

## Case study

# Economics for Foreign Policy: customised courses for the FCO

- What are the most important issues facing Less Developed Countries today?
- What issues arise from the rapid growth and development of leading emerging economies?
- What is the future of the global trading system?

LSE Executive Education, a branch of LSE Enterprise, has worked with the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) for eight years. Its customised economics training programme helps diplomats discover the answers to these questions and more.

## Understanding the FCO's needs

Diplomats of the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) might find themselves analysing international events, negotiating treaties or implementing British foreign policy around the world. Wherever they end up, a well-rounded knowledge of economic and political issues is critical.

The FCO wants to equip employees with the knowledge, capacity and skills to implement UK government and EU external policies in a wide variety of international situations. It approached LSE Enterprise in 2003 to design, deliver and manage a comprehensive training programme that would cover economics and the political economy.

'This is a unique opportunity to share current academic thinking with people who are active in the policy making process. Our coverage ranges across the political economy spectrum and can include policy issues such as climate change, the demographic challenge, failed state issues, and the current financial crisis, together with international institutional and reform issues – all within a single programme.'

Professor Julius Sen,  
LSE Executive Education

## Contact us to find out more:

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## Economics for Foreign Policy *Continued*

### LSE Executive Education's solution

To design the course, LSE Executive Education combined its in-house expertise with that of authorities from LSE's world-renowned Economics and International Relations departments. Close collaboration with the FCO's Economic Policy and Training departments ensured that all relevant subjects were covered and the programme was fully customised to the FCO's needs.

The multidisciplinary training covers micro- and macro-economics in a political context, alongside international economics. The courses are delivered at the FCO's offices in Whitehall, using a full range of teaching techniques such as case study analyses, seminar discussions, trade simulations and self tests.

In managing the course, LSE Executive Education draws on the talent of the entire School. Experts from LSE's Economics, International Relations, Accounting and Finance, and Government departments all take part in the delivery of the programme. Participants benefit from the LSE's latest cutting-edge research and thinking, with topics covering the latest issues as well as fundamental principles.

The seven-day level one course gives participants an applied understanding of the economic arguments behind key policy issues.

Participants requiring more economics in their careers then undertake the level two course, lasting three weeks. This solidifies their professional understanding of modern economics issues, global institutions and policy making in the international context, and enables them to analyse in depth the political implications of economic policies.

- LSE Executive Education and the FCO have collaborated on this project for **eight years**, with the course running up to 24 weeks per year
- The level one course has been made **compulsory for all professionals** joining the FCO
- Over **700 FCO trainees** have now undertaken the course

### Participants' thoughts

2010 participants report that:

'This course has enabled me to better understand economic policy and report more effectively to London'

'Thanks to this course, my economic awareness is much heightened and my reporting is better'

'What will this change about my approach to my job? Everything!'

### The client's thoughts

'We have been very pleased with the high teaching standards LSE Enterprise continues to provide for the FCO. Feedback from staff continues to show a high level of course satisfaction and meeting of course objectives.'

'We have also been impressed with the work the LSE Enterprise team have done in providing our flagship course, Economics for Foreign Policy One, internationally.'

Foreign and Commonwealth  
Office, 2010