



ESRC Policy Fellowships 2021: Opportunity description

Fellowship Title: HO Economic Crime

Host department: [Home Office](#)

Host team: Home Office Analysis and Insight

Summary: Developing the evidence base on economic crime

Policy topic: Economic Crime

Potentially relevant academic disciplines: Behavioural Sciences, Psychology, Criminology, Sociology

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

Practical details

Start of 3-month inception phase: January 2022

Length of core placement: 12 months

FTE for core placement (range): 0.6-1 FTE

Location requirements: Remote working is possible and expected to some degree. Subject to Covid restrictions, travel to London would be valuable on occasion e.g. once every fortnight, to meet with analytical and policy teams. Depending on the nature of the project, some travel around the UK for fieldwork may also be required, but again can be flexible given the individual's location, personal circumstances and any Covid restrictions.

Necessary level of security clearance: Baseline Personnel Security Standard (BPSS) and Security Check (SC) will be required. It is important to note for SC clearance that applicants should have been resident in the UK for the last 5 years. Advice for those being vetted is [here](#) and the Vetting Charter can be found [here](#). Further information on security levels can be found [here](#). Three months should be allowed for arranging security clearance so the person taking up the Fellowship opportunity will be asked to start the security check process as soon as their Fellowship has been confirmed by ESRC

Detailed description

The threat from economic crime is significant. These clandestine crimes impact the UK's national security, global reputation and prosperity, causing a range of financial, emotional, behavioural and physical harms to victims. Money laundering enables criminals to profit from the most serious and damaging of crimes, whilst corruption undermines fair competition and growth. Fraud is the most common crime type, comprising over one third of all crime in England and Wales. Technological changes have also enabled growing opportunities for criminals in these areas.

The cross-government approach for tackling economic crime is set out in the Economic Crime Plan (2019-22)¹. With policy teams at a pivotal moment in driving reform in the economic crime space, research and analysis is critical to facilitate evidence-based decisions. The Economic Crime

¹ [Economic crime plan 2019 to 2022 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

Research Strategy², published in May 2021, prioritises a number of evidence gaps regarding economic crime, specifically regarding fraud and money laundering. This includes developing our understanding of:

- Offenders, criminal pathways and networks.
- The links between different types of economic crime and other crimes e.g. computer misuse.
- Business experiences of economic crime, including sectoral differences.
- What works in preventing and disrupting economic crime.

This fellowship would provide opportunity for the postholder to help develop, deliver and disseminate research to build the evidence base on one or more of these questions, contributing to some of the Home Office's highest priority work. This would require working closely with policy teams, law enforcement and other analysts in the economic crime space to develop impactful, viable research proposals. As part of a multi-disciplinary team of analysts, there would also be opportunity to gain wider, day-to-day, experiences in terms of how evidence is used to inform policy-making within government.

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:

- Previous experience or knowledge of economic crime, or working in broader crime areas
- Strong evaluation skills
- Sound quantitative skills

² [Economic crime research strategy: Home Office research priorities - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/92222/economic-crime-research-strategy-2021.pdf)