

[News story: Graduate roles available: apply to Innovate UK](#)

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We're inviting university leavers from across various fields of study to join our graduate scheme and work at the heart of UK innovation.

Innovate UK is recruiting for 16 graduates to fill cross-disciplinary roles across its directorates. This includes the sector teams, development directorate, operations and information technology and business change.

We are seeking applications from determined, bright, goal-orientated graduates. The two-year programme will provide on-the-job training and tailored learning and development to help graduates build skills that will further their careers.

[Why apply to Innovate UK's 2017 graduate scheme](#)

The launch of the graduate scheme comes at a time when UK government has reaffirmed its commitment to science and innovation. Its [Industrial Strategy](#) aims to build on British areas of excellence through innovation to grow the UK economy and improve living conditions for all.

Ruth McKernan, Chief Executive, Innovate UK, said:

Innovation doesn't just happen. Aspiring business entrepreneurs rely on Innovate UK to help them realise their ideas and take them to market. We need good people to make this happen and support the UK to be cutting edge. If you're a recent graduate with an interest in innovation we could be just the place to start your career.

We are looking for people who have either graduated with an undergraduate or postgraduate qualification in the past year or are set to do so within 2017. The range of roles available means we will consider applicants across different fields of study. Applicants should be predicted or have achieved a 2:1 or above.

Officials in E. China punished for infection scandal

Several hospital officials in east China's Shandong Province have been sacked after nine patients were infected by hepatitis B there.

The head and deputy head of the People's Hospital in Chengyang District of Qingdao City have been removed from their administrative and Communist Party of China posts, according to the district government.

The director of the hospital's infection-control and nursing departments, and the director and nursing head of the hemodialysis unit have also been removed from their posts. Other staff implicated have received discipline punishments of the CPC.

According to the local government, the district's health and family planning bureau received a report about nine patients infected by hepatitis B in January. Investigators later found that it was staff with the hospital's hemodialysis unit who operated against regulations that led to the infections.

The patients are receiving treatment and are stable.

Speech: PM press conference with Italian Prime Minister Gentiloni: 9 February 2017

It is a great pleasure to be able to welcome Prime Minister Gentiloni to Downing Street. Just as I chose to visit Italy shortly after coming into office, Prime Minister Gentiloni has made the UK one of his first trips – and I think that underlines the importance that we both place on the long-standing relationship between our 2 countries.

As I have said before, Britain is leaving the European Union – but we are not leaving Europe – and a global Britain that stands tall in the world, will be a Britain that remains a good friend and ally to Italy and to all our European partners.

So we have had important discussions today on the future of our bilateral relationship as the UK leaves the EU; and on a number of areas at the heart of Italy's Presidency of the G7. And we have agreed to establish a regular bilateral summit between the UK and Italy.

First, the UK remains committed to triggering Article 50 by the end of March and last night we moved a step closer with the successful passage of the Bill in the Commons. As I have said, the priority for the UK in the negotiations ahead will be to seek a new, comprehensive, bold and ambitious free trade agreement with the European Union today we talked about the importance we both place on our trade.

The UK is Italy's seventh largest export market for goods, worth over 22 billion euros a year, and we do vital business in agriculture, manufacturing, pharmaceuticals and defence. For example, already this year the UK government has signed a £271 million deal with Leonardo Helicopters to provide maintenance for our Wildcat helicopters, protecting hundreds of skilled jobs in Yeovil.

And together with other free trade deals we intend to do, I am determined that a global Britain will be a great champion of free trade in a way that can only be good for British and Italian businesses and jobs.

A global Britain will also be a leading partner in addressing the wider challenges that Prime Minister Gentiloni and his government have put at the heart of [Italy's G7 presidency](#) this year; including making the global economy work for everyone, finding better solutions to managing the huge population movements we are seeing, and keeping up the pressure on Russia in response to its actions in Ukraine.

Italy has been engaged in a long debate about how the benefits of prosperity can be shared by more people. And we are having a similar debate in Britain, where we have embarked on an ambitious programme of economic and social reform to spread wealth and opportunity more fairly across our country. And I hope that this year's G7 can help us go further in working with all our international partners to shape a global economy that truly works for everyone.

That same co-operation is vital for our security too. And just as we do in Afghanistan and at the forefront of the international coalition against Daesh, Britain and Italy will continue to work together for the security of all our citizens. And global Britain will continue to play a leading role in Europe's security through the NATO alliance.

We will also continue to work together in tackling the migration crisis in the Mediterranean. Italy has become the main arrival point for illegal migration into Europe, with over 180,000 people arriving in 2016. But this is not just a problem for Italy, it is a problem for us all. And we need to work together to find better solutions to the huge population movements we are seeing, so refugees don't have to risk their lives on dangerous journeys and so we control the unmanageable economic migration that is neither working for migrants nor for our own populations.

We both strongly support the comprehensive and co-ordinated approach agreed at the [EU Summit in Malta](#) last week. This includes seeking an inclusive political settlement to stabilise Libya which will not only help to tackle migration flows but also counter terrorism. And I welcome the agreement that

was signed between the Italian and Libyan governments last week on migration and on strengthening border security.

Britain and Italy will continue to work together closely and I hope that through Italy's G7 presidency we can shape a new approach to managing mass population movements that is in the interests of all those involved. We must also do everything possible to protect men, women and children from trafficking, sexual violence and labour exploitation. And I am grateful that Italy has put modern slavery on the G7 agenda for the first time and hope that we can enhance the joint working between our law enforcement agencies to cultivate a new radical, global and co-ordinated approach to defeat this vile crime that runs counter to our deepest values.

Finally, on the situation in eastern Ukraine, I emphasised the UK's continuing concern over Russia's aggressive and destabilising actions and the drastic deterioration in the humanitarian situation that we have seen recently. And it is vital that the international community continues to exert pressure and that we continue to maintain sanctions on Russia until the Minsk agreements are fully implemented.

I want to thank you Prime Minister for your visit and for the constructive conversations we have had.

I believe that today we have laid the foundations for continuing the strong and successful relationship between our 2 countries – and I look forward to working with you, Prime Minister, on your G7 agenda and on the UN Security Council this year, and on shaping a new partnership between Britain and the EU that is in the interests of us all.

Statement to Parliament: Ministerial cars, financial year 2015 to 2016

I am publishing today (9 February 2017) details of the [charges incurred by departments for the use of official government cars provided to ministers by the Government Car Service \(GCS\) during the financial year 2015-16](#), which are in the attached table.

Official transport is provided so that ministers can carry out their work effectively and securely, including working on sensitive and confidential government documents whilst travelling.

We are committed to continuing our focus on reducing the cost to the taxpayer of the provision of secure ministerial cars. The Government Car Service has reduced its running costs by three quarters since 2010. We continue to be committed to reducing the cost to the taxpayer of the provision of secure transport.

To assist public scrutiny, equivalent figures for the £6.7 million charges to each department under the last Labour Government can be found at [28 October 2010, Official Report, Column 23WS](#).

Department	No. of GCS Departmental Pool Car Services @ 31/03/2016	Departmental Pool Car Service	Pre-Booked Service	Total Charges (all services)
Attorney General's Office (formerly Law Officers' Department)	1	£82,221.67	£0.00	£82,221.67
Cabinet Office	3	£181,486.50	£6,172.25	£187,658.75
Government Chief Whip	0	£25,435.49	£3,076.25	£28,511.74
Leader of the House of Commons	1	£73,233.74	£0.00	£73,233.74
Department for Business, Innovation and Skills	1	£84,797.79	£4,512.45	£89,310.24
Department for Education	1	£87,837.30	£24,899.33	£112,736.63
Department for Communities and Local Government	2	£172,334.20	£2,260.35	£174,594.55
Department for Culture, Media and Sport	1	£82,449.30	£292.50	£82,741.80
Department for Energy and Climate Change	1	£83,199.54	£1,907.25	£85,106.79
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs	1	£94,646.45	£9,689.11	£104,335.56
Department for International Development	1	£22,172.98	£6,052.50	£28,225.48
Department for Transport	2	£171,639.84	£4,472.05	£176,111.89
Department for Work and Pensions	0	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Department of Health	1	£84,353.29	£75.00	£84,428.29
Foreign & Commonwealth Office	0	£0.00	£705.00	£705.00
HM Treasury	2	£202,226.95	£37,397.27	£239,624.22
Home Office	2	£171,392.96	£27,703.94	£199,096.90

Department	No. of GCS Departmental Pool Car Services @ 31/03/2016	Departmental Pool Car Service	Pre-Booked Service	Total Charges (all services)
Ministry of Defence	0	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Ministry of Justice	0	£0.00	£1,555.00	£1,555.00
Northern Ireland Office	0	£0.00	£11,736.03	£11,736.03
Scotland Office	0	£0.00	£593.70	£593.70
Wales Office	0	£0.00	£3,342.76	£3,342.76
	20	£1,619,427.99	£146,442.74	£1,765,870.73

Methodological note:

The charges recorded in this statement reflect the service model which came into effect in April 2012 as part of the reform programme. This provides Departmental Pool Cars which are a shared resource for a department to use as efficiently as possible. In addition, the Car Service offers a small pre-bookable service utilising any spare capacity.

These charges do not necessarily reflect the total spend on car services as some departments have arrangements with other providers. The Treasury has 2 Cabinet Ministers. The former Chancellor used the Government Car Service to supply a driver and vehicle for his protection package whereas the PM, Home, Foreign, Defence and Northern Ireland Secretaries of State used the Metropolitan Police. Such charges are not included in the table.

[News story: War Pension Scheme payments increases from April 2017](#)

Updated: Correct timescale for receiving pension letter included.

The new rates of pensions and allowances payable under the War Pension Scheme from 10 April 2017 have now been announced and are [available here](#).

The rates have been increased by 1%, in line with the September 2016 Consumer Prices Index figure.

Those currently getting a War Pension or War Widows(er)'s Pension will receive a letter confirming their new pension details between 13 March 2017 and 15 July 17.

Please note if you are a local authority or council office, please be aware of the timescales above, the letter confirms a breakdown of the pension and the new rates. This is a system generated letter.

For more information on the War Pension Scheme and other compensation payable for injuries, illnesses or disablement related to service, please see www.gov.uk/claim-for-injury-received-while-serving.