

UKRI Policy Fellowships 2023: Fellowship Opportunity Description

Fellowship Title: *DLUHC Creating Opportunities Fellowship*

Host Organisation: [Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities](#)

Host Team: *Chief Scientific Adviser's office*

Summary: This fellowship will provide an opportunity to work across the breadth of DLUHC's policy areas, bringing science to bear in areas of key department priority, under the guidance and support of the Chief Scientific Adviser.

Fellowship Theme: Creating opportunities, Improving Outcomes *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: Levelling up, devolution, Net Zero, Housing, Local Government.

Research Council: AHRC

Academic Discipline/s: Human geography, or cultural policy. However, we welcome applications from anyone who meets our essential criteria and has an interest in DLUHC's work, and can demonstrate how their skillset can be applied to DLUHC's areas of responsibility.

Research Career Stage: No preference – open to early or mid-career

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:** 0.6-1 FTE

Knowledge Exchange Phase:

- **Duration:** 3 months
- **FTE:** 0.4 FTE

Work Arrangements

Location Requirements: DLUHC has offices throughout the UK. We particularly welcome applications from those who would be based in our second headquarters in Wolverhampton; however, placements can be based in any DLUHC office. We anticipate that the Fellowship could be undertaken effectively with remote working and occasional visits to a DLUHC office (as appropriate) to meet colleagues.

Hybrid Working: Where office-based, to maximise the benefits of the fellowship it is recommended that the fellow would spend c.40% of their time in a DLUHC office. Occasional visits to London may be required,

Security Clearance: [Basic Personnel Security Standard checks](#) and, if London based, [Counter Terrorism Check](#). We would ask the person taking up our Fellowship opportunity to start the security clearance application process as soon as their Fellowship has been confirmed; and so, ideally, before the inception phase begins. See [National security vetting: clearance levels - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

Fellowship Opportunity Description

DLUHC is at the forefront of the government's mission to transform the UK by spreading opportunity and supporting communities. Our work includes investing in local areas to drive growth and create jobs, delivering the homes our country needs, supporting our community and faith groups, overseeing local government, planning, and building safety, and maintaining the Union.

We are seeking to embed a Fellow within the Office of the Chief Scientific Adviser (CSA). Working to the CSA the Fellow will have the opportunity to work on multiple projects that span the breadth of the department's policy responsibilities. Anticipated activities could include developing the associated research and evidence base, developing connections between DLUHC and the research community, and ultimately have a central role in translating science into policy.

There is significant scope for the UKRI Fellow to shape the role and identify where they can have an impact on DLUHC policy - this could include priority research questions in [DLUHC's Areas of Research Interest](#). There is also potential for the Fellow to work with the Levelling Up Advisory Council to deliver on its research priorities, with a focus on local economic growth. The Levelling Up Advisory Council is an independent non-statutory body of experts set up to provide the department with independent advice on the design and delivery of levelling up policies.

DLUHC's areas of interest include:

- Levelling up - Central to this department's mission is UK-wide implementation of the [Levelling Up white paper](#) to spread opportunity, boost living standards, and create higher paid jobs all across the UK. Outcomes include raising productivity and empowering places so that everyone can benefit from levelling up.
- Homelessness, rough sleeping, and support to vulnerable groups – To facilitate greater collaboration on research around the drivers of homelessness and rough sleeping, and further explore social, economic and fiscal costs. And to build the evidence on the most effective measures to support people to remain off the streets.
- Devolution – Building our understanding of which public services, delivered at which level of government, deliver greatest public value and what we can learn from different policy approaches across the UK.
- Integration and communities – Including bringing together further evidence on what the social and economic impact of having a more integrated and cohesive place is.

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

A Fellow would benefit from:

- Proximity to interesting and topical policy decisions at a national scale
- The opportunity to inform and influence senior leaders and Ministers
- Experience of government ways of working and how policy is made, to help 'land' research more effectively
- Support and oversight from the department's Chief Scientific Adviser
- Access to a network of policy, analysis and research teams in DLUHC and in other departments
- Access to national datasets and information (for use whilst in post only, and subject to security clearances)
- Wider support, including access to seminars, talks and workshops run by the department for internal staff.

Given the fast-moving nature of policy priorities, we envisage that specific deliverables would be agreed every 2-3 months between the Fellow and the CSA. Potential activities could include:

- Creating evidence summaries, reviews and analysis to meet key policy needs
- Identify evidence gaps, and plan and deliver research to address departmental needs.
- Examining the existing and emerging evidence in areas of key departmental interest
- Translating complex academic research for the application of policy and practice proposals
- Designing and organising policy workshops – to provide academic challenge and rigour
- Conducting evidence-based horizon scanning exercises
- Preparing written briefings and/or blogs for non-specialist audiences
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Person Specification

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

Essential Criteria:

- Ability to synthesis and analyse evidence and 'translate' this for consideration in policy decisions.
- Ability to design and lead on knowledge exchange activity between research and policy.

- Experience of developing team or organisational capability
- Experience of meaningful collaboration with DLUHC sectors e.g. local government or housing sectors
- Practical application of evidence synthesis e.g. systematic review, rapid evidence assessment, meta-analysis.

Desirable Criteria:

- Subject matter expertise relevant to DLUHC policy - for example, expertise in relation to the housing sector or building retrofit, local economic growth, local government studies
- Ability to develop team or organisational capability.