



UKRI policy fellowships 2026

Fellowship position

Fellowship title:

DBT Industrial Strategy monitoring fellowship

Fellowship type:

Core policy fellowship

Host organisation:

[Department for Business and Trade](#)

Host team:

Successful candidate can expect to work in the Industrial Strategy Advisory Council (ISAC) Secretariat or the DBT Analysis Directorate, working closely with the other one to feed directly into policy making.

Academic discipline/s:

Economics, data science, social research, statistics, applied mathematics

Summary:

Opportunity to directly build the capability, data and evidence to effectively monitor and evaluate the UK's Industrial Strategy, including identifying impacts across the IS-8 growth-driving sector(s), in order to shape the direction and development of the UK's 10-year plan to create a world leading British Industrial landscape.

Policy topic:

Industrial Strategy its implementation, monitoring and evaluation of impacts to inform the future development of the Strategy. The full list of [Areas of Research Interests](#) can be found under the first heading.

Research career stage:

Open to early and mid-career researchers

Fellowship structure

The fellowship is estimated to begin in May 2027. The exact date will be confirmed by the host depending on onboarding and security clearance requirements. The fellowship will have three phases:

- inception: duration is 3 months at 0.4 FTE
- main placement: duration is 12 months at 0.6-1 FTE

- knowledge exchange: duration is 3 months at 0.4 FTE

Work arrangements

Location requirements:

The preferred location for the role is London or Manchester. Other DBT office locations, including London, Cardiff, Darlington, Edinburgh, Birmingham and Belfast would be considered. Where possible the fellow shall meet with the relevant teams in person in London or Manchester multiple times during the embedded phase when they will be onboarded onto DBT infrastructure.

Hybrid working:

We are flexible as to working patterns and hybrid working. We do recommend weekly visits to one of the team locations during all phases of the placement. If there are geographical constraints, we can make bespoke adjustments.

Security clearance and nationality eligibility criteria:

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 UKRI. Inception phase can begin before the security clearance process is completed but will be required for the main placement phase. There are no nationality requirements. Please see [National security vetting: clearance levels - GOV.UK](#) for more information.

Fellowship position description

The Department for Business and Trade (DBT) is the department for economic growth. We operate in an increasingly dynamic international environment, with a range of forces rapidly reshaping the global economy.

To meet this challenge, the Government launched a new Modern Industrial Strategy on 23 June 2025. This 10-year plan is central to the Government's Growth Mission and aims to make the UK one of the best places in the world to do business.

The Strategy is designed to shape the kind of growth the UK pursues, leveraging UK wide strengths in services and manufacturing, while enabling leadership in emerging industries. It also supports key national priorities including Net Zero, regional growth, and economic resilience. The strategy identifies 8 growth-driving sectors – the IS-8 – and frontier industries within.

The Industrial Strategy is a living framework which must evolve over time with economic developments, and continually learning the lessons from implementation and delivery.

We envisage the fellow will carry out original research and analysis to directly influence the ongoing development of the Industrial Strategy over time.

Exact topics will be determined by host priorities during the inception phase, shaped by the fellow's interests and input.

Potential topics include:

- delivering the novel data linking, research and cutting-edge analytical capability to monitor and interpret economic developments within the growth-driving sectors of the industrial strategy and their implications for policy development
- delivering bespoke, policy-relevant, research projects relating to developments, growth barriers and priorities in one or more of the IS-8 sectors and frontier industries

- delivering bespoke, policy-relevant, research projects relating to one or more of the cross-cutting areas of interest within the industrial strategy important for driving growth and productivity, such as: tackling high industrial electricity costs, promoting fair and free trade, expanding access to finance, technology adoptions or capitalising on the value of UK data

To deliver a fruitful collaboration:

- the successful candidate will be embedded into the most suitable team. This will allow them to get hands on experience in understanding policy levers and the process of policy making
- they will get first-hand experience in what form their research can support better evidence making and how different government portfolios work together to deliver effective policies
- the fellow can change the way the government work by teaching them new techniques and approaches
- weekly contact meetings will be in place with a key person who will ensure the benefits of the academic work is leveraged appropriately and the research remains aligned with policy goals

The benefits to the fellow include:

- opportunity to codesign, produce and publish original research, ensuring that findings contribute to wider scientific and policy discussions while adhering to necessary security protocols
- being embedded in either of the host teams and have access to internal systems and processes, gaining in-depth understanding of the policy process
- the opportunity to inform and influence Industrial Strategy Policy and wider government policy on important industrial strategy issues
- access to datasets related to business trade and finance including microdata access as well as access to data experts on caveats
- access to a wider network of policy, analysis, other experts and opportunities to engage with government departments and aligned organisations
- knowledge exchange opportunities, including policy roundtables, cross-government workshops and wider networks
- opportunity to publish findings in scientific journals subject to content sign-off for sensitivity from the department

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 economics or applied mathematics (including data science)
- subject matter expertise in specific topics related to the fellowship (such as economics of growth and productivity energy economics)
- strong analytical skills relating to the opportunity (for example, the ability to synthesise a range of quantitative and qualitative data using statistical and data science methods)

Applicants shortlisted from the panel assessment will be invited to a host led interview. At this stage the host will also take into account the following desirable fellowship-specific requirements

Desirable criteria:

- experience communicating the insights from technical economics analysis to non-technical audiences.

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](#).

Please see the Hosts' [privacy notice](#) and they 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.