



**Economic
and Social
Research Council**



**Ministry
of Justice**

ESRC Policy Fellowships 2021: Opportunity description

Fellowship Title: MOJ Evidence Fellowship

Host department: [Ministry of Justice \(MoJ\)](#). See also [Research at MOJ - Ministry of Justice - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

Host team: Evidence and Partnerships Hub in Data and Analytical Services Directorate (DASD)

Summary: Harnessing interdisciplinary expertise to push the boundaries in the use of evidence for justice policy and practice.

Policy topic: Evaluation

Potentially relevant academic disciplines: Methodology; knowledge of justice research and the justice evidence landscape; practical application of evidence synthesis e.g. systematic review, rapid evidence assessment, meta-analysis, realist synthesis.

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): Flexible 0.5-1

Location requirements: DASD are based in offices in Leeds and London but since March 2020 all analytical staff have been working from home in line with government guidelines. We anticipate that the Fellowship can be undertaken effectively with remote working and occasional visits to an MoJ office (as appropriate) to meet colleagues/teams.

Necessary level of security clearance: Baseline Personnel Security Standard (expected to take up 4-6 weeks from submission). See [National security vetting: clearance levels - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

Detailed description

The Ministry of Justice (MoJ) are seeking to embed a Fellow within the newly created Evidence and Partnerships Hub in Data and Analytical Services Directorate (DASD). The Fellow will play a crucial role in maximising the impact of evidence and external expertise for fundamental policy decisions.

The Fellow will push the boundaries in the 'traditional' use of evidence and expertise within justice research/policy, including the application of cross-discipline methodologies, scientific techniques, and the use of international evidence.

The Fellow will be flexibly deployed to a range of teams across MoJ to support policymakers and analysts to understand the evidence base and drive innovative evidence-based solutions to address high-profile, complex, and priority policy challenges. This is likely to include:

- Translating complex academic research for the application of policy and practice proposals
- Identifying, overseeing and delivering evidence syntheses in complex policy areas

- The scoping of ‘emergency’ evidence gaps in line with emerging ministerial and departmental priorities.

The Fellow will develop a framework and principles for evidence synthesis to feed into the creation of a department-wide evidence library. This will contribute to the policy narrative and support effective knowledge management across the department.

The Fellow will have the opportunity to work on numerous projects that cut across the breadth of the Department’s policy responsibilities, addressing priority research questions in the [MoJ Areas of Research Interest](#). Exact topics would be determined by departmental priorities at the time of the Fellowship, shaped by the Fellow’s interests and input.

The Fellow will benefit from wider support, networking opportunities, and learning and development available to DASD, giving them a richer experience during their Fellowship.

The Fellow will be supported by the DASD Evidence and Partnerships Hub in the translation, dissemination, and application of their work for policymakers, including via knowledge exchange opportunities such as seminars and roundtables.

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: MoJ are seeking a strong interdisciplinary researcher to push the boundaries in the use of evidence for policy, including:

- A breadth of expertise in the application of social science/research methods within and beyond the Fellow’s own discipline
- Knowledge of justice research and the justice evidence landscape, or how it intersects with the Fellow’s own research
- Practical application of evidence synthesis e.g., systematic review, rapid evidence assessment, meta-analysis, realist synthesis