

UKRI policy fellowships 2025: fellowship position

Fellowship title: CMA competition and growth economics fellowship

Fellowship type: Core policy fellowship

Host organisation: [Competition & Markets Authority](#)

Host team: Microeconomics Unit

Summary: opportunity to use economics skills to improve evidence on and policymaking in relation to competition and economic growth

Policy topic: economic growth, specifically, the role of competition in promoting productivity and economic growth

Research Council: ESRC

Academic discipline(s): economics

Research career stage: open to early or mid-career researchers

Fellowship structure

Inception phase:

Estimated start date: February 2026. Exact date to be confirmed by the host depending on onboarding and security clearance requirements

Duration: three months

FTE: 0.4 FTE

Main placement phase:

Duration: 12 months

FTE: 0.6 to 1 FTE

Knowledge exchange phase:

Duration: three 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

Hybrid working: the CMA, like many other organisations, operates a hybrid working model with a mix of office and home working. We will discuss suitable working arrangements with the successful fellow. The Microeconomics Unit holds regular team days in Darlington, and we would envisage the fellow attends these once per month during the inception and placement phases. Eligible Travel and Subsistence costs are supported in the main UKRI grant. Please see full call text and guidance for more details

Security clearance: Baseline Personnel Security Standard (BPSS) is required and is expected to take up to four to six weeks from submission. 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. Please see [National security vetting: clearance levels](#) for more information

Fellowship description

The Microeconomics Unit is the CMA's economic research team. The Unit provides microeconomic expertise to the CMA and wider government on issues of competition, investment, innovation, productivity and growth. Additionally, it ensures the CMA is abreast of emerging issues in industrial organisation, is as effective as possible in protecting consumers, is 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

Data, platforms and digital markets, including:

- Implications of platform structure and contractual arrangements for welfare
- Theoretical and empirical research into digital platform ecosystems
- The economics of privacy regulation and the value of data for firms and consumers

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 policymaking
- Scoping and carrying out original economic research and quantitative or econometric analysis

We also expect the fellow will contribute to and 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 by UKRI panel assessment against the following essential 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
- Experience or demonstrated potential to deliver knowledge exchange activity, communicating and presenting complex economic analysis to non-technical audiences, both orally and in writing

Applicants shortlisted from the panel assessment will be assessed at the host led interview selection process against the following desirable opportunity-specific requirements:

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

Processing personal data

If applicants are shortlisted by the UKRI assessment panel UKRI will need to share the application and any personal information that it contains with the host for the host led interview selection process.

Your personal data will be handled in line with UK data protection legislation and managed securely. If you would like to know more, including how to exercise your Rights, please see the UKRI [privacy notice](#).

The CMA's privacy notice can be found here: [CMA Personal information charter](#). Hosts will delete your data at the end of the selection process unless you are successful, in which case we will retain your data as an independent data controller.