-in sessions at least twice during the term.
- Mark and provide detailed feedback on formative assignments for each seminar student.
- Provide written feedback on each seminar student at the end of Michaelmas term.

Hours:

Seminar Leaders can expect to devote approximately 160 hours throughout the term.

Tasks	Duration	Frequency	Estimate of Total Hours
Pre-course orientation and training	4 hours	Once before teaching starts	4 hours
Weekly Seminars	75 minutes	Weekly per Group	75 minutes x 4 groups x 8 weeks = 40 hours
Reading of core material	4 hours	Weekly	4 hr x 8 weeks = 32 hours
Attending lectures	2 hours	Weekly + 1 hr ('Why Foundations exists')	2 hr x 8 weeks + 1 hr lecture = 17 hours
Working lunch meetings	1 hour	Weekly	1 hr x 8 weeks = up to 8 hours
Drop-in sessions	1.5 hours	Twice during the term	1.5 hr x 2 = 3 hours
Formative marking	3 marking rounds of 17 hours each		Estimated 51 hours
Student end of term feedback		Once, at the end of term	Estimated 5 hours
			Total Hours = 160 hours

Selection criteria

- Experience of research in political philosophy, political theory, or related fields.
- Excellent oral and written communication skills.
- A systematic, thorough, and well-organised approach to work.
- A committed and collaborative team player.
- Relevant previous teaching experience.

Pay rate

Payment will be at the rate of £18.43 per hour (Grade 6.1), plus rolled-up holiday pay of 12.07% for each hour worked.

How to apply

Please email recruit@bsg.ox.ac.uk with your CV, a one-page cover letter highlighting your most relevant experience and the contribution you would make, as well as the names of two referees, with "Seminar Leader Foundations – Michaelmas 2025" in the subject line.

We welcome applications from those currently based in the UK, or overseas and who plan to be in Oxford from October 2025 for the duration of the Michaelmas term.

Please note that you must have the right to work in the UK at the time of teaching.

The closing date for applications is **12 noon (UK time) on Tuesday 6 May 2025**.

We expect to hold online interviews at the end of May or in early June.