

THOMAS COLE

INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL AFFAIRS - CV

Key Points

- 15+ years' experience in advocacy, advisory, communications, public diplomacy & international affairs roles
- In-depth experience advising international, national, private sector & non-profit leaders on policy & media issues
- Experience engaging with high-end international media as a journalist, spokesperson, analyst & in op-ed drafting
- Leadership experience in international affairs, political consulting, charity sector and political campaigning
- UK & Luxembourg Passport holder; multi-lingual; masters' degrees in international relations & journalism

Career aims & objectives

- A role allowing me to use my interest, experience and background in international affairs, policy & communications
- A position in an organisation with international reach working on foreign policy & international affairs' issues
- To be a spokesperson for an international organisation, engaging with high-level media

Professional Experience

Policy & Government Relations Advisor, Global Innovation Fund, London, UK; January 2023 – Present

- Advising the CEO on public and political engagement opportunities, including drafting speeches and online pieces
- Managing relationships with donor countries (UK, Sweden, Canada, Australia) as well as US-Government outreach
- Briefing CEO on upcoming events and engagements & managing CEO's office together with other staff members
 - *Key achievement:* Led on key CEO public outreach engagement at [CSIS think tank](#) and [Yale University](#)
 - *Key achievement:* Led on organisation of board meetings, including on presentations and papers
 - *Key achievement:* Managing internal aspects of ongoing evaluation into the organisation's work

International Political Analyst/Journalist/ London, UK 2016/2017 & 2020 – 2022

- Expert-analyst on international TV networks on EU & UK politics (Examples: [BBC World](#), [CNBC](#), [Cheddar](#), [Euronews](#), [Sky](#))
- Interviewing [experts](#), producing [video packages](#), [explainer pieces](#) and [writing](#) about international events
- Took career-break 2020/21 to pursue journalism degree & learning new skills such as [website](#) design & video/audio editing
 - *Key achievement:* Obtained Distinction in International Journalism Masters' degree at City University
 - *Key achievement:* Interviewing leading international experts on EU foreign & economic policies
 - *Key achievement:* Appearing as outside expert on leading broadcasters to discuss UK and EU politics

Head of Policy/Spokesperson, People's Vote Campaign/Open Britain, London, UK 2017 - 2019

- Managed policy team, drafting briefings for MPs (examples [here](#) & [here](#)) and led organisation's [diplomatic outreach](#)
- Spokesperson for organisation towards international media (Examples: [Al Jazeera](#), [Foreign Policy](#), [France24](#), [die Zeit](#))
- Represented organisation publicly, via broadcast interviews (Examples: [BBC](#), [Cheddar](#), [Euronews](#), [Sky News](#))
- Led campaign's international media outreach, including organising press conferences and [drafting](#) & [placing](#) op-eds
 - *Key achievement:* Expanded international awareness of campaign, through diplomatic and media channels
 - *Key achievement:* Placed/drafted op-eds in the names of Tony Blair, John Major, Nick Clegg & David Miliband
 - *Key achievement:* Increased political support for campaign through effective lobbying and networking

Policy Officer, DG NEAR (EU Enlargement & Neighbourhood), European Commission, Brussels, Belgium, 2012 – 2016

- Managed and led briefings' teams on speeches, speaking points & key messages for senior officials on EU foreign policy
- Worked on EU accession negotiations with Iceland, Montenegro, Serbia and Turkey and the EU's neighbourhood policy
- Attended monthly EU Foreign Ministers' meetings and regularly briefed EU member state diplomats on enlargement issues
- Project-managed €multi-million projects in Iceland, including an EU information Centre in Reykjavik
 - *Key achievement:* Continuously providing high-quality briefings for senior staff on EU foreign policy
 - *Key achievement:* Advancing EU accession negotiations with Montenegro and Serbia
 - *Key achievement:* Attending highest possible foreign policy forum in the EU, the Foreign Affairs Council

Political Consultant, g+Europe Brussels, Belgium, 2009 – 2011

- Managed EU-wide communications for clients including speech-writing, op-ed & press release drafting & placing
- Advised, accompanied & briefed clients on meetings with journalists, politicians and regulators across the European Union
- Provided clients with daily media wrap-up reports of EU-wide coverage of their businesses, operations and sectors
- Monitored legislative developments in the EU institutions and in member states for private sector clients
 - *Key achievement:* Continuously providing quality speeches, speaking points and key messages for clients
 - *Key achievement:* Managing media-relations and increasing media exposure for clients across the EU
 - *Key achievement:* Successfully working on political engagement campaigns for clients on EU legislation

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Professional Experience (continued)

Policy Researcher, Periodical Publishers' Association, London, UK, 2008 -2009

- Undertook Policy & Business Research for UK magazine industry, organised events and developed industry contacts
- Personal Assistant to the Chief Executive, assisting with diary management, attending meetings and taking notes
 - *Key achievement:* Successfully organised industry event in House of Commons
 - *Key achievement:* Part of organisational team for the 2009 World Magazine Awards in London

Intern, Political Section, European Union Delegation to the United States, Washington DC, USA 2008

- Drafted reports on hearings & events at Congress/think tanks/IMF/World Bank & assisted with Delegation public outreach
- Assisted with drafting of reports on US political developments as well as drafting speeches for Delegation Ambassador
 - *Key achievement:* Assisted with congressional outreach programmes including with office of Joe Biden
 - *Key achievement:* Having my own political reports sent back to Brussels as part of Delegation reporting

Education

Languages

City, University of London, UK <i>MA, International Journalism, Grade: Distinction</i>	2020 - 2021	English German	Mother Tongue Fluent
London School of Economics, UK <i>MSc, Global Politics, Grade: Merit</i>	2006 - 2007	French Italian	Advanced Intermediate
University of Edinburgh, UK <i>MA, History & Politics, Grade 2:1</i>	2002 - 2006	Luxembourgish Spanish	Intermediate Elementary
Ludwig-Maximilians Universität, Germany <i>ERASMUS Exchange</i>	2004-2005	Portuguese Dutch	Passive Passive

Boards/Memberships/Voluntary roles

- Member of Chatham House think tank since 2016
- Volunteer for 'Britain Stronger in Europe' leading phone-banking operation out of Canary Wharf, London, UK 2016
- Member of the 'Young Professionals in Foreign Policy', organising Ambassadors' event series, Brussels, Belgium 2012-2015
- Board member of LSE University alumni society, organising events for members in Brussels, Belgium 2009-2013
- Volunteer, Catherine Bearder, Liberal Democrats, successful European Parliament election campaign, UK 2009
- Volunteer on building site for home for street children in Manzini, Eswatini 2003
- Volunteer on gap-year project with street children in Lima, Peru 2002

Citizenship

- UK citizen & passport holder
- Luxembourg citizen & passport holder
- Indian-visa-for-life "Overseas Citizenship" anticipated in 2024

Personal interests/hobbies

- Reading: Modern political history and contemporary politics books; *the FT*; *the Economist*; *Foreign Affairs*
- Sports (passively): keen international rugby, football and tennis follower
- Sports (actively): walking/hiking; gym (when family time allows)
- Cooking: Cuisine from all over the world, with keen interest in Italian food, including pasta-making

Contact Details

Website www.thomas-cole.org

Twitter/X <https://twitter.com/ThomasHCole>

LinkedIn <https://www.linkedin.com/in/thomascole/>