

UKRI policy fellowships 2025: fellowship position

Fellowship title: DAERA One Health and climate change fellowship

Fellowship type: Core policy fellowship

Host organisation: [Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs](#)

Host team: Chief Scientific Adviser's Office (CSAO)

Summary: opportunity to develop a framework for integrating scientific evidence into One Health policymaking in the context of climate change, ensuring that policy decisions are evidence-based, cross-sectoral and resilient

Policy topic: One Health and climate change

Research Council: ESRC

Academic discipline(s): public policy, evidence informed policy, public health, policy analysis, environmental science, animal health, plant health, climate science, ecology, epidemiology, modelling or related disciplines

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: flexible, and open to negotiation with the successful applicant. If living in Northern Ireland, our preference would be that the fellow will be primarily based with the CSAO at Clare House, Belfast, but may be required to attend meetings across Northern Ireland, Great Britain and Ireland. If living outside Northern Ireland, there would be a need to schedule regular in-person meetings, dependent on the nature of the final agreed work programme

Hybrid working: if the successful applicant is living in Northern Ireland, we would expect a hybrid working model of at least two days per week in the office during the main placement phase, but with flexibility to meet business needs. Some travel will be required for stakeholder engagement and knowledge exchange events. We are open to negotiation if the successful applicant is living outside Northern Ireland. Eligible Travel and Subsistence costs are supported in the main UKRI grant. Please see full call text and guidance for more details

Security clearance: Basic Personnel Security Standard (BPSS) is required, which usually takes around six weeks. We would expect the successful applicant to start the security clearance application process, with support from the host team as soon as their fellowship has been confirmed by ESRC. Inception phase can begin before the security

clearance process is completed but will be required for the main placement phase. Please see [National security vetting: clearance levels](#) for more information

Access Northern Ireland check may also be required for Northern Ireland residents which takes two to three working days. Security check arrangements will vary for candidates based in Great Britain

Fellowship description

This fellowship will support government to develop a structured framework for integrating scientific evidence into One Health policymaking in the context of climate change. Climate-driven changes in disease emergence, land use, food systems and biodiversity pose significant challenges for One Health policy. The integration of scientific insight into decision-making processes can often be fragmented and reactive, requiring a detailed consideration of current approaches to better understand and design a process that ensures scientifically robust and well-coordinated, cross-departmental strategy and policy.

Whilst there will be opportunities to work broadly across the One Health policy landscape in Northern Ireland, this fellowship presents an opportunity to focus on exploring the nexus between climate change, Lough Neagh and Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR), aiming to develop a comprehensive framework that integrates scientific evidence into One Health policymaking to address these interconnected challenges.

The fellow will work within DAERA's CSAO, and across stakeholders, to develop a science-policy framework that ensures relevant science is:

1. Accessible to policymakers
2. Actionable within policy timescales
3. Able to inform cross-departmental One Health and climate strategies

Indicative activities:

The specifics of the role will remain open to ensure that the fellow has sufficient opportunity to co-create a programme of work. Indicatively, the fellow may:

- Analyse existing One Health related policies and frameworks (local, UK, International), and aligned research literature to identify best practice
- Map the current One Health and climate science-policy interface on a cross-departmental basis
- Conduct a gap analysis to identify barriers to the cross-departmental coordination of evidence use in decision-making
- Map existing datasets in human, animal, plant and environmental health and identify issues around availability and interoperability
- Develop a framework for effective One Health and climate policy development across departments and disciplinary boundaries, taking account of governance and coordination, the science-policy interface and surveillance, data integration and decision-making
- Engage with stakeholders across DAERA, Department of Health, aligned Non-Departmental Public Bodies, academia, environmental non-governmental organisations and community organisations through a combination of workshops, roundtables and bilateral meetings to inform and refine the framework
- Produce policy briefs and implementation guidance to embed the framework into cross-departmental operations
- Pilot a One Health strategy or policy intervention
- Facilitate knowledge exchange workshops to train policymakers on using climate science in One Health strategy and policy
- Undertake original research

Indicative outputs:

- Scoping reports that overview policy, governance and scientific gaps
- Stakeholder and data landscape mapping, identifying key players, their roles and data flows
- Policy briefs on high level findings to inform stakeholders of key issues
- One Health and climate science policy framework
- Academic publications and knowledge exchange activities related to the fellowship, as agreed with the CSAO and other government stakeholders

The fellow will benefit from:

- Integration within the CSAO in DAERA, with access to interdisciplinary expertise, support and mentorship
- Access to a wider network of policy, analysis, other experts and opportunities to engage with other government departments and aligned organisations
- Unique opportunity to inform and influence policy development at the One Health and climate change interface in Northern Ireland
- Proximity to interesting and topical policy and delivery decisions in a devolved administration
- Broad learning opportunities and experience of government ways of working and how policy is made, to help 'land' research more effectively

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:

- The ability to enhance the relationship and improve the flow of evidence and insights between government, academia and other relevant stakeholder organisations
- The ability to work effectively at pace to deliver expected outcomes, including working as part of a team on shared goals
- The ability to design and lead activities that support effective knowledge exchange between research, policy and funder communities
- The ability to communicate complex information and analysis
- The use of expertise in a non-academic context
- Relevant experience in One Health (public health, animal health, plant health and environmental health), climate science, ecology or science-policy integration

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 or demonstrated potential in policy analysis or knowledge exchange
- Strong qualitative and quantitative research and data visualisation skills relevant to One Health and climate change
- Proven ability to work across disciplines and sectors
- Knowledge or experience of the unique nature of Northern Ireland society and politics

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](#).

DAERA's privacy notice can be found here: [DAERA privacy statement](#). 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.