

Procurement Policy Graduate Scheme

Scottish Procurement and Commercial Directorate (SPCD), Scottish Government

Who am I?

I hold a bachelor's degree in law from SOAS, University of London and a master's degree in European law from Utrecht University in the Netherlands. Prior to joining SPCD I interned at the European Commission in Brussels and a legal research non-governmental organisation in London. I also spent six months working at the Student Awards Agency Scotland.

Where am I?

In November 2015 I joined the Scottish Government as a procurement policy officer on a 2-year graduate scheme. The first six months have been a steep learning curve with plenty of exciting opportunities and personal growth.

What do I like about my role?

What attracted me to a career in procurement was the idea of working so closely with the delivery of government policies and objectives.

Whether it is creating jobs for young people, reducing Scotland's carbon footprint or supporting small and medium enterprises (SMEs), public procurement is one of the most effective tools available to the Scottish Government in delivering these.

At the same time, a huge part of procurement policy is also about ensuring the government acts within the remits of the law and that public spending is fair, transparent and accountable – something that speaks to my inner lawyer!

What have I been doing?

Since joining SPCD, I have been involved in

- launching Scotland-wide public sector training courses on the new legislation
- drafting briefing contributions on a number of topics
- working on a comprehensive review of new legal reporting obligations and how to meet them.

In May I attended an EU conference in Estonia as a representative for Scotland and the UK; an exciting opportunity to see the scope of procurement legislation across Europe.

Where am I going?

I plan to soon start studying towards my professional qualifications with [CIPS](#). During the course of the next year and a half I will also be undertaking a number of placements around the various departments of SPCD.

By the end of my two years I hope to be well on my way to calling myself a procurement expert.

June 2016

Modern Apprentice (Procurement) Scheme

Scottish Procurement and Commercial Directorate (SPCD), Scottish Government

Who am I?

Before becoming an MA in Procurement I attended Earlston High School in the Scottish Borders. I then went on to achieve an honours degree in Criminology and Sociology from Stirling University. After graduating job prospects were difficult and I was not sure what I wanted to do for a career.

Where am I?

I visited Skills Development Scotland's "My World of Work" website and started looking into Modern Apprenticeships. I then applied for the Modern Apprenticeship in Procurement and was lucky enough to get the post in SPCD's Learning and Skills team in May 2014.

What do I like about my role?

I would definitely recommend the Modern Apprenticeship in Procurement as it has been a great opportunity to gain new skills, experience and achieve qualifications while working.

I completed my Procurement SVQ 3 in June 2015, which involved many different placements across the directorate. Continuing my studies I sat the final exam for my Level 2 CIPS Certificate in Procurement and Supply Operations in May 2016.

I have learnt an incredible amount working in the Scottish Government. The experience of "earning and learning" has given me great insight and practical experience in all areas of procurement and allowed me to actively engage with CIPS.

What have I been doing?

Since joining SPCD, I have been involved in

- organising procurement and commercial training courses and analysing performance data, as well as liaising with suppliers and raising payments
- procurement policy issues and helping with parliamentary questions, First Minister's questions and ministerial briefings
- procuring services while on placement with the Scottish Government procurement team.

In December 2014 I was a finalist in the Emerging Talent Category at the Scottish Public Service Awards.

Where am I going?

On passing my [CIPS](#) Certificate I plan to continue studying towards MCIPS, with CIPS Level 4 as my next goal.

I keep learning new skills and gaining new experiences through working in procurement in the Scottish Government and can now see this being what I want to do for a career.

June 2016

Procurement Portfolio Officer

Scottish Procurement and Commercial Directorate (SPCD), Scottish Government

Who am I?

After graduating in Honours Law L.L.B from the University of Glasgow, I knew I wanted to work in government. During a university summer vacation I completed an internship working with the Directorate for Fair Work and Scottish Government Legal Directorate. After this I provided research and advice to the Council of Europe's Committee for the Prevention of Torture. I also visited Lithuania to lecture on Human Rights.

I had decided I did not want to practice law but still wanted to use my legal skills in an interesting and challenging government role – procurement was the answer.

Where am I?

I joined the Scottish Government as a procurement portfolio officer on a 2-year undergraduate scheme in late 2015. I work within Central Government Procurement Shared Services, gaining exposure to various sections of government and involvement in some fascinating projects.

What do I like about my role?

My team contains a wealth of experience, meaning learning opportunities are plentiful. Working alongside these colleagues offers me such a great resource to draw upon. I get the chance to support high-risk, high-value projects whilst given the responsibility to lead on lower value procurements. I find that I can make a real contribution to government and its outcomes.

Projects are varied, and present unique challenges making for an interesting working day. Effective procurement is a vehicle to encourage development of small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and supported businesses, making a real contribution to Scotland's economic growth – something very much worth influencing!

What have I been doing?

Since joining SPCD, I have been involved in

- [procuring a range of services such as legal, research, consultancy, print and publishing, and software models and digital portals to name a few](#)
- [understanding the legal changes in 2016 – a significant year for procurement – and working with colleagues on the practical implementation](#)
- [attending meetings and procurement conferences.](#)

Where am I going?

I will soon begin my [CIPS](#) studies and will use that knowledge to continue delivering savings and societal benefits through procurement. SPCD and my colleagues offer a strong learning experience preparing me for what I hope will be a long and successful government career.

June 2016

Procurement Portfolio Officer

Scottish Procurement and Commercial Directorate (SPCD), Scottish Government

Who am I?

I hold a Bachelor with honours degree in International Business from Edinburgh Napier University and a Master's degree in International Business and Economics from Poznan University of Economics, Poland. As an Erasmus student I also studied Business Management and Administration in València, Spain. Prior to joining SPCD I interned at the Marshall Office in the Department of International Cooperation and Investment, and also worked at The Royal Bank of Scotland in Edinburgh.

Where am I?

In December 2015 I joined the Scottish Government as a Procurement Portfolio officer on a 2-year undergraduate scheme. I thought this opportunity would be ideal for me as I was interested in international trade – a procurement role seemed fascinating and a good development opportunity.

I work in the Central Government Procurement Office where I have been involved in a wide range of interesting projects. Through this opportunity my procurement and government knowledge has grown greatly and my horizons have expanded.

What do I like about my role?

I have supported high-risk and high-value projects and led on lower value procurements. Working with passionate and knowledgeable colleagues has been a rewarding experience for me. It is really reassuring that I can always rely on them when I need their support.

I am fascinated to see how much Scottish society can benefit by applying the government's sustainable development strategy and ethical policy through procurement exercises.

What have I been doing?

Since joining SPCD, I have been involved in

- procuring a range of services such as transport and travel, legal services, procurement training, research and consultancy
- understanding the legal changes in 2016 and working on the practical implementation
- reporting on sustainable benefits and fair work practices delivered, and collecting re-charge figures for procurement services.

Where am I going?

I will soon start studying towards my [CIPS](#) professional qualifications and use the skills I gain in my role to deliver the government's objectives: engagement with small and medium enterprises, savings, social benefits and sustainability. I am certain that my colleagues in SPCD will support me in achieving my goal of becoming a Procurement Person of Tomorrow.

June 2016