



UKRI policy fellowships 2026

Fellowship position

Fellowship title:

Home Office economic crime interventions fellowship

Fellowship type:

Core policy fellowship

Host organisation:

[Home Office](#)

Host team:

Economic Crime and Cyber Crime Research and Analysis team; a part of the Homeland Security Analysis and Insight (HSAI) unit.

Academic discipline/s:

Psychology, criminology, sociology, economics and social sciences

Summary:

Opportunity to evaluate the impact of interventions aimed at tackling economic crime.

Policy topic:

Economic Crime – linking to missions ‘kickstarting economic growth’ and ‘safer streets’.

The Home Office is committed to working with academia to help develop our understanding and improve our response to economic crime. Our ambition to strengthen policy and academic collaboration is set out in our recently published [Economic Crime Areas of Research Interest](#), developed in conjunction with the NCA.

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 role can be based in London, Croydon, Sheffield or Manchester. Please note however that members of the team are predominantly in London. There will be some requirement to travel to meet other team members, this would be at least once a month, but we are happy to discuss flexible options around this depending on location of the fellow and in line with hybrid working policies.

Hybrid working:

The Home Office has a three-days a week minimum office working requirement in line with the rest of the UK Civil Service. However, we would be content for a minimum one day a week office attendance, 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 approximately once a month in the main placement phase 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:

Security Check (SC) clearance. The process of gaining SC clearance can take several months. Please see [National security vetting: clearance levels - GOV.UK](#) for further information. We would expect the successful applicant to start the security clearance application process, with support from the Home Office, as soon as their fellowship has been confirmed by UKRI. We anticipate the inception phase can begin before the security clearance process is completed, but full clearance will be required for the main placement phase.

Fellowship position description

Economic crime poses a significant threat to UK national security and prosperity. It covers a range of illicit activity including money laundering, fraud and corruption, which also enable other forms of serious and organised crime. [Economic Crime Plan 2](#) sets out the government's economic crime response, and with new government strategies on the horizon there are exciting opportunities for research to inform policy direction.

This fellowship will support evaluation of interventions aimed at tackling economic crime, exploring key questions such as:

- what is the impact of UK interventions in tackling economic crime
- what interventions are most effective in disrupting offenders
- how effective are prevention methods, e.g. in business/industry
- how can interventions be improved

This fellowship provides opportunity for the fellow to help develop and deliver novel research in previously unresearched areas of economic crime to enhance the evidence base for policy development and operational enforcement. During this placement, the fellow will contribute to some of the Home Office's highest priority work, filling priority evidence gaps and helping inform strategic direction and decision-making.

Subject to their relevant experience and areas of expertise, we envisage the fellow could carry out a research project in one (or more) of the broad areas of interest listed below. The final scope will be agreed

as part of the inception phase, with final decisions shaped by Home Office priorities, as well as the fellow's areas of expertise and interest.

Money Laundering

There are a range of potential research topics in this area as outlined in our published [Economic Crime Areas of Research Interest](#). Potential themes could include (but are not limited to):

- exploration of evidence gaps around money laundering and wider organised crime activity on UK high streets, including evaluation of interventions aimed at tackling this issue, or exploration of approaches such as geospatial data analysis to help us better inform understanding of the problem and targeting of interventions
- improving understanding of economic crime offender decision-making, including the pathways into money laundering and the types of methods chosen, as well as the impact of interventions aimed at deterring and preventing involvement in money laundering
- improving understanding of where and how specific types of money laundering occur to inform interventions – such as the scale and nature of illicit use of cryptocurrencies

Corruption

The government's recently published [Anti-Corruption Strategy](#) highlighted the need to address well-established challenges to understand the scale and harms of corruption, and to assess the effectiveness of the system response. The strategy flagged corruption evidence gaps listed in the recently published [Economic Crime Areas of Research Interest](#), and reiterated the importance that evidence on the problem and the UK's response is able to drive policy and operational decision making. There are a range of potential research opportunities in the corruption area, including:

- developing new approaches to understand the costs and wider impacts of corruption on the UK, and
- designing and delivering targeted evaluation of suitable Anti-Corruption interventions and initiatives being delivered by the UK government and law enforcement

Key expected outputs are likely to include:

- valuable and novel contributions to an underexplored evidence base
- presentations, written reports and briefings to analysts, policymakers across government and operational partners
- analytical advice and expertise to support ad-hoc reactive demands, as well as longer-term project delivery

This opportunity will provide valuable experience for the fellow in terms of strengthening their understanding of how policy making operates within government, how evidence is used to inform this and providing opportunity to influence key decisions that will ultimately impact people in the UK who are affected by these forms of serious and organised criminal activity. The fellow would also have opportunity to develop their own networks amongst government analysts, policymakers and operational partners.

The fellow would be fully embedded within the Homeland Security Analysis and Insight Unit in the Home Office, which is home to a multidisciplinary analytical team focusing on economic crime analysis and research. The fellow would be a part of a broader Economic Crime and Cyber Crime analytical programme, where they would be line managed by a G7 team leader, who would help the fellow to shape the analytical direction of the work with regular check-ins. Their line manager would ensure they have the required stakeholder contacts to develop their project, along with any necessary day-to-day practical and well-being support. The post-holder would have a Home Office laptop and email address, with hybrid, flexible working options available depending on location. The role would require working closely with policy teams, law enforcement and other multi-disciplinary analysts to develop and deliver an impactful and viable research project.

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:

- knowledge and application of quantitative and qualitative research methodologies, including quantitative and qualitative forms of evaluation
- ability to source, analyse and synthesise a range of different types of evidence to present compelling summaries and narratives of knowledge regarding various social policy areas.
- ability to build effective relationships, and consult with, a range of stakeholders, which may include policymakers, practitioners and non-analytical partners.

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:

- previous experience or knowledge of economic crime, or working in broader crime areas
- project or programme management experience
- experience of undertaking research in a strategy, policy or operational environment

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 host's [privacy notice](#) and 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.