



### UKRI policy fellowships 2025: fellowship position

**Fellowship title:** Cabinet Office Economic Growth Mission fellowship

**Fellowship type:** Core policy fellowship

**Host organisation:** [Cabinet Office](#)

**Host team:** [Evaluation Task Force](#) (ETF) and Mission Delivery Unit (MDU)

**Summary:** opportunity to work at the heart of government supporting evaluation and delivery of the Economic Growth Mission, to drive a step change in evidence-based decision making and public sector reform. Work may cover a range of topics across the breadth of the Economic Growth Mission, including economic and fiscal stability, investment and infrastructure, skills and labour market participation, regional growth, housing, innovation, industrial strategy and trade and the net zero transition

**Policy topic:** economic growth, employment and skills, labour markets, housing, innovation, industrial strategy, trade, net zero, infrastructure

**Research Council:** ESRC

**Academic discipline(s):** employment and labour markets, local and regional growth, social research methods, economics, behavioural science, impact evaluation, specialist evaluation skills preferably in experimental or quasi-experimental methods and complex or multifaceted evaluations

**Research career stage:** open to early or mid-career researchers

### Fellowship structure

#### **Inception phase:**

**Estimated start date:** February 2026. Exact date to be confirmed by the host depending on onboarding and security clearance requirements

**Duration:** three months

**FTE:** 0.4 FTE

#### **Main placement phase:**

**Duration:** 12 months

**FTE:** 0.6 to 1 FTE

#### **Knowledge exchange phase:**

**Duration:** three months

**FTE:** 0.4 FTE

### Work arrangements

**Location requirements:** fellows will need to regularly work with ETF and MDU teams at Cabinet Office locations in Westminster

**Hybrid working:** during the main placement phase, fellows will be expected to attend Cabinet Office buildings in person at 1 Horse Guards Road or 70 Whitehall on average two days per week. During the inception phase, fellows should budget for attending up to six face-to-face meetings in London. Eligible Travel and Subsistence costs are supported in the main UKRI grant. Please see full call text and guidance for more details

**Security clearance:** fellows will need a minimum of Counter Terrorist Check (CTC) clearance. Security clearance can take up to three months. Please see [National security vetting: clearance levels](#) for further information

### Fellowship description

The Mission:

The new government has said it will put Missions at the heart of everything it does as it seeks to achieve long-term renewal, focused on tackling complex societal challenges that will make a meaningful difference to people's everyday lives. Achieving these ambitious outcomes requires a new way of doing government, combining the best of policy and evaluation. In support of these aims, this fellowship will be hosted by the ETF and MDU. This opportunity is one of five fellowships that will be hosted by the ETF and MDU, creating a sub-cohort of Mission-led policy fellows working at the centre of government.

The teams:

The ETF is a joint Cabinet Office and HM Treasury (HMT) team working to ensure robust evidence on the effectiveness of policies and programmes sits at the heart of spending decisions.

MDU leads on working with departments on the Economic Growth Mission, as well as the other Mission areas. This includes addressing key challenges and blockers for key components of Mission delivery and ensuring that the overall policy package is sufficient for delivering the Mission as a whole.

The work:

Fellows will be embedded in the ETF with dotted line management to MDU colleagues leading work on the Economic Growth Mission. Working across these teams, fellows will demonstrate the dynamic new ways of working necessitated by Mission-driven government, combining the best of academia and outside challenge with government planning. While this opportunity is focussed on the Economic Growth Mission, there may be opportunities for the successful candidates to work at the intersection of different Missions. Fellows will work with ETF and MDU to codesign potential research projects during the fellowship inception phase.

Economic Growth is the number one Mission of the government. It is critical for raising living standards across the country, as well as generating the tax revenues to fund critical public services and public investment. Delivery of this Mission covers a broad range of economic levers, with contributions across government departments, and includes (in particular) economic and fiscal stability, investment and infrastructure, skills and participation, regional growth, housing, innovation, industrial strategy and trade and the net zero transition.

Key activities, the fellow will:

Given the breadth of the Economic Growth Mission, the exact policy areas of the Mission that the policy fellow works on will depend on the experience and interests of the successful fellow. Within this, the fellow will:

- Work on a dynamic mix of short-term activities tackling emerging issues in Mission delivery and evaluation, and longer-term projects directly engaging with policy or analytical specialists in departments
- Use their knowledge of Mission areas and evaluation expertise to problem solve evaluation and delivery challenges related to government Missions
- Work to ensure our understanding of Mission areas is informed by the best available evidence, that data and research evidence is used to support Mission delivery, and ensure Missions generate and use data to enable robust impact evaluations
- Contribute academic expertise to the delivery and evaluation of government Missions both through their technical evaluation skills and specialist policy knowledge of the Economic Growth Mission area. This can include expertise in specific elements within growth policy rather than expertise across the Mission as a whole, such as in economic and fiscal stability, investment and infrastructure, skills and participation, regional growth, housing, innovation, industrial strategy and trade and the net zero transition
- Support development and implementation of robust evaluation of government programmes by providing technical advice to departments on complex evaluations and reviewing evaluation plans
- Engage academic networks to collate and share relevant learning between academic and government communities to support Mission delivery and evaluation
- Assist the delivery of Economic Growth Mission through supporting with aspects of delivery planning, such as constructing Theories of Change, selecting target metrics and assessing delivery confidence (both for core deliverables within the Mission, and potentially also for the Mission overall)
- Support the delivery of the Economic Growth Mission through identifying blockers to delivery and helping develop novel solutions to overcoming these challenges in a manner that supports the government's other Missions (such as Clean Energy and Opportunities)
- Undertake original research and analysis to support delivery and evaluation of the Economic Growth Mission

Benefits to the fellow:

- A unique opportunity to inform the design, delivery and evaluation of the highest priority government policies
- Gaining an understanding of policymaking from the heart of government, as well as the analysis, data and funding decisions that support this

- The opportunity to build their network of policy and analytical professionals within government, from key central departments (No10, Cabinet Office, HMT) and Mission relevant departments (such as the Department for Business and Trade, the Department for Science, Innovation and Technology and the Department for Education)
- Peer mentoring from ETF Evaluation Leads and MDU delivery professionals, all of whom are handpicked experts in their field who make up our small but highly effective central units
- Opportunity to apply academic knowledge and research expertise in the delivery of government Missions
- Opportunity to publish academic outputs (where data and security requirements allow)
- Potential to access new and novel data related to Mission delivery

Example activities and outputs the fellow will be expected to undertake or deliver include:

- Rapid review of policy documents or research evidence to feed into delivery and evaluation planning
- Researching and communicating 'what works' evidence to policy and delivery teams working on the Economic Growth Mission, in order to inform the optimal design of growth policy or identify solutions to tackling delivery challenges
- Analyse and interrogate data to provide insights to support problem identification and policy development in Economic Growth Mission areas
- Rapid scrutiny of evaluation plans attached to business cases submitted to HMT spending teams
- Advising and supporting departments on the design and delivery of robust, proportionate evaluation
- Communicating research and evaluation findings to ensuring they are fed back into decisions made by departments and spending teams
- Given the breadth of the Economic Growth Mission, the fellow may also have opportunities to get involved in other parts of policy design, delivery and sufficiency assessments, according to the needs of the Mission, and the expertise and interests of the fellow

### **Person specification**

Applications will be assessed by UKRI panel assessment against the following essential opportunity-specific requirements in addition to the generic eligibility and call criteria:

#### **Essential criteria:**

- Subject matter expertise in specific topics related to at least one core component of the Economic Growth Mission (economic and fiscal stability, investment and infrastructure, skills and participation, regional growth, housing, innovation, industrial strategy and trade or the net zero transition). Given the breadth of the Economic Growth Mission, we do not expect fellows to have expertise across all areas of the Mission
- Experience of design and delivery of experimental or quasi-experimental impact evaluation, complex theory-based or contribution analysis evaluation
- Experience of working with policy or practice stakeholders to develop and refine research, monitoring or evaluation plans
- Understanding of or experience in operational delivery or the levers needed to turn good policy into good delivery

Applicants shortlisted from the panel assessment will be assessed at the host led interview selection process against the following desirable opportunity-specific requirements:

#### **Desirable criteria:**

- Ability to synthesise existing evidence and make recommendations about policy development and implementation
- Background in or awareness of behavioural science
- Background in or awareness of value for money evaluation or assessment
- Background in or experience of applied quantitative research methods
- Background in or experience of process evaluation and other social research methods

### **Processing personal data**

If applicants are shortlisted by the UKRI assessment panel UKRI will need to share the application and any personal information that it contains with the host for the host led interview selection process.

Your personal data will be handled in line with UK data protection legislation and managed securely. If you would like to know more, including how to exercise your Rights, please see the UKRI [privacy notice](#).

The Cabinet Office privacy notice can be found here: [Cabinet Office Personal Information Charter](#). Hosts will delete your data at the end of the selection process unless you are successful, in which case we will retain your data as an independent data controller.