

Pavandeep Singh Josan

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A bi-lingual history graduate with a keen interest in politics and experience of the British political system who has been engaged with political journalism, policymaking initiatives, and advising government. Also possessing a keen academic interest in the study of South Asia and its diasporas and currently engaged in a US and UK government sponsored Fulbright exchange to study for an MA in this subject.

Key Achievements:

- Worked as part of a team attempting to introduce legislation to Parliament that will institute automatic voter registration for all 18-year-olds across the UK.
- Founded the Change Your Mind youth mental health initiative, which won a Parliamentary award and has been adopted by schools across the UK.
- Founded the Partition Stories oral history project. Have been invited to present seminars about the project to undergraduate students at the University of Exeter and University of Keele, and to senior Civil Servants across UK government departments. I engaged in discussion of the Partition of India, oral history, and theories surrounding violence and power during these seminars.
- Was selected by the US Embassy in London to visit the US in August 2023 as part of the US State Department-led International Visitor Leadership Programme. Engaged in meetings with civic society and community advocacy groups across the US, and shared best-practice regarding policymaking, as well as building networks and relationships.
- Selected for an extremely prestigious Fulbright Award to travel to the US and undertake post-graduate study.

Experience:

September 2022 – September 2024

Policy Advisor, Department for Education

- Worked in the Early Years, Childcare and Families Analysis Directorate of the Department for Education.
- Produced briefing and advice for Ministers and Number 10 Downing Street to guide their policy decisions with regards to the childcare system in England.
- Designed and launched a multi-million-pound grant programme to support childcare workers in England.
- Worked at pace and to tight deadlines to adequately prepare Ministers for Parliamentary engagements (such as debates in the Commons chamber and oral questions).

July 2022 - September 2022

Policy Intern, Index on Censorship

- Part of a small team who analysed the National Security Bill line-by-line and drafted a submission to a Parliamentary Committee detailing the free speech concerns within the Bill.
- Liaised with senior leaders within the journalism sector, including at the National Union of Journalists, OpenDemocracy and Reporters Without Borders, in order to produce an effective submission and campaign.
- Were successful in persuading the government to redraft elements of the Bill to better protect the rights of journalists in the UK.

May 2021 – April 2022

Policy Researcher, Patchwork Foundation

- Part of a small team, working with the law firm Hogan Lovells, that researched potential policy solutions to the issue of Automatic Voter Registration in the UK and helped to devise draft legislation that would implement AVR in the UK as an amendment to the Elections Bill.
- The role also included advocating for the necessity of AVR and researching and producing briefing papers that were distributed to Parliamentarians about the need for AVR and the policy solutions to allow the implementation of AVR. This led to an address of a briefing session of Parliamentarians in March 2022, to encourage them to support AVR proposals.

July 2020 – August 2022

Newspaper Reviewer, BBC Radio 5 Live

- Summarised newspaper front pages impartially and succinctly for a national audience.
- Researched and planned talking points about complex political issues in a short time frame.

Education:

June 2026 (expected)

South Asia Studies MAIS, University of Washington

Recipient of a Fulbright scholarship to study for an MA at the University of Washington.

Will be researching the impact of Partition upon the development of South Asian communities in the US and Canada.

June 2022

History BA (Hons), University of Exeter

Achieved 2:1

Modules included: 'The Politics of Climate Change', 'Geographies of Democracy', and 'The History and Politics of Independent India' and an undergraduate dissertation that assessed the effects of the Partition of India upon the development of British South Asian communities.

Awarded a Dean's Commendation for exceptional performance in my dissertation.

June 2018

A Levels, Queen Mary's Grammar School

English Language and Literature, Economics, History

June 2016

GCSE, Queen Mary's Grammar School

13 GCSEs including English Language, English Literature, Maths, History and Punjabi

Skills:

- Strong oral and written communication
- Exceptional research skills, developed through my journalism and radio commentary.
- Effective time management skills and ability to manage multiple tasks.
- Languages: Fluent in Punjabi.