Careers in the Civil Service

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Careers in the Civil Service

• How do they compare to academic careers?
• Skills that are valued (now and in future)
• Benefits of having a PhD
• My personal story
• How to find out about jobs
• Advice on submitting an application and preparing for an interview
How do careers compare?

**Academia**
- Youth combined with expertise rewarded?
- Experience of different research labs rewarded
- Harder to maintain research profile if working part-time?
- Generally surrounded by like-minded people, with similar levels of expertise
- Career progression limited to a few key opportunities?

**Civil Service**
- Breadth of experience rewarded
- Experience of different departments rewarded
- Part-time and flexible working very accepted
- Working with people from a wide range of backgrounds & experience
- Lots of opportunities for career progression
What skills are valued?

**Academia**
- Specialist knowledge & skills, learned over years
- Ability to write a perfectly crafted academic paper for a specialist audience
- Ability to bring money into research group / University
- Teaching skills
- Collaborating & partnering

**Civil Service**
- Ability to pick up new knowledge & skills fast
- Ability to write a perfectly crafted briefing note for a non-specialist audience
- Ability to find and deliver efficiencies
- Leadership & management
- Negotiating & influencing
Benefits of having a PhD

• Honed research skills:
  – Use of evidence
  – Design of research
  – Evaluation
• Ability to write & communicate verbally
• Ability to problem solve
• Dogged determination to see a project through to delivery
• Personal resilience & tenacity
My personal story

‘Failed’ academic to successful Civil Servant
Civil Service Jobs

• Set up an automatic e-mail alert for new jobs
• Define your categories:
  – Analytical
  – Economics
  – Psychology
  – Social Research
  – Science
• Think flexibly
Fast Stream recruitment timetable

2017 Scheme

• Opens 1\textsuperscript{st} September 2016
• Closes 31\textsuperscript{st} October
• Fast Stream Assessment Centres: October – December 2016*
• Specialist Assessment Centres (Social Research / Economics / Statistics / Operational Research): January – February 2017

*dates may be subject to change
Further information

• Details about how to apply (including advice on completing the application form and preparing for interview) see: 
  https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/civil-service-fast-stream

• This information is useful whether applying for a Fast Stream post or any other post.
Civil Service job grading

- **Research Officer, Assistant Economist & Fast Stream**: standard graduate entry level
  - c. £22,000 starting salary

- **Senior Research Officer**: standard entry level for candidates with PhDs, but need to demonstrate management experience
  - c. £32,000 starting salary

- **Grade 7**: Definitely requires management / leadership experience
  - c. £42,000 starting salary
Thank you...

... any questions?