



Department for Transport - Transport Infrastructure Team

Role description

This high-profile role will offer you significant exposure to senior leaders across Whitehall, in its arm length bodies and across the DfT client organisations, such as HS2, Highways England, Network Rail, TfL and East West Rail, as well as to DfT Ministers.

Working within the DfT strategy Directorate, you will help to shape investment decision-making processes to improve efficiency and drive productivity right across the sector. This will involve delivering the Transport Infrastructure Efficiency Strategy (TIES) 6-month benchmarking start-up programme, which comprises several programmes, such as the international collaboration with Hong Kong and the Infrastructure Projects Authority to benchmark bridges and working with international bodies such as the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) to shape a wider benchmarking culture that will benefit the delivery of TIES.

Collectively, these activities will inform the development of new benchmarking metrics for productivity, cost and performance that will be socialised across Whitehall to build consensus on their adoption as national benchmarking metrics for infrastructure.

About you

Skills required:

- strong stakeholder engagement skills with the ability to build effective working relationships across multiple disciplines
- excellent communication skills both verbally and in writing with the ability to tailor your approach to suit a wide variety of audiences
- the ability to analyse complex data sets and interpret your findings to meet the needs of our stakeholders

About us

Transport Infrastructure Efficiency

Transport infrastructure investment is trebling and ultimately this will drive growth and productivity right across the UK. Crossrail, Highways England, High Speed Two Ltd (HS2 Ltd), Network Rail, Transport for London (TfL) and the Department for Transport (DfT) (ie. the partners to the strategy) are committed to delivering world class transport infrastructure that supports economic growth and maximises value for money for taxpayers, passengers and road users. Each organisation has ambitious targets, including for efficiency.

The Transport Infrastructure Efficiency Strategy (TIES), published in December 2017 <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/transport-infrastructure-efficiency-strategy> complements existing efficiency targets and business plans; and supports wider business objectives like boosting supply chain productivity, adopting new methods of construction to reduce project delivery time and reducing carbon emissions.

The strategy also supports the objectives of the Government's Industrial Strategy to increase innovation, develop skills, grow business and drive productivity and earning power across the UK; ensuring that for publicly funded infrastructure these wider interests are taken into account at the earliest stages and highest levels of decision-making.

The seven challenges identified in TIES focus on different aspects of the investment life cycle for infrastructure delivery. This role focuses on delivering against the third challenge: developing a suite of accurate, complete and high-quality project performance information to inform investment decisions; highlight best practice and drive innovation.

The Department for Transport

We can proudly announce that the Department for Transport has been recognised for its leadership on workplace gender equality by being included in The Times Top 50 Employers for Women 2017. DfT's inclusion is recognition of our commitment to make the Department a great place to work through our culture of equality and inclusivity and the great strides we've made to raise the number of women in senior positions.

Funding

UCL has funding available through the HEIF Knowledge Exchange Fund to support research staff and students who would be interested in undertaking a placement, subject to eligibility and certain conditions. Placement funding is not confirmed in advance and must be applied for through a competitive process once the candidate for the placement has been chosen. For more information on placement funding please contact Helen Tsui (helen.tsui@ucl.ac.uk).

Location

The placement will be hosted at the Department for Transport offices in London.

Duration

The placement is for up to 6 months, starting as soon as possible.

Eligibility

Policy placements are open to registered UCL staff and PhD students. Students who are successfully awarded a placement would generally be expected to interrupt their studentship for the duration of the post and will be funded by the placement award during this time. Candidates must be in a position to return to UCL for a period of six months following the placement to be eligible to apply.

To Apply

Please email Helen Tsui (helen.tsui@ucl.ac.uk) with a cover letter explaining your suitability for the placement (max. 1 page) and a short CV by **Wednesday 22nd May 2019**.