



UKRI policy fellowships 2026

Fellowship position

Fellowship title:

Scottish Government energy and economy fellowship

Fellowship type:

Core policy fellowship

Host organisation:

[Scottish Government](#)

Host team:

Energy and Heat Analysis Unit in the Office of the Economic Adviser (OCEA). The Unit is a multidisciplinary team of analysts (economists, statisticians and researchers) who work closely with policy colleagues.

Academic discipline/s:

Economics, statistics, engineering and behavioural science

Summary:

An opportunity to provide robust evidence on the interface between energy policy and growing the economy at a time of critical change in the energy system.

Policy topic:

Topics related to the interface between energy policy and the energy system in Scotland and growing the economy.

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 team within which the fellow will be hosted is based in both Glasgow and Edinburgh offices. Both offices are in the city centre.

Hybrid working:

There is scope for the fellow to be located remotely and to agree a programme of in-person work in either Edinburgh or Glasgow. We envisage the following pattern of attendance below, but this can be discussed and agreed with the fellow:

- approximately four in-person days in Edinburgh or Glasgow during the three-month inception phase
- approximately two in-person days in Edinburgh or Glasgow per month for the duration of the main placement phase
- approximately three in-person days at St Andrews House during the knowledge exchange phase.

If the fellow is based near Edinburgh or Glasgow and has a preference for in-person working this can be accommodated.

Security clearance and nationality eligibility criteria:

The fellow will need to pass the [Baseline Personnel Security Standard](#) (BPSS). This process takes around six weeks and must be completed before the fellow can access Scottish Government systems. Security clearance should be confirmed before the inception phase can commence. Part of this entails verifying that the fellow meets the [Civil Service Nationality Rules](#) - see the [Annex C flowchart](#) to check eligibility for non-reserved posts. By applying for this fellowship, you are affirming that you have understood these requirements and expect to be able to pass BPSS.

Fellowship position description

Overview and the policy challenges

Two of the Scottish Government's core missions are to grow the economy and to tackle the climate emergency. The Scottish Government's approach is to ensure a green industrial future for Scotland and to maximise the economic opportunities from the energy transition. Yet rising geopolitical tensions, volatile supply chains and threats to energy security are reshaping the energy supply landscape. At the same time, demand for energy is changing – for example with AI and data centres increasing energy demand. There is also an increasing recognition that the pace of the energy transition is accelerating. Taken together, these factors require us to improve the evidence base on energy and its interface with the economy at a time of critical change and transition in the system.

The fellow will therefore research the interface and interdependencies between energy policy and growing the economy. The research will consider the economic opportunities from changing patterns of energy supply and demand. To date, much of the research and policy focus has been on the Just Transition to Net Zero from the perspective of Net Zero policy making, but as the decline in traditional industries continues, there is a need to look through a different lens and consider the economic implications and policy responses in that context. The research fellow will co-design with the Scottish Government a programme of analytical work to unpack these complex issues.

Co-design and the programme of work

We envisage that the fellow will work on a dynamic mix of cutting-edge research comprising short-term activities and longer-term projects. The precise range and scope of projects will be agreed as part of the

inception phase, and result from close engagement between the fellow, analytical specialists in the host team and policy officials. There will be an opportunity to produce and publish original research, ensuring that findings contribute to wider scientific and policy discussions, while adhering to necessary security protocols.

Research questions motivating the programme of research are currently broadly based and include:

- what is the pace of decline in traditional industries compared to the speed and scale of job creation through the net zero transition
- can innovation scale quickly enough to match rising demand
- how will AI affect demand for the grid
- what are the economic opportunities from changing energy supply and demand
- what are the blockers that could be removed to create an enabling environment

Benefits of this fellowship

The fellowship is an opportunity:

- to co-design and add value by providing robust research on energy policy and the economy that will be at the heart of evidence-based policy across this complex policy area and challenging transition, in doing so the fellow will translate academic insights into actionable policy-relevant work
- to be embedded in - and experience working with - a team of analysts in the Scottish Government
- to inform and influence Scottish Government policy and gain an in-depth understanding of the policy process
- to build new energy-economy tools that can be used for policy analysis
- to produce and publish original research, ensuring that findings contribute to wider scientific and policy discussions while adhering to necessary security protocols
- to collaborate with academic networks to collate and share relevant learning between academic and government communities
- to research and then communicate evidence to policy teams

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, statistics, engineering, or behavioural science
- subject matter expertise in economics of growth, economic efficiency, energy system or economic modelling, or energy policy
- quantitative analytical skills

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:

- existing technical knowledge of Great British energy systems
- existing knowledge of the Scottish policy context
- experience of delivering high quality multi-disciplinary research and analysis

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.