



UKRI policy fellowships 2026

Fellowship position

Fellowship title:

Home Office knife crime research fellowship

Fellowship type:

Core policy fellowship

Host organisation:

[Home Office](#)

Host team:

Crime Analysis Unit in Home Office Analysis and Insight (HOAI) directorate

Academic discipline/s:

Criminology, sociology, psychology, social sciences

Summary:

Opportunity to contribute to the evidence base on knife crime, a key priority within the Government's Safer Streets mission.

Policy topic:

Halving knife crime as part of the Safer Streets mission

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 is preferably based in London, but Croydon, Sheffield or Manchester are alternative options. There will be some requirement to travel to meet other team members in London, this would be approximately four times within a year, and once within the inception phase.

Hybrid working:

Whilst the Home Office has a three-days a week minimum office working requirement in line with the rest of the UK Civil Service, we would be content for a minimum two 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 around four 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:

Security Check (SC) 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.

The civil service also has nationality requirements that candidates would need to meet in order to take up the post: [Civil Service recruitment: nationality rules - GOV.UK](#). Candidates should check these requirements before applying to ensure they meet the eligibility criteria.

Fellowship position description

Background/context

- halving knife crime is a core part of the Government's Safer Streets mission and this fellowship offers the opportunity to work in the analytical team supporting this high priority area
- the team is the Serious Violence Policy Analysis team, based within the Crime Analysis Unit at the Home Office, working directly on the halving knife crime mission as the lead analytical team for this Government aim, and working closely with the policy units involved in this work to ensure all research addresses policy priorities
- the team are involved in both fast-paced reactive work to policy questions as well as longer term projects to fill gaps in the evidence base
- current gaps in the evidence base that have been identified include further information on knife-enabled crime offenders, their offending pathways and their motivations as well as the effectiveness of some key policies to tackle knife crime, including knife surrender schemes, communications campaigns and educational interventions
- during the fellowship, the fellow will be able to collaborate with Home Office colleagues to co-design the research and analysis for a project on one of the above evidence gap topic areas (final topic area to be determined based on researcher skills and expertise, and Home Office policy priorities at the time, due to fast-moving policy landscape)
- the project will make an important contribution to the evidence base on knife crime, given that the above areas are all of interest and have clear evidence gaps that need research focus to support the government aims to reduce knife crime

- outputs from the research will depend on the final topic area, but are likely to include presentations to varied audiences (including analysts and policy makers), internal Government reports, and briefings and evidence packs for senior policy leads

The role

- the fellowship offers the opportunity to work on both short-term reactive work and longer term projects to improve the evidence base. The balance between the two can be agreed as part of the initial phase
- the fellow would be based within the Serious Violence Policy Analysis team, working directly on research areas relating to knife crime
- research and analysis undertaken in role will be in order to advance knowledge around knife crime, filling gaps in the evidence base, and so will be original research
- the role will involve close working and engagement with policy colleagues in the Home Office leading on the mission to halve knife crime
- the role offers access to key Home Office datasets, including police recorded crime data
- the fellow's 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.

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:

- track record of using both quantitative and qualitative research methods
- good communication skills in explain concepts to non-technical audiences
- ability to develop effective working relationships with colleagues and stakeholders from a variety of professional backgrounds

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:

- knowledge of the evidence base related to knife crime
- advanced quantitative skills, including knowledge and experience of evaluation methods
- previous experience of working with Government

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 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.