



UKRI policy fellowships 2025: fellowship position

Fellowship title: MHCLG Growth and Opportunity 1.5 million homes fellowship

Fellowship type: Core policy fellowship

Host organisation: [Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government](#)

Host team: Chief Scientific Adviser (CSA) Team

Summary: this fellowship will focus on how MHCLG can harness evidence and innovative thinking to meet the challenge of building 1.5 million homes during this parliament. Embedded within the Office of the CSA, the fellow will have the opportunity to work on multiple projects that contribute to this key milestone. Building 1.5 million homes involves a systematic interdisciplinary approach. Anticipated activities could include developing the associated research and evidence base, developing connections between MHCLG and the research community and ultimately have a central role in translating science into policy

Policy topic: planning reform (in the UK and internationally), land value capture, social housing and infrastructure, psychosocial measures to promote new housing and infrastructure, Modern Methods of Construction (MMC), housing quality, adaptive reuse of buildings, UK and international evidence on construction sector productivity

Research Council: ESRC

Academic discipline(s): open to different economic and social science disciplines (or multidisciplinary fields)

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: MHCLG has offices throughout the UK in: London, Belfast, Bristol, Cambridge, Cardiff, Darlington, Edinburgh, Leeds, Manchester, Nottingham and Wolverhampton. Placements can be based in any MHCLG office. We anticipate that the fellowship could be undertaken effectively with remote working and occasional visits to a MHCLG office (as appropriate) to meet colleagues

Hybrid working: MHCLG operate a hybrid working model with a mix of office and home working. We will discuss suitable working arrangements with the successful fellow. Where office-based, to maximise the benefits of the fellowship it is recommended that the fellow would spend circa 40-60% of their time in a MHCLG office. Occasional visits to London

may be required where an outside London location is agreed. 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). 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 more information

Fellowship description

MHCLG is at the heart of the government's agenda for change, aimed at growing the economy and improving people's lives right across the United Kingdom. We do this by empowering local communities, rebuilding local government, delivering the homes people need, ensuring building safety, enabling social cohesion and supporting local growth. By joining us, you will play a key role in the government's five core Missions to give the country a driving sense of purpose. Supporting good jobs and productivity, breaking down barriers for everyone and encouraging a sense of pride in local areas runs through all MHCLG teams, whether they are tackling homelessness, unsafe tall buildings or leasehold and planning reform, supporting the spread of devolution or finding local sponsors for refugees from war.

The government has set out five core Missions:

- Kickstarting Economic Growth
- Making Britain a Clean Energy super-power
- Taking Back our Streets and reducing crime
- Breaking down Barriers to Opportunity
- Building an NHS Fit for the Future

Meeting the government's Missions will require ambition, boldness and the best possible evidence base. MHCLG is committed to delivering 1.5 million net additional homes during this parliament. The milestone of building 1.5 million homes cuts across all Missions. We are seeking to embed a fellow within the Office of the CSA. Working with the CSA the fellow will have the opportunity to work on multiple projects that contribute to the milestone. Building 1.5 million homes involves a systematic multidisciplinary approach, anticipated activities could include developing the associated research and evidence base, developing connections between MHCLG and the research community, and ultimately have a central role in translating science into policy.

There is significant scope for the fellow to shape the role and identify where they can have an impact on MHCLG policy. This could include priority research questions in MHCLG's Areas of Research Interest ([ARIs](#)).

Research interests on the theme of building 1.5 million homes include:

- What can we learn from recent experiences of planning reform both across the UK and internationally?
- How best is land value captured to pay for social housing and infrastructure? What are the limits to the capture of land value and why?
- What are the best examples of how to incentivise local residents to support new housing and infrastructure in their local areas?
- What are the contexts in which the different types of MMCs are likely to be most useful? Are new standards for module interfaces required to facilitate the use of MMC? If so, in what terms should they be defined?
- What is the most constructive way to address the issue of empty homes, particularly long-term vacant properties?
- Why has construction sector productivity declined in the UK and in other countries in the recent years? Are there examples of policies across the world which have successfully addressed this?

These topics are indicative and not exhaustive. We expect that additional or alternative research questions may emerge through discussions between MHCLG policy teams and the fellow.

A fellow would benefit from:

- Proximity to interesting and topical policy decisions at a national scale
- The opportunity to inform and influence senior leaders and Ministers
- Experience of government ways of working and how policy is made, to help 'land' research more effectively
- Support and oversight from the department's CSA
- Access to a network of policy, analysis and research teams in MHCLG and in other departments
- Access to national datasets and information (for use whilst in post only and subject to security clearances)

- Wider support, including access to seminars, talks and workshops run by the department for internal staff
- Support to produce academic outputs (including publishing research) within the bounds of Crown Intellectual Property, data and security requirements

Given the fast-moving nature of policy priorities, we envisage that specific deliverables would be agreed every two to three months between the fellow and the CSA. Potential activities could include:

- Creating evidence summaries, reviews and analysis to meet key policy needs
- Examining the existing and emerging evidence in areas of key departmental interest
- Translating complex academic research for the application of policy and practice proposals
- Designing and organising policy workshops in order to provide academic challenge and rigour
- Conducting evidence-based horizon scanning exercises
- Preparing written briefings or blogs for non-specialist audiences
- Informing approaches to improving scientific capability and knowledge sharing

Person specification

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

Essential criteria:

- Ability to synthesis, analyse and ‘translate’ evidence for consideration in policy decisions
- Ability to design and lead on knowledge exchange activity between research and policy
- Experience of developing team or organisational capability
- Experience of meaningful collaboration with relevant stakeholders such as local government or housing sectors

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:

- Subject matter expertise relevant to MHCLG policy, for example, expertise in relation to the housing sector, the planning system or local economic growth
- Ability to develop team or organisational capability

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](#).

MCHLG’s privacy notice can be found here: [MCHLG privacy policy](#). Hosts will delete your data at the end of the selection process unless you are successful, in which case they will retain your data as an independent data controller.