

UKRI policy fellowships 2025: fellowship position

Fellowship title: DCMS economic growth impacts of European Research & Development (R&D) partnerships fellowship

Fellowship type: Core policy fellowship

Host organisation: [Department for Culture, Media & Sport](#)

Host team: the fellow will be hosted by the Chief Scientific Adviser's (CSA) Office at DCMS. The role of the CSA team is to deliver informed scientific advice, increase access to expertise and to promote stronger links with the science and research community. The CSA Office helps ensure that research and evidence is embedded into the culture at DCMS. The fellow will have significant contact across teams in the department due to the cross-cutting nature of the research project. The fellow will work closely with the international teams in the department

Summary: explore and analyse the economic growth benefits and opportunities of the UK's European R&D partnerships for DCMS sectors, in particular its Associate Membership of Horizon Europe (HEU)

Policy topic: opportunity to use economic analysis and social science to better understand and articulate the economic growth benefits and opportunities as well as challenges of the UK's European R&D partnerships for DCMS sectors, in particular Horizon Europe Pillar II and Cluster 2: Culture, Creativity and Inclusive society (CCIS), as an Associate Member of HEU

The fellowship will enable the department to build its evidence base to better understand how these programmes, engagements and partnerships are helping to deliver Growth Mission outcomes, as well as opportunities to amplify R&D and growth opportunities for the DCMS sectors

Research Council: ESRC

Academic discipline(s): economics (essential), humanities and social science

Research career stage: open to both early and 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 fellow can work from DCMS' London office or DCMS' Manchester office

Hybrid working: DCMS operate a hybrid working model with a mix of office and home working. The fellow will be expected to work eight days per month from the office during the placement phase, however the number of days is negotiable if an applicant has circumstances that require additional flexibility. We will discuss suitable working arrangements with the successful fellow. The DCMS CSA's Office team holds semi-regular team days in the office, and we would envisage the fellow attends these 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: if the fellow is working from the DCMS London Office, Counter Terrorism Clearance (CTC) will be required. For CTC, we recommend allowing for a minimum of three months processing time. Security clearance required for the Manchester Office is Baseline Personnel Security Standard (BPSS), we recommend allowing a minimum of two months processing time. Please note that vetting may take longer for applicants who have resided outside of the UK. Please see [National security vetting: clearance levels](#) for more information

Nationality requirements:

This opportunity is broadly open to the following groups:

- UK nationals
- Nationals of the Republic of Ireland
- Nationals of Commonwealth countries who have the right to work in the UK
- Nationals of the EU, Switzerland, Norway, Iceland or Liechtenstein and family members of those nationalities with settled or pre-settled status under the European Settlement Scheme
- Nationals of the EU, Switzerland, Norway, Iceland or Liechtenstein and family members of those nationalities who have made a valid application for settled or pre-settled status under the European Union Settlement Scheme (EUSS)
- Individuals with limited leave to remain or indefinite leave to remain who were eligible to apply for EUSS on or before 31 December 2020
- Turkish nationals, and certain family members of Turkish nationals, who have accrued the right to work in the civil service

Further information on nationality requirements is available here: [Nationality rules](#)

Fellowship description

DCMS is the lead UK Government department for strategic engagement with Horizon Europe in relation to Pillar II: CCIS. The policy fellowship will support the department's policy development and planning in relation to its strategic approach to Pillar II and CCIS and other European R&D partnerships.

The proposed research project will focus on conducting social research and economic analysis to enhance the department's understanding of the economic growth benefits and opportunities of the UK's participation in HEU Pillar II and CCIS as an Associate Member of Horizon Europe, for DCMS sectors. This will be through the lens of both the DCMS and Horizon Europe economic Growth Mission frameworks.

DCMS sectors are culture, creative industries, media, sport, gambling, civil society and visitor economy. The DCMS sectors in scope for the project will be agreed at inception stage and informed by the fellow's interest and expertise. However, we particularly welcome applicants with expertise in culture, creative industries or civil society.

The project scope will be codeveloped between DCMS, the International Team in ESRC and the fellow. The research design and scope will be informed by the European R&D context, government priorities and frameworks in place at the point the fellowship commences. However, we envisage that the scope is likely to cover the following:

- Mapping of Sector or Industry participation in application submissions and funded projects of CCIS
- The development of diverse and representative UK case studies
- Quantitative data analysis on economic growth impact of European R&D partnerships
- Analysis of the challenges or barriers for the UK CCIS sectors for maximising growth benefits of these partnerships
- Analysis of the Pillar II (and CCIS), European Open Science Cloud partnership and the Resilient Cultural Heritage partnership and their alignment with HMG and DCMS growth priorities or approaches and implications for DCMS sectors

The fellowship's outputs will focus on enabling the department to build its evidence base to be better placed to:

- Articulate the benefits of Horizon Europe and other European R&D partnerships for DCMS sectors to senior officials
- Support the sector to access and understand benefits of Horizon Europe and other European R&D partnership opportunities for their R&D objectives, in coordination with the UKRI's national focal point on Horizon Europe
- Develop a robust approach to shaping and influencing Horizon Europe as an Associate Member and Framework Programme for R&D (FP10), in a way that is aligned with DCMS Growth Mission priorities for its Sectors

The research project will have a significant primary research component, the researcher will be expected to carry out primary data collection in the UK, and the fellowship may include overseas travel to the Europe should the project scope or design require.

The fellow will work (remotely) with the International Teams at ESRC and AHRC, as well as DCMS to codesign the research project and to agree collaboration approaches, for each stage of the fellowship.

Benefits to the fellow:

This is an exciting opportunity for a fellow to work on a cross-cutting policy project that offers exposure to teams across the department. The fellow will have an important role in contributing to the evidence base of the government's Growth Mission, in the context of better understanding the economic impacts of European R&D partnerships.

DCMS has a record of successfully hosting placements that have enabled fellows to enhance their knowledge and capacity to inform policy through their research. DCMS is committed to offering fellows access to a range of professional development opportunities during their placement, that include:

- Contact with a range of government professions (policy, strategy, analysts) and key stakeholders across government
- The opportunity to influence policy thinking and analysis in a government priority area
- Experience of government ways of working, including the policymaking process and planning around fiscal events
- Building a network of contacts with government officials, as well as building visibility as an academic expert in government
- Access to internally run professional development training sessions
- Subject to agreement and internal clearance processes, there may be an opportunity to publish research on gov.uk

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:

- Strong economic analytical skills
- Ability to work across teams and to navigate matrix organisation structures
- An understanding of the R&D ecosystem, both at UK and European level
- Experience of conducting primary research for the cultural, creative industries or civil society sectors

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 of being part of a European partnership, particularly Horizon Europe, in an academic or research and innovation context
- Experience of conducting research on European affairs or partnerships
- A strong knowledge on R&D and innovation discourse
- Good knowledge of the European Union Research and Innovation Policy
- Understanding of relevant UK policy context in this space such as Mission-led government, R&D priorities, Industrial Strategy

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](#).

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