

# White British students not allowed to apply for security services internship

Decision described as 'blatant discrimination' and 'racist' as MI5, MI6 and GCHQ try to increase diversity among their ranks. *We have a fifth column within the Home Office and Ministry of Justice already. So far only the Army and Navy are still reliable, within the ranks and serving officers. Having said that it would be necessary to have operatives who can move easily around those outside groups that menace us. But...*

From the [Telegraph](#)

Britain's intelligence services have launched a summer internship programme – but white British students are banned from applying. MI5, MI6 and GCHQ are offering students the opportunity of a paid internship next summer, promising that the opportunity represents the “first steps towards an exciting full-time career”.

It says that summer interns will not “just be sitting on the sidelines – this is your opportunity to get unique access to our operations, gain experience, and make key contributions to real projects”.

The advert goes on to explain that the 10-11 week “intelligence internship” is only open to students from a “Black, Asian, mixed heritage or ethnic minority” as well as those from a “socially or economically disadvantaged” background.

## MIS, MI6 and GCHQ Summer Intelligence Internship

Applications for the 2025 internship are now closed. You can sign up for [job alerts](#) to be notified of future internships and check our [graduate opportunities](#).

For the 2024/25 academic year, if you're in your final or penultimate year of university and from a Black, Asian, mixed heritage or ethnic minority background and from a socially or economically disadvantaged background\*, this Internship will help you discover if a career in intelligence is right for you. You won't just be sitting on the sidelines - this is your opportunity to get unique access to our operations, gain experience, and make key contributions to real projects.

You could choose to work here at MIS, or with our partner agencies GCHQ or MI6 – but whichever agency you join, your fresh perspective will be welcomed and truly valued by our friendly teams operating at the heart of national security.

\*We're confining the applications for this internship to those within this demographic due to a current underrepresentation in our workforce. Not sure if that's you? Scroll down to the bottom of this section for a full breakdown of the eligibility criteria.

### What will you do?

You can only apply with one of us, so here's some insight about each internship to help you pick.

Over 11 weeks at MIS, you'll be placed in one of our investigative teams where you'll experience what life as an Intelligence Officer is like. You'll help us investigate and disrupt international terrorism. You'll learn how front-line operations are run, piece together intelligence and create a picture of possible threats. There will also be the chance to contribute to setting strategies, explain risks to a range of audiences and work as part of a close-knit, multi-disciplinary team. By the end of the Internship, you'll understand how we keep the UK safe.

At MI6, you'll be working with a dedicated internship manager for the duration of the 11 weeks and 2 days internship, to ensure you have a varied experience within one of our exciting mission teams. You'll be introduced to all sorts of operations, whether that be from a data perspective, a requirements perspective, or others. But more importantly you'll see the human side of how we operate in all strands of our work. You'll also be given the opportunity to see and experience our training via a short residential trip.

As an intern at GCHQ, for 10 weeks you'll be working in one of our intelligence mission teams. Our Intelligence Data Analyst teams work in a rapidly changing technological environment, problem solving every day. We use bespoke technology, finding information from different places, including a high volume of data generated by many internet-connected devices. If you do have specialist skills such as cyber, data science, or coding experience, you may get the opportunity to use and develop these skills on the internship. However, these are not required and are not an essential part of the role.

But any white British students from socially deprived families would not be considered for internships which could lead to a career as a spy. The advert states the internship is open to applications from “white other” groups such as Romany Gypsy, Scottish or Irish Travellers

Chris Philp, the shadow home secretary, called the internship programme “racist” and called for it to be axed.

“I understand the need to encourage applications from a wide range of backgrounds, including underrepresented minorities,” he said. “But this is an overtly racist policy and it should be immediately discontinued. It implies it is impossible for any white person to be deprived or deserving of assistance.”

One former senior Royal Air Force (RAF) officer said he believed the decision not to allow poor white students to apply is “blatant discrimination”. Tim Davies, a former Squadron Leader, said: “Opportunities are being denied to

white children, that's just a fact, they cannot apply just because they are white." He said that the RAF had made a similar mistake when pursuing a recruitment policy which led to accusations that it had discriminated against white men in its effort to meet "aspirational diversity targets".

The advert for summer interns at MI5, MI6 and GCHQ says that as well as being from a black, Asian, mixed heritage or ethnic minority background, students need to also be from a [deprived family](#). It says that to be eligible to apply for internships, the highest earner in the student's household when they were aged 14 had to be either unemployed and seeking work, or employed but only in certain technical or manual occupations.

A spokesperson for GCHQ, MI5 and MI6 said: "The summer intelligence internship is a lawful measure used by the intelligence agencies to encourage people from under-represented groups to consider careers with our organisations."

*Some of my favourite comments:*

- We are at war, we are being destroyed from within.
- Bang goes our nations security. How long before one of these foreigners goes rogue?
- Many years ago now I applied for the secret service, and the whole application process was about right wing terrorism....I obviously didn't progress very far. I'm pretty sure they didn't want someone with my views
- We can only assume that the security forces finally recognise where the threat is coming from. That's a dream, obviously. We all know the terror threat is coming from far right housewives and their hurty words.
- Rwandans from Cardiff go to the top of the list.