



### **ESRC Policy Fellowships 2021: Opportunity description**

**Fellowship Title:** CO Evaluation Task Force

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

**Host team:** Evaluation Task Force (ETF)

**Summary:** Opportunity to shape a reform programme at the heart of government, to drive a step change in evaluation, evidence-based decision-making and outcomes for the public.

**Policy topic:** Evaluation, Infrastructure, social policy, trade, tax

**Relevant research career stage:** No preference – open to early or mid-career

#### **Practical details**

**Start of 3-month inception phase:** December 2021

**Length of core placement:** 12 months

**FTE for core placement (range):** 0.5 - 1 FTE

**Location requirements:** Remote working available. Regular travel to London (around once a week) would be expected.

**Necessary level of security clearance:** [Security Check](#). This may take 1-3 months from application. We would therefore ask the person taking up our Fellowship opportunity to start the SC application process as soon as their Fellowship has been confirmed by ESRC; and so, ideally, before the inception phase begins. See [National security vetting: clearance levels - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

#### **Detailed description**

The Evaluation Task Force (ETF) is a central unit set up to ensure robust evidence on the effectiveness of policies and programmes sits at the heart of spending decisions.

The main activities of the ETF are:

- Rapid scrutiny of evaluation plans attached to business cases submitted to HM Treasury spending teams.
- Advising and supporting departments on the design and delivery of robust, proportionate evaluation
- Tracking the delivery of evaluations and their emerging results, and ensuring they are fed back into decisions made by departments and spending teams.
- Creating and maintaining a register of evaluation and trial protocols and encouraging the timely publication of results and programme performance data.

The main responsibilities for the fellow would be to:

- Use expertise in evaluation methods to provide rapid advice to HM Treasury spending teams and departments on the most rigorous and proportionate approach to evaluating the impact of specific policies and programmes
- Scope and lead work on driving a 'portfolio' approach to evaluation in government, including:
  - Encouraging a more holistic approach to the commissioning and analysis of evaluations so that programme data addresses outcomes of interest to multiple departments

- Advising on the evaluation of datasets where outcomes and spending transect multiple departments

Fellows would benefit from:

- Unique opportunity to inform the design of government policies
- Gaining an understanding of government policy making; analysis; and funding decisions
- Opportunity to build their network of policy and analytical professionals within government,
- Senior mentorship from the Government's What Works National Adviser
- Opportunity to raise the profile of evaluation in government
- Opportunity to author (or jointly author) publications with the Evaluation Task Force on issues such as the state of evaluation in government or in producing tools and guides for evaluation.

**Opportunity-specific person specification:**

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

**Skills/ expertise:**

- Specialist evaluation skills, preferably in (quasi) experimental methods and portfolio evaluation