UK Research and Innovation

Government Office for Science

**UKRI policy fellowships 2025: fellowship position**

**Fellowship title:** GO-Science emerging technologies and Safer Streets fellowship

**Fellowship type:** Core policy fellowship

**Host organisation:** GO-Science

**Host team:** Emerging Technologies Team, Technology Insights, Futures and Foresight (TIFF)

**Summary:** opportunity to advise on how emerging technologies can be used to improve the UK Government's Safer Streets Mission

**Policy topic:** Safer Streets Mission

**Research Council:** EPSRC

**Academic discipline(s):** engineering and physical sciences

**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**: the GO-Science office locations are London, Birmingham, Bristol, Cardiff, Darlington, Edinburgh and Salford. Occasional visits to London may be required

**Hybrid working:** to maximise the benefits of the fellowship it is recommended that the fellow would spend circa 40% of their time in a GO-Science office. Eligible Travel and Subsistence costs are supported in the main UKRI grant. Please see full call text and guidance for more details

**Security clearance:** Basic Personnel Security Standard (BPSS) checks and, if London based, Counter Terrorism Check (CTC). There would be additional opportunities if the fellow has Security Check (SC), however, this is not essential. We would ask the person taking up our fellowship opportunity to start the security clearance application process as soon as their fellowship has been confirmed; and so, ideally, before the inception phase begins. Please see National security vetting: clearance levels for further information

## Fellowship description

Go-Science works at the heart of government, ensuring policies and decisions are informed by the best scientific evidence and strategic long-term thinking. It is an exciting time to join the organisation, providing you an opportunity to inform and influence policymaking and the systems for use of science and engineering across government.

This fellowship will sit in the Government Chief Scientific Adviser's Emerging Technologies Team. Our team uses technology horizon scanning and technology assessments to help the UK government anticipate technology surprise and understand the potential opportunities and risks of emerging technologies. The role will provide first-hand experience of working with policymakers across government and the wider public sector.

The fellowship is an exciting opportunity to bring expertise in science and technology to the Safer Streets Misson and provide novel perspectives to a policy area that is not traditionally associated with emerging technologies. At a high level, the fellow will be expected to use expertise and understanding across a range of emerging technologies to support the Safer Streets Mission and improve our understanding of how technologies can have multi-Mission impacts. We will explore and codesign the project with the fellow at the inception phase. The fellow will likely engage closely with the colleagues in the Safer Streets Mission, policing and wider Mission teams.

The two top problem statements of the Safer Streets Mission and indicative examples of where emerging technologies could play a role are:

- Identifying and tackling concentrations of crime: emerging technologies such as advanced sensors, edge computing and biometrics technologies could improve future capabilities in knife crime detection, tracking and prevention
- Ensuring the safety of women and girls in their homes, on the streets and online: emerging technologies such as big data infrastructure, AI and sensors may impact future policing capabilities to identify, target and monitor perpetrators as well as tackle the growing challenge of online crimes and deepfakes

Many of these technologies can have multi-Mission impacts and contribute to other government priorities like Economic Growth and the Industrial Strategy.

The fellow will use their academic background and networks to identify key technology trends and to provide evidence-based advice. The fellow should provide expertise across a broad range of technologies relevant to the Safer Streets Mission. Expertise in technologies such as sensors, AI and automation technology, novel computing, synthetic environments and connectivity will be particularly useful but there is flexibility in academic background. Activities will include broad-scope horizon scanning, ideation, knowledge exchange, engagement and analysis initially focussed on the Safer Streets Mission. There are also opportunities to convene expertise by running events, roundtables and workshops. We anticipate significant scope for the fellow to shape the role and identify of their work based on their background and where they can have an impact.

The outputs will include dissemination across GO-Science and government, with the potential to publish some aspects on gov.uk. There will be plenty of opportunities for knowledge exchange and feeding expertise through to a wide range of projects and initiatives across GO-Science. The outcomes will be supporting the Safer Streets and wider Missions so that policymakers are informed and able to take advantage of future technology developments.

They will become a full member of the Emerging Technologies team and sit within our Deputy Directorate of TIFF. They will be involved in all regular day-to-day activities, receive a designated email and have a line manager to support them for the duration of their fellowship. They will be on team emails, meetings and programme boards to give meaningful input to the work the Emerging Technologies team undertakes in GO-Science. There will be opportunities to gain wider policy experience by supporting and leading briefings and commissions that the team undertakes.

## 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:**

- Expertise and a proven academic track record in engineering or the physical sciences

- Subject matter expertise of some of the following: sensors, AI, novel computing, synthetic environments and connectivity, biometrics or automation technology. There is flexibility here as long as the expertise is relevant to the Safer Streets Mission

- The ability to apply theory and evidence from several subject areas to a policy context and make it relevant to government Missions, especially Safer Streets

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:**

- Experience convening and facilitating workshops and roundtables
- Experience in horizon scanning or futures methodologies
- Experience working with national security

**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 Hosts' privacy notice can be obtained by contacting fellows@ukri.org and requesting a copy, and will be shared with all shortlisted candidates for this position prior to the interview. 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.