



UKRI Policy Fellowships 2023: Fellowship Opportunity Description

Fellowship Title: FCDO Economics, Data and Evaluation Fellowship

Host Organisation: [Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office](#)

Host Team: FCDO's central Economics function within the Economics and Evaluation Directorate

Summary: Working alongside FCDO's Chief Economist and as part of the global FCDO economist community, this is a great opportunity to use your economics and analytical skills to advance methodology, thinking and impact related to some of the UK's priority development and foreign policy areas.

Fellowship Theme: Data and Evaluation (secondary theme: Building a secure and resilient world). *Please see the full call text 'What We Are Looking For' for a detailed summary of the research themes targeted in this call.*

Policy Topics: Capacity Building, Measuring and Evaluating Diplomacy, Economic Security

Research Council: ESRC

Academic Discipline/s: Economics, Politics, International Relations

Research Career Stage: Applications from both early and mid-career researchers are welcomed.

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: 0.6-1.0 FTE

Knowledge Exchange Phase:

Duration: 3 months

FTE: 0.4 FTE

Work Arrangements

Location Requirements: As well as remote working, Fellows will be required to spend time physically in the FCDO building in King Charles St, central London. Ways and patterns of working will be established in the inception phase. Many FCDO staff work flexibly.

Hybrid Working: 40%-60% attendance pro rata in the FCDO's London office is expected. Exceptions to this to be discussed and agreed during application process.

Security Clearance: Security Check level. See national security vetting [clearance levels](#). We ask successful candidates to start the SC application process as soon as their fellowship offer has been confirmed by ESRC before the inception phase begins, because the process is likely to take several weeks.

Additional Requirements: The secondee will be required to observe the provisions of the Civil Service Code and Diplomatic Service Code and the Official Secrets Act 1989. See the additional information section below.

Fellowship Opportunity Description

This Fellowship provides an excellent opportunity to use your economics and analytical skills to advance methodology and thinking related to some of the UK's priority development and foreign policy areas. Working alongside FCDO's Chief

Economist, and as part of the global FCDO economist community, you will develop analysis that will directly shape and impact senior leaders and Ministerial decision making on key development and foreign policy areas.

The successful applicant will work within the central Economics & Evaluation Directorate (EED), which sits under the Director General for Economics, Science & Technology. EED supports the Chief Economist in leading economic advice to the Foreign Secretary on all the UK's foreign and development policy, on issues ranging from international macro risks to national security (including the impact of economic sanctions) and spending development aid effectively. This is an exciting time to work with the analytical professions in FCDO, where there is a huge appetite for economic analysis from within the FCDO as well as from our international partners.

The FCDO economics profession is committed to learning and developing, both in terms of continuous professional development for staff and in exploring diverse methodologies and approaches to analytical work and research. As an ESRC Fellow in EED, you would be central to this goal, progressing our analytical thinking and working collaboratively to share knowledge and develop organisational capability within the FCDO. EED aims to improve foreign and development policy impact through provision of, and ensuring the use of, analysis and evidence in all relevant areas of FCDO work. Specific policy areas and projects can vary depending on emerging priorities, therefore the advertised Fellowship policy areas (see below) are purposely broad to allow specification to be tailored to the current foreign and development policy landscape and to the fellow's specific research background and technical expertise.

Policy areas:

- a) To progress FCDO's approach to the methodology and data driven evidence base related to building state capacity in low-income countries or to measuring the value of diplomatic activity;
or
- b) To strengthen underpinning economic analysis for policy areas such as Economic Security through developing new in-house macroeconomic modelling capability (experience in complexity economics and strong coding skills would be highly valued)

Expected activities and outputs will depend on project taken forward, but could include:

- Development of analytical approach related to policy areas noted above, including methodology paper, and if applicable new modelling capacity.
- Communication materials e.g. slide packs, presentations, and learning resources.
- Knowledge exchange plan and capability building activities, e.g. workshop sessions with supporting materials.
- Detailed handover notes, setting out evidence sources, approach and application.

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.

EED is a friendly, highly motivated and inclusive place to work, where respect and kindness is paramount, and work is conducted within an environment that welcomes diversity of thought and approach.

We look forward to receiving your application.

Person Specification

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

Essential Criteria:

- Proven academic track record in the field of economics.
- Knowledge of and experience applying relevant technical methods (quantitative and qualitative) applicable to either of the noted topics in Fellowship Opportunity section above.
- Strong interest and aptitude for thinking about politics and international affairs.
- Proven ability to translate and communicate technical ideas in widely accessible and clear language.
- Experience and enthusiasm to work collaboratively and problem solve with a diverse range of stakeholders.
- Ability and aptitude to design and lead on knowledge exchange activity and develop organisational capability.

Desirable Criteria:

- Previous policy related experience and insight into working in a governmental context valuable but not essential.

Additional information

About the FCDO. Uniting diplomacy and development in one Government Department the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO) makes a real difference to the world. It was created in 2020 from the merger of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the Department for International Development and is at the heart of an unrivalled global network of economic, diplomatic and security partnerships.

The FCDO pursues our UK national interests and projects the UK's role in the world. We promote the interests of British citizens, safeguard the UK's security, defend our values, reduce poverty and tackle global challenges, positioning the UK as a responsible, reliable and effective international actor and partner and investing in the global relationships we need for the long term.

We employ over 17,000 staff in our diplomatic and development offices worldwide, including in 280 overseas embassies and high commissions. Our UK-based staff work in King Charles Street, London, and Abercrombie House, East Kilbride. We also have staff based in Milton Keynes. Relevant EED staff work in King Charles St.

Working in the FCDO. The FCDO unites development and diplomacy in one department. We have highly specialised and unique research requirements and operate in a world where having access to high-quality evidence-based analysis can mean the difference between success and failure. But we also operate in a world of nuance and subtlety where exerting influence, negotiating and leveraging others' power at precisely the right moment is at a premium. Timing is key. This makes it difficult for academics operating outside to have a significant impact. Academics often have the best ideas; but these ideas are not always injected into policy at the right moment. Working in close proximity to and in tight interaction with FCDO policymakers can help change this, providing opportunities to influence and to challenge. Whilst no one can guarantee that the approaches and recommendations made by academics will shape UK foreign policy, bringing academic expertise directly into the heart of the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office through this scheme enhances the chances of creating meaningful impact on British diplomacy.

The FCDO is a friendly and supportive place to work and many staff have flexible working patterns. Fellows are fully integrated into the FCDO's structure and are placed within a policy team which could be geographic or thematic as well as within a research and analysis focussed team, for example the Research Analysts Cadre whose analysts are usually in place for years, or even decades. Fellows have a line manager and additional support and mentoring will be provided. This [blog](#) by a former Fellow and a former Head of Research Analysts gives a sense of some of the challenges of straddling the FCDO and academic work. Work-planning is a mixture of demand and self-tasking based on evolving FCDO needs. An indicative list of tasks includes: writing papers and shorter notes, oral briefings for senior officials and ministers, meeting external and cross-Whitehall partners, research visits overseas as well as organising and running masterclasses. The ability to communicate clearly and succinctly, highlighting policy relevance to non-experts is of importance to all FCDO work. So too is the ability to work collaboratively with others and to do so at pace, sometimes delivering to tight deadlines. For all Fellowships we seek a 12-month placement period.

Security clearance. For security reasons, and in line with FCDO policy, successful applicants have to be security cleared before the offer of the fellowship placement can be confirmed. The level of security clearance required for these fellowships is Security Check. While UK nationality is not essential, applicants need to have a minimum of two years residence, including 12 months of continuous residence in the UK in the preceding five years. Dual nationality is not in itself a barrier but potential applicants who have close ties to the area(s) on which they would be working, or who are not UK nationals, must contact the FCDO (Personnel Security Team, ESD.PST@fcdo.gov.uk) before applying since there may be security limitations which would prevent them from accessing the necessary material, making a successful fellowship impossible. Loss of clearance during the fellowship period, for example, due to personal conduct, will risk termination of the secondment. All security clearance decisions are personal to the applicant and depend on a range of factors.

Code of conduct. As an additional condition to the standard fellowship terms and conditions, the fellows will need to agree to respect the FCDO's values and standards of behaviour; failure to do so may result in the termination of the fellowship. Fellows will also be obliged to respect the provisions of the Official Secrets Act and observe the duties of propriety and confidentiality during and after the fellowship period. This means consulting the FCDO before undertaking activities involving: (a) the disclosure of UK Government official information; and (b) the publication or disclosure of material liable to affect the Government's relations with other countries. An FCDO-nominated contact will be responsible for the sensitivity review of all publications prior to their submission for publication. However, the fellows will not be obliged to make amendments to the content unless publications contain information that it is in breach of the Official Secrets Act (as laid out in the Civil Service Code), or a confidentiality agreement, or which could disclose sensitive, classified and/or personal information, or which could affect the Government's relations with other countries. The agreement to be signed by Fellows, their research organisations, the FCDO and the relevant UKRI Research Council(s) will include the above matters