

NFU Graduate Scheme

Agricultural Policy

What you can expect from the NFU Agricultural Policy Graduate Scheme

When you join the NFU's Policy Graduate scheme you will be joining a team committed to championing the future of UK farming and food production.

As a policy graduate you will join a unique network with unrivalled access to policy makers across the EU and UK.

This high quality programme will broaden your horizons and give you the knowledge and experience to develop for the good of our members and your own career. You will be provided with:

- A range of placements that will take you across England, Wales and potentially Brussels. You'll get a two week induction programme at our HQ (in Warwickshire), meeting key staff and getting to know more about the NFU before you head out on your first placement.
- A range of assignment briefs that will challenge and develop your skill set, and give you the chance to work with and learn from industry specialists.
- Full support and guidance whilst on placement from a placement manager and a mentor.

We like to grow our own talent and previous graduates are now in key positions, advising members, developing policy and building their profiles in an innovative and vital industry.

Previously graduates have taken an active role in aiding the development of NFU Policy. This has included:

- Developing key communications on climate change which was launched at an international conference.
- Facilitate and lead on conveying the NFU's work to its members.
- Taken an active role in key issues such as campylobacter, Avian Influenza, HS2 and rural flood risk.

Who we are and what we do

The National Farmers' Union is a trade association, created for and run by its members. We have been at the forefront of agricultural and rural issues for more than 100 years. We are the voice of British farming.

We have 55,000 members in England and Wales. The NFU's strength continues to derive from members who make their living from the industry.

We aim to continue to protect and preserve the reputation of British farming, promote and campaign on our key lobbying priorities and to ensure that the British public continue to Back British Farming.

Influencing policy and legislation that matters to farming is at the heart of what we do. Whether it is in Brussels, London or Cardiff, decisions taken by legislators and regulators make a real difference for farming, the countryside and consumers.

Where you will go

We want to provide our graduates with a rounded view of the NFU, so will arrange placements across as many areas of the organisation as possible. Typically, placements will involve time in both our HQ (in Warwickshire) and in one of our Regional Offices. Where possible, time in our Brussels and London offices will be arranged to provide a fully national and international perspective on policy making. Placements can last between 3 and 6 months, and you should be prepared to move location with each placement.

Your Assignments

During the 2 year programme you will:

- Work alongside and be mentored by our policy specialists in Stoneleigh, Builth Wells, Brussels or the English regions.
- Gain experience from a series of 3-6 month challenging projects across the NFU. This project could be on specific cross-sector topic (from environment to food safety, animal welfare to tenancies) or through a particular sector (arable, dairy, horticulture etc).
- Research and report on current and new challenges facing farm businesses.
- Develop your own networks, make presentations and produce clear and succinct reports for a variety of audiences.
- Learn about the food and farming industry.

In return we are looking for candidates who are enthusiastic about food and farming, who regularly show initiative, who relish meeting new people and tackling new situations, who enjoy researching around a topic and who write and present well to a variety of audiences.

How we will support you

- You will have 1-to-1 support from your placement manager through the practicalities of the day job.
- You will have access to a £2,000 relocation fund, in addition to a starting salary of £24,500 per annum. This relocation fund is specifically on offer to provide some help in that time between placements, where you need to up sticks and move. It can help with the cost of house-hunting, short-term accommodation (it is not designed to cover rent) and travel expenses. You should note the fund is available as and when required, and would be made available at the time of need against a specific claim.
- As a welcome to the NFU you will receive a one off graduate entry scheme payment of £1,000.

How to Apply

You need to complete and return the Graduate Application Form by Sunday 13th January 2019. We may not be able to accept applications returned after this date.

If you have any questions on any of the above, please call our HR team on 024 7685 8742 or email hr@nfu.org.uk.

