



**Economic  
and Social  
Research Council**



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

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

**Fellowship Title:** WG Sustainable Futures

**Host:** [Welsh Government](#) See also [Futures, Foresight and Horizon Scanning - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

**Host team:** Sustainable Futures Division

**Summary:** Policy development and strategic foresight associated with the drivers and trends affecting Wales achievement of the national well-being goals under the Well-being of Future Generations Act.

**Policy topic:** Foresight

**Potentially relevant academic disciplines:** Future Studies

**Relevant research career stage:** Mid-career

### **Practical details**

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

**Length of core placement:** 12 months (March 2022 to February 2023)

**FTE for core placement:** 1 FTE

**Location requirements:** The post is location neutral as Welsh Government intends to continue with a significant proportion of remote working conditions. Ability to travel to Cardiff on occasion would be beneficial.

**Necessary level of security clearance** [Baseline Personnel Security Standard](#) will be required and may require 4-6 weeks to obtain. See [National security vetting: clearance levels - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

### **Detailed description**

The [Well-being of Future Generations \(Wales\) Act 2015](#) puts in place a comprehensive legislative framework for Wales to take action and contribute to the global sustainable development agenda ([Agenda 2030](#)). The legislation requires Government and public organisations operating in Wales to think more about the long term in the work that they do, and requires the Welsh Government to support this work by publishing a [Future Trends Report](#) every parliamentary term. This is a report which brings together key drivers and trends likely to affect Wales in the future, and Wales' achievement of the seven well-being goals.

Whilst the report will be published by December 2021 it will be the start of wider programme of Strategic Foresight work looking at application, capacity and capability within Welsh Government.

The focus of the research is on the analysis of these drivers and trends to co-develop scenarios that will affect a policy, place or group of the population. The outputs of this will feed into policy development of Welsh Government and form the basis for an update to the statutory Future Trends

Report. They will work with the Welsh Governments Future Trends Technical Group, and the internal Strategic Foresight Community to provide a policy analysis on agreed policy topics.

The Fellow will contribute to the development of the Welsh Governments Strategic Foresight and Futures programme to support better policy making in Government and wider society.

The Fellow will be placed within the Sustainable Futures Division of the Welsh Government which provides strategic advice to the First Minister on aspects relating to sustainable development, foresight and policy making.

### **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:**

- track record of understanding emerging trends and developments that could have an impact on a policy or strategy area, how these might combine and what impact they may have.
- preparedness to connect with relevant research centres and the wider futures community (European and Global)