

UKRI policy fellowships 2025: fellowship position

Fellowship title: Scottish Government Technology-Facilitated Violence Against Women and Girls (TFVAWG) analytical policy fellowship

Fellowship type: Core policy fellowship

Host organisation: [Scottish Government](#)

Host team: the fellow will be hosted within Justice Analytical Services (JAS) which is a multidisciplinary analytical division within the Safer Communities Directorate comprised of social researchers, operational researchers, economists, statisticians and strategy and performance specialists. The main purpose of JAS is to provide evidence, analysis and insight to support the development of safer communities and justice policy in Scotland. We do this through promoting the use of analysis to develop, challenge, inform and influence policy and practice. The fellow will work closely with the VAWG research lead in JAS and the two VAWG policy teams in Justice and Equalities. The fellow will also have the opportunity to have a policy mentor as part of their fellowship

Summary: opportunity to use a range of social research methods to contribute to the delivery of the Equally Safe Strategy with a focus on preventing Technology-Facilitated Violence Against Women and Girls (TFVAWG)

Policy topic: preventing VAWG. Research topics will be agreed with the fellow in line with their research interests and the following themes:

- Understanding the drivers, characteristics and risk factors for perpetrators of TFVAWG and its interaction with offline VAWG
- Understanding the policy mechanisms and interventions that work in the prevention of TFVAWG

Research Council: ESRC

Academic discipline(s): social sciences, mixed methods social research

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: UK only. The fellow can be based in Edinburgh (preferred) or Glasgow offices, though if in Glasgow regular travel to Edinburgh offices will be required

Hybrid working: fellowships can be hybrid, with a recommended minimum of two to three (consecutive) days per month in the office. If the fellow is based in the central belt (near Edinburgh or Glasgow) a minimum of one day per week in the office would be required. Hybrid working arrangements during the inception phase can be negotiated, with

a recommendation that the fellow travels to Edinburgh for at least one face-to-face meeting. 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) checks which usually take 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. BPSS must be granted before the fellow can access any Scottish Government systems. Ideally the security clearance process would be completed before the inception phase begins. This process requires having a valid Disclosure Certificate. If a new certificate is required, a cost will be incurred. Please see [United Kingdom security vetting: clearance levels](#) for more information

Fellowship description

The fellow will be embedded in JAS principally, and across the two VAWG policy teams in the Justice and Equalities Directorates. The work will contribute to delivering the Equally Safe Strategy (2023) and Equally Safe Delivery Plan (2024), which takes a public health approach to prevention and recognises how technology is changing the way that VAWG is perpetrated. This is a high profile and cross-cutting policy area which requires working across and beyond government, including working with the UK Government on the implementation of the Online Safety Act (2024).

There is scope for the fellow to shape the role, identifying areas of research interest that are most relevant to the fellow's interests, background and expertise. Key research themes (though note this list is not exhaustive and may change as new technologies and priorities emerge), include:

- What works to prevent TFVAWG: international and domestic evidence (academic and operational) on the effectiveness of policies and interventions to prevent different forms of TFVAWG (excluding online platform measures)
- Understanding the perpetration of TFVAWG: characteristics, drivers and risk factors for perpetrators of different forms of TFVAWG perpetration and its interaction with offline VAWG or understanding what works to prevent TFVAWG across different perpetrator groups and forms of TFVAWG, as well as how and whether this differs from the wider 'what works' literature on VAWG
- Engaging with young people to address TFVAWG: understanding how TFVAWG impacts on different groups of young people and the most effective ways to raise awareness and prevent TFVAWG

The fellow will codesign a programme of research in collaboration with officials from a range of cross-cutting policy areas, based on policy needs and the fellow's expertise and interest. The fellowship will improve knowledge and understanding of the evidence on TFVAWG prevention and facilitate its use throughout both the Scottish Government and the fellow's academic networks. The fellowship will aid conversation and evidence-based action on TFVAWG by connecting relevant policy areas across government, agencies, stakeholders and with other academic experts.

Research activities may include:

- Reviewing and synthesising the existing (international) and emerging evidence base
- Policy analysis to examine and evaluate policy options for preventing TFVAWG, informed by operational and academic evidence
- Engaging with experts to enhance knowledge and understanding
- Lived experience, engagement or consultation work, such as with young people or other groups impacted by TFVAWG in Scotland
- Identifying research gaps and designing practical ways to address this
- Evaluation or monitoring activities or advice

Expected outputs:

Outputs will be discussed with the fellow during the induction phase. The outputs will compliment other research activities and inform policy development, in particular the implementation of the Equally Safe Strategy and Delivery Plan which includes actions on TFVAWG (Action 9), education (Action 6) and prevention (Action 3). Potential outputs could include evidence briefings or reviews, research or evaluation findings, creative research outputs tailored to specific audiences, such as young people and knowledge exchange activities (such as presentations or roundtables). We welcome academic publications, though depending on the topic these may be subject to clearance, and knowledge exchange activities (such as roundtables and seminars) as agreed with JAS and respective policy teams.

Benefits for the fellow:

- Access to a network of policy professionals and analysts in Scottish Government and partner organisations

- Experience of working on a cross-cutting policy area, embedding evidence and analysis across government and academic disciplines
- The opportunity to inform and influence key stakeholders, senior leaders and ministers in a high profile area of government policy on VAWG
- Access to a range of internal and external networks as well as senior decision-making bodies including, for example, the Equally Safe Joint Strategic Board
- Experience of policymaking and the role that evidence plays in policy development by informing relevance of future research
- Support and oversight from a senior principal social researcher within JAS and the opportunity to have a policy mentor

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:

- Appropriate research methodological expertise in the application of social science or research methods (quantitative or qualitative) relevant to the areas of research interest (VAWG)
- Subject matter expertise and extensive knowledge of the evidence landscape relevant to the areas of research interest (VAWG)
- Ability to synthesise and analyse multiple types of evidence and 'translate' this for consideration in policy decisions
- Ability to work with a range of perspectives and balance competing needs and priorities

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:

- Knowledge and expertise in TFVAWG or other forms of online or digital abuse
- Expertise and experience in a range of innovative social research methods
- Expertise and experience of undertaking research or engagement activities with young people
- Knowledge and expertise in the Scottish Justice System
- 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 Scottish Government's privacy notice can be found here: [Scottish Government 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.