

ESRC Policy Fellowships 2021 Applicant Webinars

26, 28 and 29 July 2021



Agenda

- 1 About the Policy Fellowships**
- 2 Support and expectations during the fellowships**
- 3 How to apply, timetable and assessment process**
- 4 Q&A**

- For full call information: <https://www.ukri.org/opportunity/esrc-policy-fellowships-2021/>



About the call

Supporting academics, home and host institutions committed to the exchange between academia and policy

Co-funded by ESRC, AHRC and government partners

Hosted by 10 UK and devolved government departments

Lasting up to 18 months starting between December 2021 – March 2022, across three phases: inception, placement and impact/KE.

Up to £135k value at FEC (paid at standard 80% rate), plus additional funds for project-specific and KE activity costs



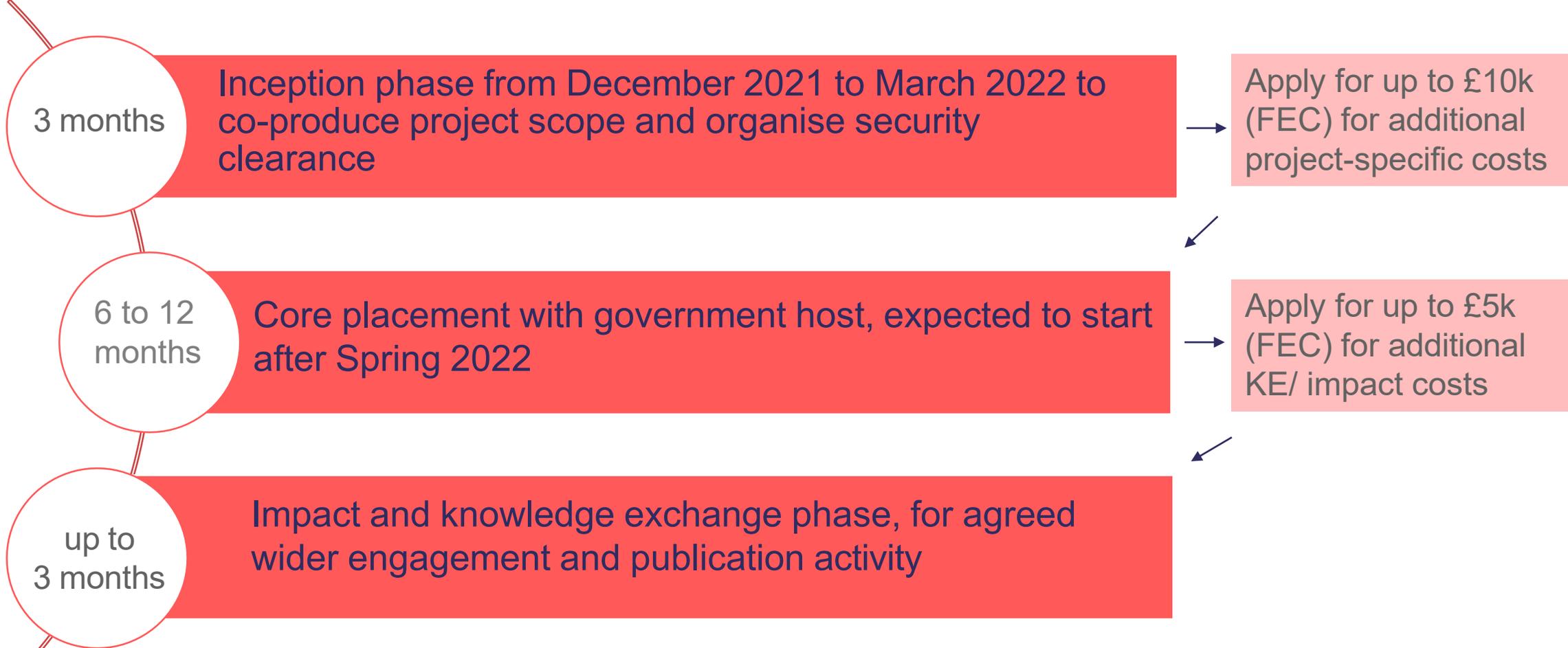
The 2021 Policy Fellowships

ESRC Policy Fellowships Call: Partners and themes

Partner	Topics
BEIS	Net Zero - Behavioural Science and Data Science
CO	Evaluation Taskforce, National Security
DEFRA	Net Zero and Behavioural Science
DfT	Decarbonising Transport, post-COVID Recovery and Levelling Up
FCDO (with AHRC)	Geographic Focus, Trade, Disinformation, National Security, Non-Proliferation
HO	Economic Crime, Cyber Crime
MHCLG	Net Zero
MoJ	Evaluation
Scottish Gov	Equalities Data, Health Inequalities, Social Care
Welsh Gov	Education, Net Zero, Foresight



Fellowship Stages



Opportunities presented at Webinar 1:

Covid Recovery and Net Zero

- BEIS Net Zero Behavioural Science fellowship
- BEIS Net Zero Digital or Data Social Science fellowship
- DEFRA Behavioural science and Net Zero fellowship
- DEFRA Waste Behaviour fellowship
- MHCLG Climate Change fellowship
- WG Sustainable Futures fellowship
- WG Environment and Rural Affairs fellowship
- WG Skills, Higher Education and Lifelong Learning (SHELL) fellowship
- DfT Decarbonising Transport fellowship
- DfT Covid Recovery User Focus fellowship



Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (BEIS)

- **BEIS Net Zero Behavioural Science fellowship**

Opportunity to use behavioural science skills to improve policy making on net zero across government.

- **BEIS Net Zero Digital or Data Social Science fellowship**

Net zero digital or data social scientist working closely with net zero policy teams and social research.



Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (DEFRA)

- **DEFRA Behavioural science and Net Zero fellowship**

This fellowship will explore which individual or societal behaviour change approaches Defra should prioritise to deliver the largest greenhouse gas benefits, alongside wider environmental benefits.

- **DEFRA Waste Behaviour fellowship**

This fellowship will explore behaviour change within product consumption, identifying where consumers would be most amenable to changing the way they consume.



Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government (MHCLG)

- **MHCLG Climate Change fellowship**

Opportunity for a behavioural scientist to work on individual and community behaviours in relation to net zero.



Welsh Government

- **WG Sustainable Futures fellowship**

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.

- **WG Environment and Rural Affairs fellowship**

Apply behavioural science to policy development and implementation and develop a bespoke research programme in climate change and food systems.

- **WG Skills, Higher Education and Lifelong Learning (SHELL) fellowship**

To review and analyse the evidence base for policy designed to limit the impact of COVID-19 controls and changed education methods on learner attainment and well-being.



Department for Transport (DfT)

- **DfT Decarbonising Transport fellowship**

To investigate and build an evidence base related to an intervention that would reduce carbon emissions from the transport sector.

- **DfT Covid Recovery User Focus fellowship**

Opportunity to help DfT to better use evidence and analysis to help meet its strategic priority to 'improve transport for the user.

Opportunities presented at Webinar 2:

Evaluation, Inequalities & Levelling up and Health & Social Care

- CO Evaluation Task Force fellowship
- DfT Connectivity Levelling Up fellowship
- MoJ Evidence fellowship
- MoJ Experimentation and Evaluation fellowship
- SG Equality Data fellowship
- SG Health Inequalities fellowship
- SG Social Care fellowship



Cabinet Office

CO Evaluation Task Force fellowship

- 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



Department for Transport (DfT)

DfT Connectivity Levelling Up fellowship

- Opportunity to provide theoretical and applied economic analysis to the question of how transport can best support the economic and social levelling-up of places.



Ministry of Justice (MoJ)

MoJ Evidence fellowship

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

MoJ Experimentation and Evaluation fellowship

- Utilising technical expertise and innovation in experimentation and evaluation methodology to support justice policy and practice.



Scottish Government

SG Equality Data fellowship

- This role will lead on aspects of the Scottish government's Equality Data Improvement programme, strengthening Scotland's equalities evidence base for better policy-making and outcomes.

SG Health Inequalities fellowship

- Advocate and support evidence-based change to reduce health inequalities and improve women's health in Scotland.

SG Social Care fellowship

- Research to underpin social care policy development and implementation for the National Care Service.

Opportunities presented at Webinar 3:

Crime, National Security and Foreign Policy

- **HO Cyber Crime fellowship**
- **HO Economic Crime fellowship**
- **CO National Security fellowship**
- **FCDO Foreign Policy and Disinformation fellowship**
- **FCDO Geographical Focus fellowship**
- **FCDO International Trade Law fellowship**
- **FCDO National Security and the international digital and telecoms environment fellowship**
- **FCDO Non-Proliferation fellowship**



Home Office

HO Cyber Crime fellowship

- Evaluating the impact of cyber security behaviour change interventions.

HO Economic Crime fellowship

- Developing the evidence base on economic crime.



Cabinet Office

CO National Security fellowship

- Design and conduct a gap analysis across national security and international policy with the aim of developing meaningful research questions, contributing to the NSS Areas of Research Interest



Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO) (co-funded with AHRC)

- Foreign Policy and Disinformation fellowship
- Geographical Focus fellowship
- International Trade Law fellowship
- National Security and the international digital and telecoms environment fellowship
- Non-Proliferation fellowship





Application and assessment process

Who can apply?



Person specification

Essential

- ✓ an economic or social science-focused researcher
 - For the FCDO Fellowships only, arts and humanities researchers are also eligible to apply
- ✓ based at an eligible UKRI research organisation
- ✓ hold a PhD or equivalent research experience
- ✓ early to mid-career researcher
- ✓ meet any additional eligibility criteria for the specific fellowship opportunity you are applying for
- ✓ have subject matter and analytical expertise and skills relevant to the specific fellowship you are applying for (see attachments below)
- ✓ be able to work effectively at pace to deliver expected outcomes, including working as part of a team on shared goals
- ✓ have excellent written and verbal communication skills, with the ability to translate complex information into meaningful narrative that is accessible to a non-academic audience

Desirable

- excellent stakeholder engagement and collaboration skills
- insight into working in a governmental context
- the ability to design and lead on knowledge exchange activity between research, policy and funder communities

Please note, additional assessment criteria specific to the skills and experience required for each fellowship is set out in the opportunity guidance. Please make sure to reference this in your application through the case for support section.

Criteria in the Fellowship Opportunities

Detailed guidance on context, scope, logistics and requirements is available for each fellowship opportunity to help shape your application, covering:

- Host department and sub-departments
- Summary of the role, including potential policy topics, methodology and KE opportunities
- Relevant academic disciplines
- Relevant career stages
- Duration and FTE commitment of core placement
- Location and travel requirements
- Security clearance
- Additional skills and experience required



ESRC Policy Fellowships 2021: Opportunity description

Fellowship Title: SG Equality Data fellowship

Host: [Scottish Government](#). See also [Statistics and research - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](#)

Host team: Equality and Social Justice Analysis Unit, Scottish Government's Communities Analysis Division

Summary: This role will lead on aspects of the Scottish Government's Equality Data Improvement Programme, strengthening Scotland's equalities evidence base for better policy-making and outcomes |

Policy topic: Tackling inequality, data and policy

Potentially relevant academic disciplines: Data Science, Behavioural Science, Economics

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: 1

Location requirements: The Fellow would be full time and based at Victoria Quay in Edinburgh, however there would be scope for some home working.

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 \(www.gov.uk\)](#)



Guidance available under 'Additional Information' section on the call website: <https://www.ukri.org/opportunity/esrc-policy-fellowships-2021/>



Eligibility – career stage

- Open to applicants **with a PhD or equivalent research experience.**
- Open to **both early and mid-career** academics but some opportunities have specific requirements
- Early career (ECR) status is not timebound definition
- ECRs must be supported by a mentor in their institution
- You cannot apply if you hold a professorship



Eligibility: nationality

- No nationality requirements
- Hosts and UKRI are not able to support visa applications for the fellowships
- Applicants need to have the right to work in the UK for the duration of the fellowship
- Some processes in regard to security clearance require residency information (please check specific opportunity)



Eligibility: employment status

- You do not need to be current employee at what will be the grant-holding institution prior to applying.
- Head of department letter must confirm that the applicant would be accepted into the department for the purpose of undertaking the Fellowship



Eligibility: security clearance

- Each fellowship states their specific requirements in regard to security clearance.
- The full list and explanation of the vetting clearance levels can be found [here](#)
- Security clearance will be obtained during inception period. In some cases, security clearance processes may need to start prior to inception.
- Passing the necessary security clearance will be a condition to move to the core phase of the fellowship

What can I apply for?



At application stage

- Up to 18 months funding with an overall limit of £135,000 (100% FEC)
 - **Staff:** Applicant staff costs; administrative support; ECR mentorship costs
 - **T&S:** Meetings with hosts and cohort events with ESRC or AHRC, knowledge exchange activities
 - **Other directly incurred costs:** Any additional costs associated with the requirements of the inception and placement phases
 - **Estates and indirect costs**

Successful applicants only

- Up to £15,000 (100% FEC): additional project costs e.g. travel, mentorship, training, knowledge exchange and impact related activity

How To Apply



Je-S: The Funding Application

- [Applications made through the Joint Electronic Submission system \(Je-S\).](#)

Mandatory attachments:

- Case for Support
- CV, including one-page publication summary list
- Justification of resources
- Head of Department Statement
- Mentor CV (if applicable)

Further information on the application process can be found in the Je-S guidance document under 'Supporting documents' section on call webpage:
<https://www.ukri.org/opportunity/esrc-policy-fellowships-2021/>



Je-S: The Funding Application

- You can only apply for one opportunity
- Use the title of the opportunity in your project title on Je-S
- Specify which opportunity you are applying for at the top of your case for support
- If you're willing to be considered for alternative opportunities in the call by the panel, copy the specified statement provided in the Je-S guidance into your case for support

Further information on the application process can be found in the Je-S guidance document under 'Supporting documents' section on call webpage:
<https://www.ukri.org/opportunity/esrc-policy-fellowships-2021/>



Assessment Process

- Assessment will have two stages.
 - Assessment and shortlisting by academic and non-academic expert panel
 - Interview of shortlisted applicants by panel members and hosts
- Interviews are expected to take place remotely in October 2021 – all applicants will be told the potential dates when the call closes.
- We expect the funding decision will be communicated by end October 2021.



Contacts

- Call queries ESRCPolicyImpact@esrc.ukri.org
- Je-S System queries JeSHelp@je-s.ukri.org

Please fill in the survey to help us learn from these webinars and make sure they are valuable to future potential applicants:

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/R5N8G9Y>

ESRC Policy Fellowships 2021 Applicant Webinar Q&As



Index - Applicant Webinar Q&As

- **QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ON APPLICATION AND ASSESSMENT PROCESS**

- WHO CAN APPLY?
- WHAT CAN I APPLY FOR?
- HOW TO APPLY

- **FELLOWSHIP STAGES AND REQUIREMENTS**

- **QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ABOUT SPECIFIC FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES**

- SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT EQUALITY DATA FELLOWSHIP
- MINISTRY OF JUSTICE EXPERIMENTATION AND EVALUATION FELLOWSHIP
- FOREIGN, COMMONWEALTH AND DEVELOPMENT OFFICE GEOGRAPHICAL FOCUS FELLOWSHIP
- CABINET OFFICE NATIONAL SECURITY FELLOWSHIP

Who can apply?

- **Q: Do candidates have to be based in the UK nation hosting the opportunity e.g. Scotland for Scottish Government fellowships?**
- No, but applicants do need to be based at an eligible UKRI organisation for the duration of the fellowship and be based in the UK even when working remotely for the fellowships. More information on eligibility can be found [here](#).

- **Q: Will applicants need to demonstrate their university contract extends beyond the end of the KE & Impact phase?**
- No, the head of department statement will only need to confirm that they are able to host applicants for the duration of the fellowship, which includes the knowledge exchange (KE) phase.

- **Q: Are the opportunities open to job sharing arrangements?**
- Only one individual can be appointed to each opportunity and it is not possible to apply under a job-share scheme.

Who can apply?

- **Q: Do applicants need to hold a PhD in order to apply?**
- This opportunity is open to applicants with a PhD or equivalent research experience. If you don't hold a PhD, you will be required to demonstrate that you have equivalent experience. This is to extend eligibility to individuals who have been in a research focused role for a substantive period but have not obtained a PhD. Being enrolled in a PhD programme or close to finalising one is not sufficient on its own to demonstrate equivalence. Applicants who wish to make a case for equivalency will need to demonstrate that they have post-doctoral level research expertise and experience, while working in a professional research role, whether or not they are also engaged in a PhD programme. This equivalence should be demonstrated in the applicant CV and must be explicitly address in the proposal case for support.
- **Q: Some fellowships are advertised as applicable to both early or mid-career researchers. How will the evaluation of applications take this into consideration?**
- Where hosts have indicated they are open to fellows of either career level this will be reflected in assessment of proposals. There is no direct relationship between research career stage and suitability for these roles and all applications will be assessed against the same core criteria. For early career researchers this will include assessment of the contribution of the mentorship support which they must include in their application.

What can I apply for?

- **Q: How is funding split for the policy fellowships?**
- The standard ESRC full economic cost (FEC) funding model applies - an 80% FEC contribution is being met by funders including ESRC and host departments and the remaining 20% by the applicant's research organisation (RO).
- **Q: What is the financial commitment of the host research organisation for additional costs agreed at the inception phase of the project?**
- The applicant's host research organisation (RO) will be expected to contribute 20% of up to £15,000 for justified additional costs, in accordance with the standard ESRC funding model. Confirmation of the host RO's commitment to contribute to any additional costs claimed in the inception phase needs to be included in the Head of Department letter of support that should be submitted as part of the application.
- **Q: Will the applicant's salary be covered during the inception phase?**
- Up to 0.2 FTE effort and associated costs can be applied for during the inception phase. This includes salary but also a range of other eligible costs, as explained in the Je-S guidance on the funding opportunity page.

What can I apply for?

- **Q: Should costings include the time of the mentor for ECRs?**
- Yes, justified costs can be requested to support the mentor's contribution to the fellowship and should be detailed in your Justification of Resources attachment.
- **Q: Should the cost of applicant's time for the inception and impact phase be included within the £135,000 budget?**
- Yes, costs for the applicant's time in both phases should be included in the fellowship application, within the maximum £135,000 budget.
- **Q: Please could you provide more detail on costing for 'caring responsibilities'?**
- The costs of covering caring responsibilities, beyond that required to meet the normal contracted requirements of the applicants' job and which are directly related to the project, may be requested as a Directly Incurred (DI) cost if the applicants' institutional policy is to reimburse them. However, costs associated with covering caring responsibilities during normal working patterns may not be sought.

What can I apply for?

- **Q: What will the £15,000 of additional funding for successful applicants cover?**
- Successful applicants will be able to apply for additional project related costs identified during their fellowship, up to a maximum value of £15,000 at 100% Full Economic Cost (fEC) and funded at 80% fEC. This includes up to £10,000 for costs identified during the inception phase as required for successful completion of the placement phase of the fellowship to support placement-specific travel and subsistence costs, mentorship and/or specific training requirements that were not included in the original application as well as up to £5000 for costs to support knowledge exchange and impact related activity during the placement and impact phases. Full details on how these costs will be requested and approved will be shared with successful applicants. Therefore, such costs must not be requested at this stage.

How to apply

- **Q: Do applicants need to submit a research proposal?**
- No, this call is not about proposing detailed research projects but rather showing how your skills and experience match those required for the fellowship role. The opportunity descriptions available on the call page show you what the focus for each Fellowship is, and the main call opportunity describes the common features of all the Fellowships. However, the final programme of activity will be co-produced between the fellow and the host during the inception phase. You must specify which fellowship you want to apply for and tailor your application to that opportunity.

- **Q: Can applicants apply for more than one fellowship?**
- You can only apply for one fellowship opportunity and should tailor your application to its requirements. However, if you would be willing for your application to be considered for alternative fellowship opportunities if the panel considers this appropriate, please copy the following statement into your Case for Support after the title of the fellowship you are applying for: “I consent to the assessment panel allocating my application to a different fellowship opportunity of this call based on their assessment of my skills and experience as outlined in my application.”

How to apply

- **Q: What are the requirements in the application for a one-page publication summary list?**
- A one-page list of the applicant's most relevant and recent publications should be included in the applicant CV. Any bibliography for references cited in the proposal should be attached under the 'list of publications' attachments.

- **Q: Can applicants specify more than one mentor, or include one from a different institution?**
- We want to ensure that ECRs are well supported in the placement fellowships. This ECR mentorship is expected to be from an experienced academic with dedicated time to provide appropriate support. ECR applicants' ROs must provide appropriate mentorship from within their institution and this should be clearly detailed in fellowship proposals. How this is spread across individuals within the RO will depend on what the ECR Fellow's needs are, and the mentorship model proposed should be explained in the application. During the inception phase all fellows – not only ECRs - may be able to include a request to support topic or methodologically focused mentorship from within or beyond their home institution as part of any application for the additional funding available at that stage.

How to apply

- **Q: What information is required in the Staff Duties section?**
- Applicants should clearly stipulate their time commitment for each phase throughout the fellowship (inception, core placement, KE) and are invited to outline their time commitment and expectations of the role in response to requirements set out in the Funding Opportunity. Ensure that it is clear why it is necessary for you to perform this role at the resource level you have requested and how this is aligned with the specific opportunity requirements set out in the specification. The role of any additional staff members involved in the project should also be summarised in this section. Only the following justified staff costs are eligible:
 - A small amount of justified administrative support for the fellow, this will require sufficient justification in your Justification of Resources attachment
 - Mentorship support for Early Career Researchers applying to the call.

Fellowship stages and requirements

- **Q: Can the duration of the fellowships vary depending on the FTE commitment?**
- Each fellowship opportunity has specific indications of the available range for both FTE and duration which applicants must follow. No fellowship can have a core placement extended beyond 12 months.
- **Q: Is there any flexibility around the time commitments advertised for each opportunity?**
- For both inception and KE phases applicants can apply for up to 0.2FTE maximum but can apply for less time if considered appropriate. Time commitments for the core placement phase are clearly stated in the opportunity guidance for each fellowship, and many indicate a flexible range of time commitment, so please refer to this in the first instance. There are a range of full and part-time opportunities with remote and flexible working options available.
- **Q: Is there scope for fellows to work across hosts during the fellowship?**
- The individual roles will be based in particular hosts and will be focused on themes as set out in the priorities outlined by each host in the opportunity guidance, however, hosts are keen to support collaboration across the cohort through knowledge exchange activities during the fellowship as well as engagement with other government departments and stakeholders where appropriate. Plans for this can be developed in partnership with the host if successful.

Fellowship stages and requirements

- **Q: How would successful applicants transition to the inception phase from current commitments?**
- The inception phase is designed to ensure that sufficient preparation time is in place for the Fellow and the Host to co-develop the full scope of the placement and to prepare for this phase. This is to ensure that the fellow and the host can get the most out of the placement. The host and fellow will work together to determine how this time is used and this will depend on individual circumstances and the proposed opportunity. Funding to support up to 0.2FTE for the Fellow is available for this phase.
- **Q: Are there opportunities for interested applicants to engage with hosts around future collaboration?**
- At this stage applicants should not contact hosts directly - all queries should be directed to ESRC at esrcpolicyimpact@esrc.ukri.org As this is a pilot scheme, ESRC will evaluate the scope and interest based on applications received and there may be future fellowship opportunities in due course so please do keep an eye on the UKRI funding opportunities website.

Fellowship Opportunities

■ **SG EQUALITY DATA FELLOWSHIP**

- **Q: Could the Scottish Government Equality Data fellowship hosts provide more information on the mixed methods criteria in the opportunity specification?**
- No specific statistical technique or experience is required for this fellowship, and hosts are open to tailoring the opportunity to applicants' experience and interests outlined in their application and interview where possible. Both quantitative and qualitative methods experience are desirable for the fellowship.

■ **MOJ EXPERIMENTATION AND EVALUATION FELLOWSHIP**

- **Q: Could the Ministry of Justice hosts provide more information on their interest in developing the evaluation & experimentation methodologies in the opportunity criteria?**
- Innovative methodologies are encouraged as part of the MoJ's Transformation Agenda and encouraging new ways of working in the Data and Analytical Services Directorate. The team are keen to adopt testing and trialling approaches for different policy interventions to facilitate timely responses to challenges based on emerging findings as well as enhancing capacity for other social evaluation methods.

Fellowship Opportunities

- **FCDO GEOGRAPHICAL FOCUS FELLOWSHIP**
- **Q: Are the FCDO Geographic Focus fellowship hosts open to a broader range of regional expertise?**
- The Indo Pacific, Middle-East and North Africa (MENA) or Europe are the geographic areas of relevance for this opportunity. Applicants don't need to be area specialists but experience of working on the regions specified in the opportunity criteria is desirable and applicants from a broad range of disciplinary backgrounds are encouraged. Applicants are encouraged to take a look at 2021 Integrated Review of Security, Defence, Development and Foreign Policy to familiarise themselves with the strategic context and priorities: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/global-britain-in-a-competitive-age-the-integrated-review-of-security-defence-development-and-foreign-policy>

Fellowship opportunities

- **CO NATIONAL SECURITY FELLOWSHIP**

- **Q: Could the Cabinet Office National Security fellowship hosts provide more information on the Areas of Research Interest in the opportunity specification?**

- Applicants are not required to submit a proposal in their application relating to the ARIs, rather the department will assess expertise and experience in accordance with the criteria as set out in the opportunity guidance. CO NSS Areas of Research Interest are due to be published soon but for the purposes of the application, fellows are encouraged to take a look at 2021 Integrated Review of Security, Defence, Development and Foreign Policy to familiarise themselves with the strategic context and priorities: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/global-britain-in-a-competitive-age-the-integrated-review-of-security-defence-development-and-foreign-policy>