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UKRI Policy Fellowships 2023: Fellowship Opportunity Description

Fellowship Title: Cabinet Office Design and Knowledge Translation Fellowship

Host Organisation: [Cabinet Office](#)

Host Team: [Evaluation Task Force \(ETF\)](#)

Summary: Opportunity to be part of a reform programme at the heart of government, to drive a step change in evaluation, evidence-based decision-making and outcomes for the public.

Fellowship Theme: Design and effectiveness of digital content. *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: Evaluation, social policy, presentation of research findings, effective knowledge exchange

Research Council: AHRC

Academic Discipline/s: Research methods; Behavioural science; Design research; Impact evaluation; Knowledge translation; Information and Knowledge Management; Digital Art and Design; Product Design; Digital Arts History, Theory and Practice.

Research Career Stage: No preference - open to early and mid-career researchers.

Fellowship Structure

Inception Phase:

Estimated Start Date: October 2023. *Exact date to be confirmed by the host depending on onboarding and security clearance requirements*

Duration: 3 months

FTE: 0.4 FTE

Main Placement Phase:

Duration: 12 months

FTE: 1 FTE (but flexible)

Knowledge Exchange Phase:

Duration: 3 months

FTE: 0.4 FTE

Work Arrangements

Location Requirements: Remote working available. Regular travel to London (around once a week) is expected. *Eligible travel and subsistence (T&S) costs are supported in the main UKRI grant and should therefore be factored into your application. Please see full call text and guidance for more details.*

Hybrid Working: Minimum one day per week in the London office would be expected.

Security Clearance: Security Check. This may take 1-3 months from application. The successful applicant would need to start the SC application process as soon as their Fellowship was confirmed by ESRC, ideally before the inception phase begins. See [UK security vetting levels](#) for more information.

Fellowship Opportunity Description

The Evaluation Task Force (ETF) is a central unit set up to ensure robust evidence on the effectiveness of policies and programmes sits at the heart of spending decisions. This fellowship is an opportunity to combine design thinking and practice-based methods from work in creative and digital industries with a specific focus on evaluation to work to understand how we can best communicate research and evidence to professional audiences and decision makers. The main activities of the ETF are:

- Rapid scrutiny of evaluation plans attached to business cases submitted to HM Treasury spending teams.
- Advising and supporting departments on the design and delivery of robust, proportionate evaluation

- Tracking the delivery of evaluations and their emerging results, and ensuring they are fed back into decisions made by departments and spending teams.
- Creating and maintaining a register of evaluation and trial protocols and encouraging the timely publication of results and programme performance data.

Doing robust research and evaluation is critical to support decision making and inform policy development, but we don't know enough about how best to present or communicate research findings. We are hoping a talented AHRC fellow can help answer this question.

The fellow will have the opportunity to co-design clear research tasks in collaboration with officials in government based on policy needs and the fellow's interests/skills during the inception phase of the fellowship.

The main responsibilities for the fellow would be to:

- Lead a programme of research to identify, understand and assess the effectiveness of current approaches to disseminating and presenting research and evaluation in government.
- Explore the effectiveness of different approaches to digital content design to support effective communication of key research and evaluation messages.
- Engage with evidence creators and evidence users to understand and barriers to effective uptake of research and evaluation findings.
- Activities to further develop and improve central government evaluation support services.

Fellows would benefit from:

- Unique opportunity to inform the design of government policies
- Gaining an understanding of government policy making; analysis; and funding decisions
- Opportunity to build their network of policy and analytical professionals within government
- Peer mentoring from ETF Evaluation Leads and Senior Evaluation Advisers
- Opportunity to raise the profile of evaluation in government
- Opportunity to author (or jointly author) publications with the Evaluation Task Force on issues such as the state of evaluation in government or in producing tools and guides for evaluation.

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 track record of research design and delivery in relevant AHRC disciplines, including but not limited to: Information and Knowledge Management; Digital Art and Design; Product Design; Digital Arts History, Theory and Practice.
- Subject matter expertise in relevant design methodologies, impact evaluation and process evaluation.
- Experience of working with policy (and/or practice) stakeholders to communicate research and evaluation findings.

Desirable Criteria:

Please list the desirable criteria you would like the applicants to meet, in order to be successful for this fellowship.

- Ability to synthesise existing evidence and make recommendations about policy development and implementation.
- Background in/ awareness of behavioural science and/or design research disciplines
- Background in/ awareness of value for money evaluation/ assessment