

ESRC Policy Fellowships 2021: Opportunity description

Fellowship Title: MOJ Experimentation and Evaluation 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: Utilising technical expertise and innovation in experimentation and evaluation methodology to support justice policy and practice

Policy topic: Evaluation

Potentially relevant academic disciplines: Methodology; knowledge of theory-based approaches such as process evaluation, logic models, 'theory of change' (ToC), and realist evaluation

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: 0.6

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 Experimentation and Evaluation Hub in Data and Analytical Services Directorate (DASD). The Fellow will enhance the capability and consistency in experimentation and evaluation.

The Fellow will help in developing a systematic and comprehensive experimentation and evaluation framework, to alter and innovate MoJ's testing and trialling approach and culture in policymaking.

The Fellow will play a key role in developing a practical compendium/toolkit to embed our experimentation strategy, by applying theoretical experimentation approaches and methods to complex problems in a policy specific context.

The Fellow will lead one trial in an MoJ policy/operational area, to showcase, implement and embed the framework. The Fellow will develop best practice guidance to support the framework and novel ways of working that use cutting-edge thinking on experimentation in social policy.

The Fellow will provide expert advice and critical review for ongoing experimentation and evaluation projects, ensuring that all projects are making use of the most proportionate and suitable research approaches and analytical techniques.

The Fellow will have exposure to projects and evaluations 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: A technical expert and innovator in the usage of experimentation and evaluation methodology, including:

- Strong knowledge of experimental approaches, ranging from pre-experimental and quasi-experimental to randomised experimental approaches
- Knowledge of theory-based approaches such as process evaluation, logic models, 'theory of change' (ToC), and realist evaluation
- Practical application of methods (experimental, quasi-experimental and pre-experimental), to generate, develop and test new policy ideas, including rapid cycle testing, AB testing, and prototyping