



## PROSPERITY INSTITUTE

### **The Edington Fellowship**

#### ***Briefing***

*The Prosperity Institute's Edington Fellowship programme launches this year, and applications are welcomed by the deadline of Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2025.*

*A full prospectus will be available here in the coming weeks. This briefing outlines details of the programme for those interested in applying.*

#### **The Prosperity Institute's Edington Fellowship**

Cultivating prosperity is the aim of the Prosperity Institute. To develop flourishing families, communities, and nations, we research and advocate for effective public policies and government institutions. At the same time, institutions and laws are meaningless without committed public servants exercising creativity, judgement, and leadership in the public square. We need public servants who can lead with integrity, humility, and courage that flows from clarity of vision.

Our Edington Fellowship programme is an opportunity for rising leaders, early in their careers, to deepen understanding, develop skills, and cultivate character in a community of like-minded peers.

#### **Why Edington?**

Our Fellowship is named after the Battle of Edington. It took place when, against all odds, Alfred the Great mustered an army to defend his territory, people, and the Judeo-Christian foundations of his law and government against the 'Great Heathen Army' of Viking invaders, snatching victory from the jaws of defeat. The battle was a turning point after which he established a common-law legal system inspired by Biblical law, created burhs (fortified towns) to enable commerce, and invested heavily in promoting literacy and a culture of learning. In other words, the battle enabled King Alfred to build national prosperity on a foundation of Judeo-Christian values.

Through immersion in great works from our civilisation and national heritage, learning and working together in different fields relevant to public life, the Edington Fellowship equips the next generation of public leaders to build a more prosperous, hope-filled nation.

### **What will the Fellowship involve?**

Starting in May 2025, Fellows will meet regularly to hear from and discuss with politicians, policymakers, academics, and experts in areas including politics, government, philosophy, law, finance, medicine, diplomacy, and defence.

Fellows will follow a course of readings through the year, to support their learning through in-person meetings. These meetings will take a variety of formats, including monthly workshops and seminars at the Prosperity Institute, monthly private webinars with experts from around the world, social and cultural activities with other Fellows and Institute staff, and opportunities to attend events at the Prosperity Institute. The programme culminates in a residential trip (in Continental Europe) the following year. Fellows will complete two pieces of written work integrating aspects of their learning during the programme.

### **What content does the programme cover?**

The contents of the programme are organised around three pillars, which will be offered simultaneously throughout the year: **Vision & Virtue**, **Policy & Prosperity** and **Skills & Statecraft**. Fellows will be invited to integrate what they have learned in different pillars and apply it to questions in public affairs and their personal vocation.

Examples of content covered across the three pillars include: the dignity of the human person, the nature of prosperity, lives of outstanding public leaders, foundations of common law, limited and accountable government, liberty of conscience, strong families, national sovereignty, the importance of our cultural heritage, public speaking, policy research and advocacy, strategic litigation, working in diplomatic contexts, and working with data for public policy.

### **What kind of commitment is required?**

Fellows will need to commit to attending all in-person and virtual gatherings throughout the year, as well as completing two written assignments, monthly readings, and session evaluations. The regular sessions will ordinarily take place in central London. However, applications are open to people from across the country and a small number of bursaries will be made available for travel to and from London, as well as accommodation if necessary. Fellows will also need to be available for the residential trip which will take place in Continental Europe over the first May bank holiday of 2026. The Fellowship is funded by the Institute and there is little to no financial cost for participants.

## **Who is eligible to apply and what are the selection criteria?**

The Fellowship programme is intended for early- to mid-career participants. Examples of eligible career areas include frontline politics, political advocacy, litigation, diplomacy, strategic communications, and journalism.

Fellows will be selected based on evidence of three areas of excellence: commitment to public service, competence in relevant skills and abilities, and character and leadership potential. Admission to the programme requires demonstrating excellence, commensurate with career stage, in all three areas of assessment.

## **How do I apply?**

To apply, please read the information on this page carefully and submit an application through our online submission form by **Midnight on Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2025**. The application process involves a written application and one or more interviews.

The written application will involve submitting:

- A CV.
- Academic transcripts, or evidence of other equivalent professional certification.
- One personal character reference and one professional reference.
- Written answers (no longer than 500 words each) to the following three prompts:
  1. What legal or constitutional change would most effectively improve prosperity in Britain?
  2. Identify one controversial change you would like to see take place in culture and / or public policy. How would you design a campaign to realise that change?
  3. What three books have most inspired your intention to enter public life, and what advice do they offer for political leaders and policymakers?

The initial interview will be available for shortlisted candidates and will take place in-person at the Prosperity Institute. There may be a second interview which will take place online. Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis and applicants notified by Friday 4<sup>th</sup> April 2025.