



UKRI policy fellowships 2026

Fellowship position

Fellowship title:

Public Health Wales preventing gambling-related harms in grassroots sports fellowship

Fellowship type:

Gambling Policy fellowship

Host organisation:

[Public Health Wales NHS Trust](#)

Host team:

Research, Data and Digital Directorate

Academic discipline/s:

Social science, behavioural science, public policy, economics and data science

Summary:

Opportunity to generate the first United Kingdom-wide evidence base on gambling sponsorship in grassroots sport, informing safer funding models, ethical standards and evidence-led gambling harm prevention policy.

Policy topic:

The fellowship focuses on gambling policy and the prevention of gambling-related harms, with particular emphasis on gambling sponsorship in grassroots sport. It aligns with national priorities set out in the Gambling White Paper and supports evidence-based approaches to reducing exposure to gambling harms, protecting vulnerable groups and promoting healthier community environments across the United Kingdom.

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 applicant can be based anywhere in the UK. The base for the role is the Public Health Wales Cardiff Office in Capital Quarter 2 (CQ2), with travel approximately once per month to the office to meet with team members.

Hybrid working:

The successful applicant will be expected travel to the Public Health Wales Cardiff Office in Capital Quarter 2 (CQ2), both during the inception and placement phases, approximately once per month to meet with team members. There may be occasional travel to engage with stakeholders including with Welsh Government and UK partners. A laptop will be provided enabling work from home or other sites, providing access to host systems. 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:

The fellowship is open to candidates who have the right to work in the UK at the point of commencing the post. If you require sponsorship under the Skilled Worker or Health and Care Visa routes, please ensure you self-assess your eligibility for sponsorship for this role before applying. Check the [Skilled Worker visa guidance](#) or [Health and Care visa guidance](#) for details on job eligibility, salary, English language, and sponsorship requirements.

Fellowship position description

Gambling-related harms are increasingly recognised as a public health issue, with sponsorship and marketing playing an important role in shaping exposure and risk, particularly in community and grassroots sport. This fellowship will address a nationally recognised evidence gap by examining the scale, nature and impact of gambling sponsorship in grassroots sport, and by developing policy-relevant evidence to support safer, more sustainable funding models. The fellow will have the opportunity to undertake original research and policy analysis work to inform gambling reform, public health prevention strategies and sport policy across the United Kingdom.

The fellow may undertake work in areas including:

- mapping gambling sponsorship, advertising and brand exposure in grassroots sport
- assessing public health and equity risks associated with gambling-linked funding
- analysing reliance on gambling income among community and amateur sports clubs
- evaluating alternative funding and sponsorship models that reduce exposure to harm
- co-developing ethical sponsorship standards and guidance with sector partners

The precise scope and methods will be co-designed during the inception phase in-line with host priorities and the fellow's expertise and interest.

The fellowship will be delivered through close collaboration with Public Health Wales (PHW) gambling harms specialists, policy colleagues, and partners across the United Kingdom. The fellow will work collaboratively with stakeholders including government departments, sport governing bodies, local authorities, community organisations and charities. Research questions, methods and outputs will be refined iteratively in response to emerging policy needs. Co-production will ensure outputs are grounded in real-world practice and usable by policy makers and practitioners.

The fellow will be embedded within the PHW Gambling Harms team and will be supported to engage across the organisation. The fellow will receive:

- a PHW email account and IT access from day one
- office space in Cardiff
- inclusion in all relevant distribution lists and policy/analytic networks
- participation in team meetings, cross-directorate forums and stakeholder engagements
- a designated line manager with fortnightly structured check-ins
- senior sponsor oversight to enable strategic visibility and alignment

The fellowship will offer:

- the opportunity to co-design original research and analysis
- direct influence on national gambling policy and harm prevention strategies
- experience of leading a high-profile, policy-focused research programme with real-time application
- access to multidisciplinary expertise across public health, behavioural science and policy
- opportunities to publish and disseminate findings, subject to clearance
- professional development within a national public health organisation with strong research and policy links

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:

- expertise in public health, social science, behavioural science or a closely related field
- experience conducting applied research, evaluation or policy analysis in complex systems or regulatory contexts
- strong analytical skills, with experience of working with quantitative, qualitative or mixed-methods data

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 of research or policy work related to gambling, addiction, health inequalities or community wellbeing
- experience of working with government, public sector or third-sector organisations
- experience of translating evidence into policy-relevant outputs for non-academic 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.