



UKRI policy fellowships 2026

Fellowship position

Fellowship title:

DESNZ supply chain and industrial strategy fellowship

Fellowship type:

Core policy fellowship

Host organisation:

[Department for Energy Security and Net Zero](#)

Host team:

Industrial Strategy and Supply Chain Investment Unit which sits with the Clean Energy Investment Directorate in the Energy Infrastructure Group. This fellow would be embedded within a combined policy and analytical team, working closely with commercial.

Academic discipline/s:

Industrial strategy, supply chains, energy, economics and trade

Summary:

Opportunity to build a robust evidence base to address policy critical evidence gaps to support supply chain and industrial policy-making.

Policy topic:

This supports the government's clean energy superpower and growth missions, focusing on the 8 clean energy industries identified in the Clean Energy Industries Sector Plan.

It also supports the government's work to ensure energy resilience in the face of shocks from the conflicts in Ukraine and the Middle East.

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 majority of the team are based in London, but we have a presence in Bristol, Salford, Darlington and Edinburgh too – and the fellow could be based at any of these locations. If not based in London, then there will be some requirement to travel to meet other team members; this would be approximately six times per year.

Hybrid working:

While DESNZ has a 40-60% office attendance requirement, we would be content for a minimum one day a week office attendance for the fellow, at any location listed above, during the main placement phase. A laptop will be provided enabling work from home or other sites, providing access to host systems. In addition to office attendance, it would be useful to budget for travel to London around six times in the placement year and once in the inception phase. Eligible Travel and Subsistence costs are supported in the main UKRI grant. Please see full call text and guidance for more details.

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. Please see [National security vetting: clearance levels - GOV.UK](#) for more information.

Fellowship position description

This fellowship will be embedded in the DESNZ Industrial Strategy and Supply Chain Investment Unit.

The objectives of the unit are to:

- grow UK clean energy sectors (across the value chain i.e. manufacturing, services and innovation)
- build UK clean energy supply chain resilience

The Unit achieves these objectives by:

- driving departmental change for DESNZ to become an industrial policy department
- providing leadership for cross-Government work to land or maintain key clean energy manufacturing projects in the UK
- setting DESNZ's strategic direction for cross-cutting supply chain and industrial strategy work e.g. local content, Made in Europe, place-based policy
- leading DESNZ cross-cutting policy and intervention work on supply chains and industrial strategy e.g. forced labour, Ofgem reform to support local content, shared procurement model

The team will work with the fellow to co-design a research project to address a policy critical evidence gap. The final scope of the project will be jointly agreed between the Industrial Strategy and Supply Chain Investment Unit and the fellow to ensure it both addresses a priority evidence gap and matches the interests/expertise of the fellow.

Potential examples could include:

- conducting deep-dive into the supply chain for high priority components of the UK networks sector (e.g. transformers, converters, high-voltage cables), to support economic resilience and growth
- building the department's understanding to the types, quantities and costs of critical minerals used in clean energy supply chains
- developing a novel analytical approach to monitor progress against the [Clean Energy Sector Plan](#) (the DESNZ part of the [UK's Modern Industrial Strategy](#))

To conduct this research the fellow will have access to a wide range of sector/policy experts across DESNZ, DESNZ internal analysis and the Department for Business and Trade (DBT)'s Supply Chain Centre.

Given the cross-cutting nature of clean energy supply chains we expect this research will be of interest to a wide range of stakeholder across DESNZ, and cross-Government including DBT, Great British Energy, National Wealth Fund and UK Export Finance. The fellow will have the opportunity to present research findings to senior representatives from these organisations to shape supply chain and industrial policy decision-making.

Depending on the exact scope of the final research project and the sensitivities of the underlying data there may also be the opportunity to publish research findings.

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 research skills including the ability to synthesise a range of quantitative and qualitative data
- the ability to impactfully present and communicate complex research and data to policy/seniors audiences
- experience working on clean energy supply chain or industrial policy

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:

- strong stakeholder engagement skills and the ability to build good relationships with policy and analytical colleagues
- experience working in complex/incomplete data and evidence landscape
- experience with qualitative research/business engagement

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.