

UKRI Policy Fellowships 2023: Fellowship Opportunity Description

Fellowship Title: CMA Competition and Productivity Economics Fellowship

Host Organisation: Competition and Markets Authority [Competition and Markets Authority - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk)

Host Team: Microeconomics Unit

Summary: Opportunity to carry out economic research into issues in competition and productivity to inform CMA and wider government policy.

Fellowship Theme: Data and Evaluation. *Please see the full call text 'What We Are Looking For' for a detailed summary of the research themes targeted in this call.*

Policy Topic: Competition and Productivity

Research Council: ESRC

Academic Discipline/s: Economics

Research Career Stage: Both early- or mid-career researchers

Fellowship Structure

Inception Phase:

Estimated Start Date: October 2023.

Duration: 3 months

FTE: 0.4 FTE

Main Placement Phase:

Duration: 12 months

FTE: 0.6-1 FTE

Knowledge Exchange Phase:

Duration: 3 months

FTE: 0.4 FTE

Work Arrangements

Location Requirements: The CMA has offices in London, Edinburgh, Cardiff, Belfast, Darlington and Manchester. The base location for this fellowship will be agreed with the successful fellow. The fellow will be working with the CMA Microeconomics Unit, based in Darlington, and we would expect the fellow to visit the CMA's Darlington office on a frequent basis to collaborate with colleagues in the unit. *Eligible T&S costs are supported in the main UKRI grant. Please see full call text and guidance for more details.*

Hybrid Working: The CMA, like many other organisations, operate a hybrid working model with a mix of office and home working. We will discuss suitable working arrangements with the successful fellow.

Security Clearance: Baseline Personnel Security Standard (expected to take up to 4-6 weeks from submission). See [National security vetting: clearance levels - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk) It may be possible to begin the inception phase before the security clearance process is completed, if necessary, but security clearance will be required for the main placement phase.

Fellowship Opportunity Description

The Competition and Markets Authority (CMA) has established a new Microeconomics Unit, to lead and expand its economic research function. The unit is tasked with providing microeconomic expertise to the CMA and wider government on issues of competition, innovation and productivity. Additionally, it will ensure the CMA is abreast of

emerging issues in industrial organisation, is as effective as possible in protecting consumers and ensuring competitive markets and can engage in international regulatory debate.

The fellow would be embedded in the Microeconomics Unit, and contribute to delivering the CMA's economic research strategy, which aims to advance the state of knowledge on competition, consumer rights, supply-side reforms and productivity improvements. There is some scope for the fellow to shape the role, identifying the parts of the CMA's areas of research interest that are most relevant to the fellow's interests, background and expertise.

Some of the main areas of research interest for the CMA, and examples of potential research topics (though note this list is not exhaustive), include:

- **Innovation, investment and productivity**; including:
 - Improved measurement of innovation inputs, outputs and outcomes.
 - Empirical research on links between competition, innovation and productivity.
 - Research on the link between investment (especially in intangibles) and market structure.
- **Understanding markets and market power in the aggregate**; covering the causes and consequences of market power in the economy as a whole, including:
 - Measuring markets, ultimate ownership networks and substitution patterns
 - Improved data or methods for production-function estimation
 - Research on drivers of economy-wide trends in market power
- **Supply chains, monopsony and labour markets**; including market structure and resilience and the impacts of monopsony in labour or other input markets. Relevant research topics include:
 - Supply chain structure, monopsony power in input markets and resilience to shocks.
 - Measuring labour markets, search frictions and estimating labour market power.

We envisage the fellow will carry out a research project in one of these areas of interest – with the scope to be agreed as part of the inception phase. Such a project may include:

- Synthesising academic research and evidence to inform policy making.
- Scoping and carrying out original economic research and quantitative/econometric analysis.

We also expect the fellow will contribute to and/or advise CMA colleagues on other research projects.

The fellow will benefit from:

- Support and oversight from the CMA Microeconomics Unit, potentially including junior economist resources to support research projects.
- Access to a wider network of CMA economists and other experts, and opportunities to engage with other government departments.
- The opportunity to inform and influence CMA and wider government policy on important economic issues.
- Proximity to and experience of key debates in competition policy, informing relevance of future research.

Depending on the research topic(s), we expect the fellowship to result in one or more CMA working papers, and we will encourage the fellow to submit the research to academic journals in line with the CMA research strategy. In order to disseminate results widely, papers may also be accompanied by shorter, more accessible pieces such as a blog post or a non-technical policy paper. Finally, we will support other knowledge exchange opportunities including seminars and roundtables where relevant.

Person Specification

Applications will be assessed against the following opportunity-specific requirements in addition to the generic eligibility and call criteria.

Essential Criteria:

- A proven academic track record in applied economic research.
- Expertise and interest in areas of economics relevant to the CMA's areas of research interest.
- Experience of the design, development, management and timely delivery of economic research.
- Proven ability to deliver knowledge exchange activity, communicating and presenting complex economic analysis to non-technical audiences, both orally and in writing.

Desirable Criteria:

- Experience working with UK consumer or business microdata
- Ability to manage others' work and support their development and capability
- Experience of forming and developing influencing relationships with key stakeholders, both internal and external.