

The Prosperity Institute's Edington Fellowship



2025 - 2026



PROSPERITY
INSTITUTE

WRITING ABOUT POLITICAL INSTITUTIONS, EDMUND BURKE SAID THAT THE CHARACTER OF INDIVIDUALS WITHIN THEM IS

“...of ten thousand times greater consequence than all the formalities in the world” and that “no name, no power, no function, no artificial institution whatsoever, can make the men, of whom any system of authority is composed, any other than God, and Nature, and education, and their habits of life have made them.”



EDMUND BURKE

Reflections on the revolution in France, 1790.

FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS

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 courage, judgement, and leadership in the public square.

Leaders of good character are needed now more than ever.

The traditional underpinnings of our constitution and social fabric have been eroded by successive governments. Our metropolitan elite lacks vision and is out of touch with our heartlands and heritage. This leads to a high-tax economy and low-trust society, undermining prosperity.

We need public servants who can lead with the integrity, humility, and courage that flow from clarity of vision.

Our 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.

*“...seek the peace
and prosperity of
the city...”*

JEREMIAH 29: 7, NIV





*“The next morning at dawn
he moved his standards to
Edington and there fought
bravely and perseveringly.”*

ASSER, LIFE OF KING ALFRED.
Translation: Cook, 1905.

INTEGRITY, HUMILITY, AND COURAGE

Why Edington?



The Battle of Edington took place in the year 878 when Alfred the Great mustered an army to defend his territory, people, and the very idea of the English as a Christian people against the ‘Great Heathen Army’ of Viking invaders. Against all odds, the Anglo-Saxons snatched victory from the jaws of defeat. The battle was a turning point, after which he established a 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 him to build a prosperous nation on a foundation of Judeo-Christian values.

Faced with the great challenges of our time, we may be tempted to lose hope, feeling that we lack the courage of an Alfred to place truth, goodness, and beauty back at the heart of our public discourse.

However, there are notable moments in our history when great men and women drove change in challenging circumstances through intellectual engagement within a cadre of like-minded peers. Examples that inspire this Fellowship programme include Edmund Burke, William Wilberforce, Hannah More, and Margaret Thatcher.

Through immersion in great works from our Judeo-Christian civilisation and national heritage, learning and working together in different fields relevant to public life, the Edington Fellowship programme equips the next generation of public leaders. The Fellowship aims to cultivate conviction, character, and competence among like-minded Fellows seeking 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 engage with politicians, policymakers, academics, and experts in politics, government, philosophy, law, finance, diplomacy, and defence. 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
- An international residential trip in Europe
- Social and cultural activities with Fellows and Institute staff
- Opportunities to attend events at the Prosperity Institute

In addition, Fellows will complete two pieces of written work integrating aspects of their learning during the Fellowship programme, as well as read texts and complete training exercises for engagements throughout the year.



“...who knoweth whether thou art come to the kingdom for such a time as this?”

ESTHER 4: 14, KJV

What does the programme cover?

The broad intellectual contours of the programme are shaped by the Prosperity Institute's philosophical perspective. The content is taught in a variety of formats, including workshops and seminars.

The programme is organised around three pillars: **Vision & Virtue**, **Policy & Prosperity** and **Skills & Statecraft**. Content within these pillars will be offered simultaneously throughout the year so that Fellows are offered continuous input on aspects of philosophy, public policy, and professional development.

At social engagements and in some written work, 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.



Seminars on the philosophical roots of Western civilization and the Judeo-Christian foundations of our law and government.

- The three transcendentals of truth, goodness and beauty as well as the dignity and infinite worth of the human person.
- Historical and intellectual foundations of British constitutional government and the common law.
- Understanding our intellectual, cultural, and political moment in history.
- Lives of outstanding public leaders, including figures in Biblical narratives, classical civilisation, British history and contemporary public service.
- The nature of prosperity, understood widely as the flourishing of individuals, families and nations oriented towards the common good.



Expert discussions on practical public policy measures to promote prosperity, including through:

- Limited and accountable government
- Liberty of conscience, religion, association, expression, markets and trade
- National sovereignty in law, immigration, diplomacy and defence
- Strong families
- Secure neighbourhoods
- Respect for the infinite worth of the human person, including in health and social care
- Respect for, and defence of, our cultural heritage
- High standards in education



Training sessions on skills for effective public service, including areas such as:

- Navigating public institutions in the UK
- Working in diplomatic contexts
- Public speaking
- Broadcast media engagement
- Writing for the press
- Strategic litigation
- Policy research and advocacy
- Campaign strategy
- Understanding public finance
- Working with data
- Organisational leadership and management
- Negotiation strategy
- Career development

Our Focus

We are not a confessional (religiously affiliated) or party-political organisation, but approach public affairs out of a deep appreciation for our Judeo-Christian heritage. This informs our understanding of prosperity and the role of government in supporting it.

The overarching themes animating our orientation towards ethics and policy-making, include:



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 setting aside time for one residential trip.

The regular sessions will ordinarily take place in central London. However, applications are open to people from across the country. A small number of bursaries will be made available for Fellows to travel to London for evening sessions and secure overnight accommodation.

The residential trip will take place in Continental Europe over the first May bank

holiday of 2026. Financial costs for this trip (travel, accommodation, and meals) will be covered by the Institute.

Those in full-time employment will need to take a few days' annual leave unless their employer is willing to allow the Fellowship to be undertaken during work hours as part of continuous professional development.

Participants will complete two pieces of written work during the year and submit evaluations of sessions during the programme.



Who is eligible to apply?

- The Fellowship programme is intended for early- to mid-career participants.
- Typically, these will be people in the early stages of a professional career with a strong connection to public life.
- Relevant areas include frontline politics, policy research, political advocacy, legislation, policy implementation, public law and litigation, journalism, strategic communications, thought leadership, and diplomacy (see FAQs for more details).
- Participants must be able to attend all sessions, including a residential trip which will take place overseas in Europe.

What are the selection criteria?

This fellowship is aimed at professionals in the early stages of their careers. They must have a strong commitment to life-long public service. We are looking for people who, in the spirit of King Alfred's army, are ambitious, courageous, and resilient.

Fellows will be selected based on evidence of three areas of excellence:

- Commitment to public service
- Competence in pertinent skills and abilities
- Character and leadership potential

Admission to the programme requires demonstrating a high level of excellence, commensurate with career stage, in all three areas of assessment.

Commitment to public service

- The Fellowship programme constitutes a significant investment in the personal and professional development of participants. As such, the opportunity is for those with a vocational commitment to a career in public service, advancing ideas and causes in broad alignment with those supported by the Institute.
- Candidates do not yet need to be in a relevant full-time role but will need to demonstrate materially how career activities

they have undertaken enable the pursuit of their commitment to public service.

- Typical roles and career plans may include running for and holding elected office as well as serving in government and shadow ministerial offices, Parliamentary offices, the Civil Service, press and broadcast media, academia, think tanks, industry bodies, campaign groups, public affairs consultancies, legal advocacy organisations and other adjacent fields.

Excellence in professional competencies

- Fellows will have strong professional skills commensurate with their career stage and field of specialism. They will also have general abilities relevant to all careers in the public square such as political awareness and discretion.
- In addition, Fellows must be able to grapple with intellectually demanding programme content and reflect on its application to their personal vocation. This could be demonstrated through completing an academic degree. However, formal university qualification is not essential.
- Candidates can demonstrate intellectual ability through experience outside mainstream academia. For example, they may have undertaken an apprenticeship in a relevant field, gained professional experience, or founded a business or organisation.
- Aptitude may also be demonstrated through experience gained outside formal employment. For example, in national and civic service, including in the armed forces reserves, emergency services, charity sector, religious vocations and/or local or national politics.
- The application process requires supporting evidence of intellectual aptitude in the form of writing samples and academic transcripts/certification (in the case of candidates with university degrees) or equivalent written confirmation of experience (such as professional qualifications or through a written reference).

Character and leadership potential

- The public square can be a challenging and stressful environment. Those holding substantial responsibility, especially in senior positions, must maintain integrity, vision, humility and courage through pressure, failure and success. Fellows will have the opportunity to grow personally through encountering approaches to character-based leadership.
- Candidates applying for the fellowship should demonstrate good personal character and ways in which they have sought

to cultivate leadership ability. Leaders of good character approach life with an attitude of service, exercising virtues of judiciousness, integrity, discretion, resilience, humility, self-discipline, and courage.

- Applicants should look to demonstrate leadership potential through professional experience and voluntary service in academic, civic, religious, military and / or charitable contexts.



How do I apply?



To apply, please read the information on this page carefully and submit an application through our [online submission form here](#) by **midnight on Sunday 16th March 2025**.

There are two stages to the application process: a written application, and one or more interviews.

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.

Applicants will be notified in **April 2025**.

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?*

FAQs

I don't live in London. Can I still participate?

Yes, while most in-person sessions will be located in our Central London offices, there will be opportunity for a number of participants to receive a bursary for travel to sessions from outside London and, if necessary, to arrange overnight accommodation.

Do I need a degree to take part?

Intellectual aptitude and practical competence are crucial for participation, but these can be demonstrated with or without one or more academic qualifications.

Where will sessions for the fellowship take place?

Monthly sessions will ordinarily take place at our premises in London (Charles Street, Mayfair) but there will also be some trips further afield, one of which will be residential during the early May bank holiday, 2026.

Are you affiliated with a political party?

No. Programme participants may have personal affiliations with a political party, but this is by no means a requirement. The Institute is fully independent of any political party.

Are you affiliated with a religious group or denomination?

No. We approach public life with a deep appreciation for the Judeo-Christian foundations of our law and government. However, we are not a confessional organisation and have no formal religious affiliation.

How many Fellows will be in each cohort?

There are up to twelve places available for the 2025-2026 Fellowship programme.

How many hours of reading will be required each month?

Before teaching sessions, Fellows will read passages from set texts. These will include readings from classical antiquity, Biblical texts, significant works in the history of political ideas, and books by contemporary thought leaders. These will inform discussions at workshops and, as such, Fellows are expected to complete all of the reading. We expect this to require a commitment of a few hours each week.

When will the programme run?

The programme runs from May 2025 to May 2026 for one year.



How many hours of commitment will be expected?

The Fellowship includes reading, some written work, and a range of learning engagements, including:

- Seven weeknight evenings at the Prosperity Institute
- Ten online meetings, held remotely via Zoom
- Three Saturdays (5th July 2025, 6th September 2025, and 17th January 2026)
- One residential weekend (1st to 4th of May 2026)
- Several one-to-one meetings at the Prosperity Institute

In addition, several optional events will take place at the Institute, which programme participants are encouraged to attend.

What happens upon completion?

Upon completion of the programme, participants become part of an alumni network. Members of this network will be invited to attend Institute gatherings and participate in initiatives relevant to their work.

Relevant areas of professional and public service

Frontline politics	Candidacy and holding public office at local and national levels
Policy research	Researching ethical, evidential, financial, and technical grounds for public policy change
Political advocacy	Public campaigning and making representations before political bodies
Legislation	Drafting, scrutinising, and steering the passage, amendment and repeal of law
Policy implementation	Managing operational delivery of policy programmes in departments and delivery bodies
Public law and litigation	Service within the judiciary and advocacy through strategic litigation
Journalism	Publishing press articles, producing broadcast media, and creating digital content
Strategic communications	Coordinating messaging for public and political impact and policy change
Thought leadership	Shaping public conversation through writing and speaking about ideas and broad principles, including academia
Diplomacy	Representing the national interest through diplomatic roles and service

*“We shall now be able to enjoy our own goods
and live under justice, which we have not
done for a long time, God knows.”*



SIR JOHN FORTESCUE, *THE GOVERNANCE OF ENGLAND*, C. 1471.

Translation: Lockwood, 1997.



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