

PATHWAY TO SUCCESS 2022

Programme Outline

Introduction

Operation Black Vote, in partnership with the University of Oxford's Blavatnik School of Government and Magdalen College, the House of Commons and Lloyds Bank is delighted to announce our Pathway to Success 5-day residential Leadership Programme at the University of Oxford to nurture the country's future Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic leaders. The participants will engage with some of the greatest minds and expertise in political and civic governance in the UK.

In 2021, participants were able to engage with a variety of outstanding academics, top thinkers and experienced practitioners who have been at the top of the political game, including amongst others political philosopher Professor Jonathan Wolff, negotiations expert Associate Professor Emily Jones, former special advisor to the UK Prime Minister Nick Timothy and former US presidential campaign strategist Parag Mehta.

Programme aims and objectives

- To improve the representation of Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic communities within civic and political roles in the UK
- To give participants the opportunity to understand leadership roles
- To obtain the confidence and a variety of transferable political and social skills to consider becoming a civic leader
- To empower participants to engage with, join and lead public bodies within the UK
- To give a positive message that the UK's Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic communities are committed to tackling under-representation and to demand that UK institutions take measures to remedy this.

Who is eligible?

We are looking for 30 dynamic Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic individuals with a keen interest in making a real and positive difference to society. You will have a minimum of five years work or voluntary experience and an ambition to enter Parliament or other UK institutions within 12 months.

What does the programme comprise?

The programme will be a five-day residential (from the evening of Sunday 4th September to Friday 9th September) at the University of Oxford, Magdalen College with an array of speakers including international guests as well as visits to Westminster, London and Oxford City. The programme also includes a nine-month mentorship opportunity, which must be completed to qualify for graduation from the programme.

Participants will have the chance to explore:

- How local and national government works
- The work of political parties and leaders
- The role of the Commons and the Upper House
- The role of Ministers and Shadow Ministers
- How campaigns are built and organised
- Entrepreneurial skills
- Access to finance.

Participants will also gain the following skills:

- Political, civil and business knowledge
- Confidence building
- Community activism – participation, negotiating, and leadership
- Communication – writing, presentation skills, and public speaking.

About the Mentorship Programme

An integral component of Pathway to Success is the Mentorship Programme. The goal of this mentorship programme is to increase, diversify and deepen participants' support network and community. Pathway to Success holds that such support is vital for politicians, and indeed all leaders.

This Mentorship Programme differs from many as we seek to foster relationships which are deep, and are not primarily transactional.

Our mentors are selected for their leadership experience and their capacity to provide a sounding board characterised by quiet independence of thought coupled with a capacity to think through issues with reason, even when the issue at stake is of pressing national or global significance or the players are in the eye of the public.

Each participant in Pathway to Success is paired with a mentor. Mentee and mentor agree together when and how they will meet over the core nine months of the mentorship programme.

Participants are required to commit to approximately 10 meetings: roughly six meetings of 1-1.5 hours in the first nine months of the Mentorship Programme, followed by 1 meeting a year for the next four years.

Participants and their mentors together agree goals for their mentorship relationship. Goals should relate to the reason for participating in Pathway to Success; for example, one goal may be to win party pre-selection in twelve months, and this goal might be coupled with two further goals to address gaps in skills or knowledge that you will need in order to win pre-selection, such as knowledge of climate change, and skills in communication.

These goals provide a structure for discussions, and a focus for activity, but whether or not you meet these goals is not, in fact, the measure of the success of the mentorship relationships. Instead, at six months, one year and five years, Pathway to Success seeks to know whether you and your mentor did something, anything that was life-changing. That was wonderful? That was surprising and inspiring? That was significant?

Is there a fee?

No. There is not a cost to participate on the programme, as OBV and partners are keen to promote the benefits of Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic engagement and representation in civic and public life.

Accommodation and all food will be covered for the duration of the residential. Transport to and from the residential venue in Oxford will need to be covered by each participant. We will consider any exceptional circumstances if any requests are made for travel costs. This will be at the discretion of Residential partners on a case-by-case basis.

Requirements of Applicants

- Applicants must be from a Black, Asian or Minority Ethnic community
- Must have a minimum of five years work and/or voluntary experience and an ambition to enter Parliament or other UK institutions within 12 months.
- Must be enthusiastic about politics, civil society and leadership
- Must have an understanding of the main social and political issues facing Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic communities
- Be able to commit to a total of five intensive and full days in Oxford.
- Demonstrate a commitment and ability to inform and inspire Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic communities about the working public bodies
- A willingness to learn
- Good timekeeping and a willingness to work flexible times
- Provide references and complete a confidentiality agreement.

What happens when the Programme has finished?

By the end of the programme, participants will have the confidence, knowledge and networking capacity to be more active within their chosen area of public life.

We expect that some will put themselves forward for elected, public office and/or business boards.

Participants will become Community Ambassadors and leaders, informing and inspiring Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic communities and others to positively engage in civic and public society.

What is the next step?

If you are interested in participating in the Programme, please complete the brief application form and return it to OBV by post or email by midnight **Sunday 6th March 2022.**

Applications can be obtained by:

Web: www.obv.org.uk
Email: obvschemes@gmail.com
Tel: 0208 983 5430.

Please note that interviews will take place online during April & May 2022. Candidates will only be required to attend one interview.

Disclaimer: There is no guarantee that the speakers mentioned in this Programme Outline will be the same speakers for the 2022 Pathway to Success Programme.