

UKRI Policy Internships 2026

Host Partner information

This document contains information about the host partners, the internship opportunities available, organisational eligibility by Research Council and contact details.

Applicants can apply to only one host partner but are invited to note a second choice on their application. Applicants may be contacted by the host partner noted as their second choice should additional opportunities become available.

Some host partners only accept applications from students funded by certain Research Councils, where this is the case, the details are highlighted within the relevant section.

The internship funding details will depend on the applicant's Research Council and which host partner is chosen. Applicants should ensure that they read the details pertaining to the internship funding contained within the UKRI Policy Internships Funding Finder page carefully. For the purposes of applying to this scheme, students funded through UKRI Centres for Doctoral Training in Artificial Intelligence should follow the eligibility criteria and funding details for EPSRC grants.

A number of host partners will require students to undergo security vetting and declaration of interest processes before they can start their internship. Please consult each host partner's information page for more details.

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Cabinet Office

4 internships available for AHRC, BBSRC, EPSRC, ESRC, MRC and NERC students

About Cabinet Office

Cabinet Office Digital is the digital hub for the Cabinet Office. Our vision is to enable the department through the provision of exemplary Government Digital and Data services and transformation in support of the digital transformation strategy of the organisation.

We are creating a digital culture where user needs are at the heart of everything we build, and through data democratisation, automation, governance, convergence and consolidation, we will support the creation of a Cabinet Office of the future.

The Data, Insights and AI team is a multidisciplinary group comprising developers, performance analysts, data scientists, data analysts, data engineers, technical architects, social researchers, and specialists in commercial and AI fields. This dynamic team is responsible for analysing various datasets, indicators, and metrics to provide valuable insights for Cabinet Office Business Units and across wider Government.

Research interests

Opportunities span different areas, we would welcome applications from those with a background in any of the following areas: behavioral science, social research, user research, data analysis, data science, evaluation, and/or statistics.

Policy Internship opportunities available

1. AI evaluation - The Cabinet Office is currently delivering a major transformation through its AI Adoption Plan 2025–2028. This internship offers a PhD student the chance to work on the evaluation of the plan, which focuses on how AI tools reshape civil service culture, skills, and work processes. The applicant will be involved in a variety of research and analytical activities aimed at building a robust evidence base. This includes analysing data from specific tool roll-outs like Gemini or the Gov Draft pilot to assess if they are meeting targets, such as saving staff time. The applicant may also conduct qualitative deep-dives, such as interviews or focus groups, to understand how AI affects different staff grades and demographics, or to monitor for unintended consequences like de-skilling.

2. Analysis and visualisation of government people data to support policy and delivery teams - The successful applicant will work at the intersection of data and strategy, analysing civil service workforce data to help answer critical policy and delivery questions. This flexible role adapts to the evolving needs of policy teams, offering the chance to work on high-profile tasks such as developing interactive data dashboards, drafting briefings for senior leaders, and responding to Freedom of Information (FOI) requests or Parliamentary Questions.

Beyond day-to-day reporting, the applicant will contribute to deeper analytical projects that shape the future of the public sector. This may include conducting advanced statistical modelling, performing trend analysis, or designing and evaluating staff surveys to better

understand the workforce. These activities are essential for building the evidence base needed to improve organisational performance and decision-making.

3. Data strategy and management - As part of wider digital and data transformation across the public sector, the Cabinet Office is seeking to transform how we govern, access, and use data to generate actionable insights, improve productivity, enable innovation and scale AI adoption.

Led by the Department for Science & Technology (DSIT) and working with partners across government, we are developing a joint delivery plan to address systemic issues and unlock the value of data. We will be also be reviewing the current Cabinet Office data strategy, along with associated departmental plans and policies, to ensure they align with the latest government priorities and reflect recent technological advances in this fast-growing industry. During 2027, there will be opportunities to work on policy development, implementation and evaluation, gaining valuable experience in the real-world application of disciplines such as Data Management, Data & AI Literacy, and Data Protection.

For example, DSIT recently introduced a new Data Asset Management Policy that government departments must embed. The policy covers data ownership, identifying critical data assets, metadata standards and implementing a data quality action plan. This opportunity would allow an applicant to work on a department-wide project, engaging different levels of the Cabinet Office (technical and non-technical audiences), to successfully roll out the changes, evaluate them, and communicate adoption progress and wider strategic and tactical benefits.

Internship arrangements and location

Applications from part-time registered students are welcomed. Part-time students who are eligible for studentship extensions will have these applied on a part-time basis.

We are able to offer a number of locations across the country. The main hubs of the Cabinet Office are Glasgow and London, and we also have offices in Bristol, Manchester, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, Norwich, York, Cardiff and more. We can also accommodate home working if that suits the applicant best.

Security restrictions

Applicants will need to undergo Baseline Personnel Security Standard checks.

Contact

Name: Natasha Codioli

Email: natasha.codioli1@cabinetoffice.gov.uk

Department for Education

Up to 5 internships available for AHRC, BBSRC, EPSRC, ESRC, MRC and NERC students

About Department for Education

The Department for Education (DfE) is responsible for children's services and education, including early years, schools, higher and further education policy in England.

We are the department for opportunity and we also have a fundamental role in delivering growth. We are working to deliver better life chances for all, breaking the link between young people's backgrounds and their chances of success.

We will do this by protecting children and ensuring the delivery of higher standards of education, training and care.

We will create opportunities for children and learners to achieve and thrive today, so they can succeed and flourish in life and work, strengthening our society, powering our economy and enabling equality.

Research interests

Behavioural Insights, Economics, Social Research, Statistics

Policy Internship opportunities available

During the internship you will have the opportunity to work on one of two important areas:

1. Working with DfE's Behavioural Insights Unit to understand research impact from the policy perspective and to apply evidence from behavioural science to some of the highest priority work in education policy. The post-holder will support and lead on the application of behavioural insights to policy projects. Specific activities may include:

- work with policymakers to support them to use behavioural insights to develop effective policies
- undertake (or commission) behavioural insights research and present the findings to senior stakeholders
- build the capability of the department to understand how to apply behavioural insights to their thinking
- help to develop new ways of integrating behavioural research into educational policy
- support the department to commission high quality behavioural research, trials and interventions

Applications from candidates from a variety of academic backgrounds are welcome, but you will need to have a strong interest in behavioural insights and education policy.

2. Work to support Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) reform, a key area of focus for DfE. Proposed projects are:

- Quantitative impact evaluation of PINS (Partnerships for Inclusion of Neurodiversity in Schools): exploring the impact of the programme (which ran from the start of financial year 24/25 to the end of financial year 25/26) on outcomes such as attendance and attainment. Useful skillsets include quantitative data skills and experience setting up and producing a QED.
- Quantitative impact evaluation of SI (Supported Internships): exploring the impact of the programme on outcomes such as employment and earnings. Useful skillsets include quantitative data skills and experience setting up and producing a QED.
- Exploring the costs of Special Educational Needs (SEN): gathering evidence on costs associated with pupils with SEN in terms of quantifying wellbeing, time, stress and spending costs. Skills that would be useful for this topic area include economics, writing literature reviews and possibly quantitative data analysis.

Internship arrangements and location

Applications from part-time registered students are welcomed. Part-time students who are eligible for studentship extensions will have these applied on a part-time basis.

The Department for Education has offices in Bristol, Cambridge, Coventry, Darlington, London, Manchester, Nottingham, Sheffield. Placements could be based in any of these offices, though some projects may have particular location requirements. There may be some requirement to travel to meet team members at other Department for Education offices.

Whilst the Department for Education has a three-days a week minimum office working requirement in line with the rest of the UK Civil Service, we are happy to be flexible about this depending on individual circumstances. Please be aware that placements can only be carried out in the UK and not from overseas.

Security restrictions

Successful applicants will need to undergo Baseline Personnel Security Standard checks.

Testimonials from past Interns

"During my time with the Behavioural Insights Unit I worked on a variety of projects aiming to make education a better place for all. The placement provided me with an invaluable insight into how the government functions, what it is like to work in the civil service and how the Department for Education uses research to inform policy. I would definitely recommend this internship and I only wish I could complete it again!"

"I found the experience of my policy internship, as part of the Department for Education's Behavioural Insights Unit, an extremely positive one. Not only was I warmly welcomed as part of the team, but I was both challenged and supported to engage with meaningful work which contributed to the work of the team. This gave me invaluable and very real insight into this area of work. I would highly recommend this opportunity to anyone with an interest in how research is applied to the development and implementation of policy."

Contact

Name: Mariam Orme

Email: mariam.orme@education.gov.uk

Department for Energy Security and Net Zero

Up to 21 internships available for AHRC, BBSRC, EPSRC, ESRC, MRC and NERC students

About Department for Energy Security and Net Zero

The Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ) leads on the government's mission to make the UK a clean energy superpower. We are responsible for UK energy security, protecting billpayers, supporting economic growth for the UK and protecting jobs, and reducing the UK's emissions. See the [Department for Energy Security and Net Zero - About Us](#) webpage for more information.

Research interests

Internship opportunities span a range of disciplines, with a focus on physical science, ecological and natural science, computer and analytical science, and engineering. Specific expertise in a given area is desirable but not required.

Policy Internship opportunities available

Candidates are advised to include in their written applications an indication of their top three placement preferences. Although we can't guarantee we will be able to match successful applicants to their preferred placements, we will do our best to take preferences into consideration when matching applicants to placements.

1 x Carbon Capture Utilisation and Storage Policy: Development of CCUS policy in the UK with special focus on emerging clusters. The internship would involve multi-disciplinary work.

2 x Nuclear Power and Industry Policy: Supporting work on nuclear skills development, implementing targeted interventions that support the nuclear sector and the UK's approach to nuclear regulation.

3 x Advanced Nuclear Policy: Supporting assessment and development of advanced nuclear projects, including innovation, policy development and regulation.

1 x International Clean Energy Innovation Policy: Supporting the International Energy Innovation team in ensuring the UK is seen a global leader in clean energy Research & Development, aligned with the government's Clean Energy Superpower Mission.

1 x Net Zero Innovation Policy: supporting Net Zero innovation policy, ensuring innovation is positioned as a key policy lever in delivering the government's Clean Energy Superpower Mission and Industrial Strategy. The intern will assist with DESNZ's Cleantech Innovation Challenges initiative.

3 x Climate Science Tech Policy: opportunities across climate mitigation, capability, resilience, greenhouse gas inventory and international workstreams. Details of specific projects will be developed with the intern to build on their expertise and meet government priorities.

1 x International Climate and Energy Finance Innovation: Support the International Climate Finance Innovation team with strategy, portfolio and research. This includes a large portfolio of International Climate Finance Programmes under the Ayrton Fund, working with delivery agencies including Innovate UK, UN agencies and Multilateral Development Banks.

5 x Electricity Security and Market Reform: Supporting delivery of the Capacity Market which ensures electricity supplies are secure and reliable, work on ensuring our future electricity security as we move towards clean power, and work on the Reformed National Pricing programme which is reshaping policy across the power system.

2 x Carbon Management and Subsurface Opportunities: Focussing on CCUS future UK opportunities, including for onshore storage of CO₂ and emissions accounting of chemicals recycling and CCU. Subsurface opportunities for the energy system and climate - exploring thermal energy storage, critical material extraction and geothermal systems, considering the opportunities, trade-offs and limitations for the UK.

1 x Future of North Sea Strategy: Focussing on shaping our approach for the future of the North Sea and on the practicalities of managing the transition of the UK's oil and gas sector.

1 x Seventh Carbon Budget Delivery Plan: Supporting to deliver a programme of work to gather new, innovative ideas from external stakeholders for the Seventh Carbon Budget (CB7). The intern would also act as science adviser for carbon budgets.

Internship arrangements and location

Applications from part-time registered students are welcomed. Part-time students who are eligible for studentship extensions will have these applied on a part-time basis.

Most posts will take place in our London office. Other office locations that may be available to interns include Salford, Birmingham, Bristol, Darlington and Cardiff. The Department currently operates a hybrid office/home working model. If you are successful, we will discuss the working location and other working arrangements with you once an offer has been made.

Security restrictions

Prospective interns will be expected to meet relevant HR onboarding checks, including National Security Vetting to Baseline Personnel Security Standard (BPSS). The vetting will take at least 4 weeks to complete. Checks will be conducted to verify interns' identity, right to work in the UK, and in the Civil Service; we therefore ask successful interns to factor this into their proposed placement timings. Please see [Civil Service Recruitment: Nationality Rules](#) for more details.

Testimonials from past Interns

"My internship within DESNZ was such a fantastic experience - I learnt so much about not only the area I was working in, but also how science and policy intersects, how research informs policy, and ways my future career could develop. I felt like the research paper I worked on was valued and appreciated, and that even in just three months I made a real, tangible impact on the work in DESNZ." - DESNZ UKRI Policy Intern

Contact

Name: Adam Kavanagh

Email: adam.kavanagh@energysecurity.gov.uk

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

10 internships available for AHRC, BBSRC, EPSRC, ESRC, MRC and NERC students

About Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) is the UK government department responsible for safeguarding our natural environment, supporting our world-leading food and farming industry, and sustaining a thriving rural economy. Our broad remit means we play a major role in people's day-to-day life, from the food we eat, and the air we breathe, to the water we drink.

We are here to make our air purer, our water cleaner, our land greener and our food more sustainable. Our mission is to restore and enhance the environment for the next generation, leaving it in a better state than we found it.

Defra's 25-year environment plan has a set of ambitious goals to improve our environment. With net zero, biodiversity, sustainable farming and reducing the likelihood and impact of flooding high on Defra's agenda it is an exciting time to work for the department to help shape how future policy will look.

Research interests

We are looking for natural and social scientists with expertise relevant to DEFRA's remit.

Policy Internship opportunities available

During the internship, you will utilise your science, analysis or data skills within a Defra policy area to look at priority issues. The internship project will reflect current policy priorities and will be decided on following conversation between Defra officials and the intern. Examples of high-profile natural science/social science-policy issues include (but are not limited to):

- Air and environment quality – plastics in the environment, links between pollution and deprivation
- Food and farming – alternative methods of food production, agricultural productivity, alternative proteins
- Biodiversity – marine conservation zones, trends in wildlife habitats, landscape character and change
- Climate change – climate adaptation, consumer trends, citizen science and wider social engagement
- Strategic evidence needs set in a post EU-Exit context

Outputs from the internship will be varied but projects will be designed to ensure that you can complete it within your time with us. Examples of the type of work include developing Evidence Statements for a policy issue to be used in Defra's decision-making process, supporting knowledge exchange and facilitating links between akers and the wider academic community

(e.g. running workshops, events, desktop studies). Alongside project work, you will have the opportunity of joining policy officials on engagements with stakeholders or other Government Departments and have access to events open to Defra employees including training, shadowing opportunities, and attending seminars with guest speakers.

You do not need to have topic specific expertise, successful applicants will be matched to suitable projects and have an opportunity to discuss the project with relevant policy teams before the start of the internship.

Being embedded in Defra will provide you with valuable insight into the making process, particularly how evidence is used to inform decisions; it will improve your understanding of high-profile policy issues; and working directly with policy teams gives you the opportunity to build a network of policy and evidence contacts, as well as experience of working in an interdisciplinary environment. You will be contributing to improving the evidence base of a high-profile policy issue, have the opportunity to produce work that will have a high impact and ensure that evidence is strongly embedded into decision-making, and will have a completed project to add to your portfolio.

Whether you are interested in a policy, research, or alternative career path an internship within Defra will develop your transferrable skills providing you experience with project leadership, systematic evidence reviews, communicating complex information to non-experts, writing for a policy audience, working at pace, and balancing needs of policy and evidence.

Internship arrangements and location

Defra is well equipped for remote working and many teams are dispersed. Office hubs are London, Bristol, Newcastle or York. The placement can be hybrid office/home based or entirely home based, to be agreed with your host team. You will be based in a relevant Defra policy team supported by the Central Science Division within core Defra. Part of the work may involve liaising with other Defra teams and external experts, and may involve short visits to other sites. Defra are open to flexible working and are happy to accommodate where possible.

We encourage applicants from diverse backgrounds. At Defra, we passionately believe in equality, diversity & inclusion and we match that belief with action. We are committed to being an organisation in which fairness and equality of opportunity is central to the approach in business and working relationships and where the organisational culture reflects and supports these values.

Applications from part-time registered students are welcomed. If successful, part-time students who are eligible for studentship extensions will have these applied on a part-time basis.

Exact start dates can be decided between the policy team and interns but would be expected to commence sometime between March 2027 and September 2027.

Security restrictions

Successful applicants will receive instructions on how to complete basic security checks. Applicants who choose to be based in London may need to apply for CTC security clearance before starting the internship.

All internships are reliant on passing security checks. Successful candidates will be expected to abide by the [Civil Service Code of Conduct](#).

Testimonials from past Interns

"I didn't expect to be given so much autonomy and responsibility in just 3 months, but I was trusted to conduct research that has guided policy, which has been a privilege to do. This has given me such a confidence boost in my own abilities and skills, and to be valued in the team has made me value what I can bring to the table in future roles."

"Whilst I was at Defra, I really enjoyed being able to engage with working groups across Defra and also being able to engage with stakeholders from industry and across the arms lengths bodies. I had amazing freedom to make my experience my own and carve out opportunities. If you do get to do an internship in Defra I would definitely urge to not only stick to your area of work but network as much as you can and get involved with a range of things - use your time to shadow and to talk to as many people as you can. It is through doing this that I am now on one of the R&D fellowships."

"It was very valuable to be able to work directly on a piece of environmental legislation – this is practical experience I couldn't have obtained elsewhere and it will be very useful for a potential future career in environmental policy."

"The strongly collaborative nature of working in Defra was something I particularly enjoyed during my placement."

Contact

Name: Emma Webster

Email: ExternalAdvice@defra.gov.uk

Department for Work and Pensions

15 internships available for AHRC, BBSRC, EPSRC, ESRC, MRC and NERC students

About Department for Work and Pensions

The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) is one of the UK's largest public service department, spending nearly £288 billion in the last financial year to support over 23 million people.

DWP's Analytical Community is made up of over 800 professionals across Economics, Operational Research, Social Research, and Statistics, alongside data scientists and expert advisers. Analysts are based across the UK and benefit from flexible working.

Research interests

- Economists
- Statisticians
- Social Researchers
- Operational Researchers
- Data Scientists

Policy Internship opportunities available

DWP offers secondment projects across areas including:

- Labour Market
- Universal Credit
- Working Age Benefits and Housing
- Disability and Employment Support
- Work and Health DWP/DHSC Joint Unit
- Pensions and Later Life
- Income, Families and Disadvantage
- Operations
- Strategy
- Digital
- Modelling and Econometrics

Projects vary in their focus and approach, but we do our best to align projects with your skills, preferences, and learning needs. We also encourage secondees to develop new skills and maximise the opportunities available to them. Candidates can indicate their suitability for the above project types in the application form, as well as the substantive research topic area that most interests them. We do our best to align secondments with skills and preferences.

Internship arrangements and location

DWP has offices in Glasgow, Newcastle, Manchester, Sheffield, London and Cardiff.

Hybrid working is available for students.

Applications from part-time registered students are welcomed. Part-time students who are eligible for studentship extensions will have these applied on a part-time basis.

Security restrictions

It can take 2 months for DWP onboarding to be complete.

Full ID and DBS checks are required.

Testimonials from past Interns

"I thoroughly enjoyed the placement and learned a lot. I also noticed that the type of work carried out in DWP speaks a lot more to me than some of the things at university.

"I'm currently completing my PhD at the University of Leeds in the School of Performance and Cultural Industries. My research explores how visual artists use social networks in their career development. Curious about research careers beyond academia, I applied to the UKRI PhD Placement Scheme and chose DWP for its relevance to my project. I was placed in UCAD as a social researcher and felt part of the team from day one. Over three months, I delivered three projects including a secondary qualitative analysis using NVivo, group fieldwork, and an evidence review. The placement gave me real insight into DWP's analytical culture. I later applied for a permanent role and now work in Labour Market Analysis Division. I'd recommend the scheme to any PhD student considering the Civil Service or seeking a different research environment."

Contact

Name: Christian Diamond

Email: christian.diamond@dwp.gov.uk

Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs

Up to 5 internships available for AHRC, BBSRC, EPSRC, ESRC, MRC and NERC students

About Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs

The Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) is one of nine Departments in the Northern Ireland Civil Service (NICS). DAERA is responsible for the sustainable management of Northern Ireland's agri-food sector, the natural environment, and rural affairs. The Department develops and delivers evidence-based policy, regulation and services across areas including agriculture and food, animal health and welfare, fisheries, forestry, environmental protection and enhancement, and rural development. DAERA's strategic objectives include protecting and enhancing the environment, supporting a resilient and competitive agri-food sector, advancing climate and biodiversity goals, and improving outcomes for rural communities through partnership working and robust scientific evidence. Further information on DAERA's areas of responsibility is available at the [DAERA website](#).

Research interests

DAERA's internship opportunities are open to doctoral researchers from a range of disciplines relevant to evidence-based policy across agri-food, natural environment, one health, climate and rural affairs. Relevant academic disciplines include:

- Environmental Science and Ecology (including biodiversity and nature recovery)
- Agricultural Science and Food Systems (including sustainable agri-food transitions)
- Veterinary Science, Epidemiology and One Health (including plant health)
- Climate Science (mitigation, adaptation and greenhouse gas accounting)
- Hydrology / Water Quality / Environmental Engineering
- Social and Behavioural Science

Policy Internship opportunities available

DAERA is offering policy internship opportunities designed to embed doctoral researchers within policy/evidence teams and provide structured experience of how research is translated into policy-facing products. Projects will be aligned to DAERA's Areas of Research Interest (ARIs) and Evidence Plans and will sit within one of DAERA's thematic portfolios (Climate; Sustainable Agri Food Systems; One Health; Natural Environment; Rural Affairs). The specific topic and exact project focus will be agreed at the start of the placement to reflect priorities at the time, while ensuring a clear programme of training and defined outputs that can be delivered within the internship period.

Opportunities may include:

1. Evidence synthesis and policy briefing - A task-and-finish evidence review / horizon scan on a defined policy question, mapped to relevant ARIs/Evidence Plans, culminating in a policy

ready briefing paper or equivalent report, plus a structured log of evidence gaps and R&D commissioning opportunities.

2. Options appraisal and policy design support - A structured analysis of policy options for a live issue (drawing on published evidence and comparable approaches used elsewhere), with an “options paper” that sets out trade offs, implementation considerations, and evidence confidence. Outputs could include a short briefing for decision-makers and an annexed evidence table to support internal use.
3. Rapid evidence support for a forthcoming decision point - A tightly scoped “rapid response” evidence product to inform a time sensitive policy need e.g., assembling and appraising a small body of high priority literature and producing an accessible summary tailored to a non specialist policy audience (with transparent caveats and confidence statements).
4. Data landscape mapping and evidence mobilisation - A mapping exercise that identifies key datasets, indicators, and evidence assets relevant to a policy topic, including data owners/stewards, access constraints, and opportunities to better mobilise existing evidence. This may culminate in a “data/evidence landscape map” and recommendations to strengthen evidence readiness for future policy work.
5. Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) scoping - Developing an evaluation scoping note for an intervention or programme area: clarifying intended outcomes, identifying measurable indicators, setting out feasible evaluation approaches, and highlighting evidence gaps that could be addressed through commissioning. Outputs could include an evaluation framework and a short internal briefing.
6. Policy inquiry / consultation support - Supporting an evidence-led policy inquiry, consultation response, or internal review by synthesising evidence, identifying key stakeholders and viewpoints, and drafting neutral, well sourced text that can be adapted for internal clearance processes.
7. Knowledge exchange and skills-building product - Designing and delivering an internal seminar / workshop (or equivalent knowledge exchange activity) focused on a priority policy issue; supported by a short pre read briefing and a post event note capturing key evidence points, uncertainties, and agreed next steps. This provides practical experience of translating evidence into discussion and action while maintaining an impartial, evidence based approach.

Typical activities and training during the placement may include: induction to DAERA and NICS ways of working; guidance on writing for policy audiences (clarity, brevity, impartiality); working with policy colleagues to refine the question and outputs; attending relevant internal meetings (as appropriate) to understand decision contexts; and producing at least one substantial policy facing output (briefing paper or equivalent), with a short presentation of findings to colleagues at the end of the placement.

Internship arrangements and location

Internships can either be based in Northern Ireland (with hybrid working options available), or fully remote. Arrangements will be agreed with successful applicants, taking account of project requirements and individual circumstances.

Applications from part-time registered students are welcomed. Part-time students who are eligible for studentship extensions will have these applied on a part-time basis.

Security restrictions

Successful candidates will be required to complete Baseline Personnel Security Standard (BPSS) checks, including an AccessNI check, prior to starting. Applicants must have the right to work in the UK and meet relevant Civil Service recruitment nationality rules. Further information:

- [AccessNI Code of Practice](#)
- [National security vetting clearance levels](#)
- [Civil Service Nationality Rules](#)

Contact

Name: Gerardine McEvoy

Email: ScienceEngagement@daera-ni.gov.uk

Department of Health and Social Care

28 internships available for AHRC, BBSRC, EPSRC, ESRC, MRC and NERC students

About Department of Health and Social Care

The Office for Health Improvement & Disparities (OHID) focuses on improving the nation's health so that everyone can expect to live more of life in good health, and on levelling up health disparities to break the link between background and prospects for a healthy life. OHID works across the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC), the rest of government, the healthcare system, local government and industry to be creative about how we shift our focus towards preventing ill health, in particular in the places and communities where there are the most significant disparities.

Cross-cutting analytical support is provided across OHID by two divisions– these are the Strategic Evidence and Analysis Division (SEAD) and Health Improvement and Disparities Policy Analysis (HIDPA). These divisions work closely together to provide cross-disciplinary strategic insight to support public health policy development and analysis at the local and national level.

Research interests

Data scientists, epidemiologists, health economists, operational and social researchers and behavioural and social scientists.

Policy Internship opportunities available

A variety of internship opportunities are available across the SEAD division as follows:

The Health Economics team (up to 3 placements available) overall aim is to support national and local stakeholders to understand the value of preventative healthcare interventions. We do this by building the evidence base around the economic impacts of prevention policies and ensuring this evidence is used effectively to support decision making. This includes both at the national level, by supporting wider DHSC to use this evidence to support national aking, and publishing resources to support local decision-making.

Additionally, we have a role to provide analytical support to Public Health Grant policy-making to ensure this is evidence-based, including building the evidence around the value of Public Health Grant spending.

UKRI Policy Interns in the Health Economics team might expect to:

- Contribute directly to live policy relevant analytical projects
- Support economic analysis using real world data
- Help develop or update return-on-investment models/ tools or analytical resources
- Produce written analytical outputs, briefings and presentations for policy audiences
- Work closely with economists, analysts from other disciplines, and policy colleagues

Interns should have a background in a relevant quantitative subject, such as economics, mathematics, or science. Prior experience in economics is not required, but applicants should

be keen to learn about the field. Literature review, analysis and presentation skills are highly desirable for this role. Interns will be supported by experienced analysts and will gain first hand experience of how economic analysis informs decision making in central government.

Behavioural and Social Sciences Team (BeSST; up to 8 placements available) offers candidates with a research background in the behavioural and social sciences (e.g., psychology, anthropology, sociology, business studies etc.) to apply their skills to the improvement of public health policy, through activities such as evidence review, behavioural analysis, trial design and analysis, and compilation of reports and briefings. Strong written/oral communication skills, the ability to work on multiple projects simultaneously, and expertise in health disparities and behaviour change intervention design are desirable.

Opportunities within the HIDPA division are as follows:

The Diet and Obesity Policy Analysis Team (up to 4 placements available) offers candidates the opportunity to contribute to the team's analytical work, providing evidence and analysis to inform policy decisions that aim to reduce obesity and meet government commitments to improve healthy life expectancy. Modelling & cross-cutting analysis interns should have a research background in a relative quantitative subject (e.g., maths, science, statistics, economics), and experience applying data analysis/statistical modelling/econometrics to real-world problems, and ideally will have experience of programming and/or using data visualisation tools (e.g., R, Power BI). Diet and obesity analysis interns should have a research background in a relevant topic area (e.g., health, sociology, economics, public health etc.), and ideally will have experience of any of the following: evidence review, policy evaluation, public health economics, applying analytical skills to solve real-world problems, and behaviour change intervention design.

The Early Years, Children and Families Policy Analysis Team (up to 8 placements available) offers candidates the opportunity to apply research and analytical skills to all stages of the policy cycle to tackle real-world challenges across early years, child and adolescent health, safeguarding, care experienced people, and violence & abuse (all ages). Typical outputs include evidence reviews, evaluation design, intervention options analysis, economic appraisal, risk/benefit analysis, and production of evidence briefings. Candidates should have a research/analytical background in a relevant topic area (e.g., social research, economics, statistics, data science etc.), and ideally will have analytical and presentation skills, strong teamwork skills and be able to adapt to changing priorities and short-term requests. Knowledge of the policy area is also desirable.

Tobacco, Alcohol and Gambling Policy Analysis (TAGPA) Team (up to 2 placements available) offers candidates the opportunity to produce analysis on addiction behaviours (e.g., tobacco, vaping, alcohol and gambling) to support policy design and spending decisions. Candidates will engage closely with policy and analytical teams on tasks such as evidence reviews and secondary data analysis to investigate the health and wider societal impacts of addictive behaviours, and impact and value for money of current initiatives. Candidates must have relevant experience (research or work) in a relevant topic area (e.g., public health, health behaviour, addiction), and the ability to engage and communicate with a range of stakeholders.

Internship arrangements and location

Start dates are flexible and can be agreed between candidates and host teams. Placements are offered on a remote-working basis or in DHSC's London office. Remote working must take place within the UK.

Applications from part-time registered students are welcomed. Part-time students who are eligible for studentship extensions will have these applied on a part-time basis.

Security restrictions

Students will have to undergo civil service security clearance upon successful application

Testimonials from past Interns

"My UKRI internship in the Health Economics team was extremely interesting and exciting. They gave me responsibility and ownership of my project and I felt that my work was making a real positive impact. The project was designed with care and thought and I was welcomed and well-supported throughout. I also had the chance to contribute to fast-paced work responding to questions from ministers. This experience helped me find a job I'm excited about after finishing my PhD. I loved working with the Health Economics team and am still in touch with them two years later - I can't recommend it enough!"

Contact

Name: Harry Heyburn

Email: harry.heyburn@dhsc.gov.uk

Government Office for Science

Up to 14 internships available for AHRC, BBSRC, EPSRC, ESRC, MRC, NERC and STFC students

About Government Office for Science

The Government Office for Science (GO-Science) advises the Prime Minister and Cabinet to help ensure that we are putting excellent science advice at the heart of decision making.

We do this by ensuring:

- Science advice mechanisms are efficient, effective, speak truth to power and are embedded irreversibly in Government systems.
- Visible impact through both pro-active and demand-led science advice that is relevant, excellent, and delivered fit for purpose.
- Our priority areas of focus are:
- Science for National Security & Resilience – We make sure that science advice underpins national security and resilience policy, strategy, planning and crisis response and that the Scientific Advisory Group for Emergencies (SAGE) is ready to stand up in the event of an emergency.
- A More Scientific Civil Service – We work across government to develop our people, infrastructure, systems and networks – including delivering the Government Science and Engineering Profession and Chief Scientific Adviser (CSA) Networks. We also support wider government to deliver targeted and impactful investment in Research & Development and increase Departmental science capability.
- Science for Strategic Advantage – We use our expertise to ensure that government has the best technology insights to draw on when developing strategies and policies in areas such as the economy and National Security. We are also equipping departments with strong Foresight and Futures tools and supporting delivery of the Science & Technology Framework.
- Science for Current and Future Challenges – We ensure government has access to timely, high-quality advice on key future issues such as climate change mitigation and synthetic biology, and that this scientific evidence supports the government's approach. This includes supporting the independent Council for Science and Technology.

Research interests

Any STEM discipline, including social, political and economic sciences.

Policy Internship opportunities available

Note: GO-Science does not write policy; we ensure that government policies and decisions are informed by the best scientific evidence and strategic long-term thinking. You will have the opportunity to work across government, with high profile external stakeholders and senior leaders in government, academia and industry.

Project Research - opportunities in our National Security & Resilience; Council for Science & Technology (CST); Climate, Society & International; Futures, Foresight & Engagement; Technology & Science Insights; and Systems & Capability teams. You will be using your

expertise to support projects such as: how science can improve HMG planning around major emergencies; supporting CST advice on the Prime Minister's science and technology priorities; contributing research and analysis to new and emerging technologies; supporting work on global climate, science, technology and innovation challenges; improving science capability across government, potentially including systems thinking.

Project Engagement - opportunities focusing on cross-government collaboration and engagement with industry, academia and finance; and promoting the use of Public Sector Research Establishments, facilitating the use of transparent Research & Development expenditure data and improving connectivity of the Science & Technology ecosystem in the UK.

Analyst – an opportunity to contribute to research and analysis to understanding technologies and their potential impact for the UK.

Internship arrangements and location

We are actively seeking applications from every part of the community and particularly welcome applications from candidates of any age, background, disability, or from a global majority background and any other protected characteristic. This will help us move to a workforce that reflects the people we serve to deliver better policies.

Applications from part-time registered students are welcomed. If successful, part-time students who are eligible for studentship extensions will have these applied on a part-time basis.

Our office locations for internships are in Westminster (Head Office in London), Birmingham and Salford.

We offer hybrid working, current expectations are 60% in the office and 40% from home (subject to change). We do not offer 100% remote working for the duration of the internship. You may be asked to attend other office or event locations as part of your internship.

Security restrictions

Security clearance level required - [Baseline Personnel Security Standard \(BPSS\)](#)

All applicants must comply with the [Civil Service Recruitment nationality rules](#). Certain opportunities are restricted to UK nationals.

The above pre-employment checks usually take between 6-8 weeks.

Testimonials from past Interns

Blogs from former interns:

- [Jade Manning \(University of East Anglia\)](#)
- [Dorothea Moser \(University of Cambridge\)](#)

"I hugely enjoyed my time in the R&D Strategy & Spend team. A few parts of my role included the chance to take part in roundtables with several CSAs hearing their view of the current state of UK R&D, and the chance to attend a large event between government departments and venture capitalists to discuss how to work best with them to adopt transformative technologies. During

my placement I learnt a lot about the workings of government and the importance of science in policy decisions. Everyone was very friendly and I really enjoyed the chance to work in London a couple of days a week – I would highly recommend an internship at GO-Science!” (Emily, Leeds)

“My three-month internship at GO-Science has been an amazing opportunity and one of the highlights of my PhD. I’ve worked in the social sciences team, and led a project looking into how organisations can engage and talk to the public about engineering biology. This work and internship have given me valuable understanding of how science advice is provided and used across government, which has changed how I approach research in my own PhD. In addition, I’ve appreciated how friendly and welcoming GO-Science is as a place to work.” (Daniel, Bristol)

Contact

Name: Vivian Snell

Email: vivian.snell@go-science.gov.uk

Home Office

11 internships available for AHRC, BBSRC, EPSRC, ESRC, MRC and NERC students

About Home Office

The Home Office is the lead government department for immigration and passports, drugs policy, crime, counter-terrorism and police. The Department is responsible for:

- working on the problems caused by illegal drug use
- shaping the alcohol strategy, policy and licensing conditions
- keeping the United Kingdom safe from the threat of terrorism
- reducing and preventing crime, and ensuring people feel safe in their homes and communities
- securing the UK border and controlling immigration
- considering applications to enter and stay in the UK
- issuing passports and visas
- supporting visible, responsible, and accountable policing by empowering the public and freeing up the police to fight crime

Our goals are to:

- cut crime and the harm it causes, including cyber-crime and serious and organised crime
- manage civil emergencies within the remit of the Home Office
- protect vulnerable people and communities
- reduce terrorism
- control migration
- provide world-class public services and contribute to prosperity
- maximise the benefits of the United Kingdom leaving the European Union

Research interests

Internships at the Home Office will see first-hand how we use science and analysis to address the complex challenges we face across the Department, helping us to develop and apply services and build the evidence base needed to better protect the public. Interns will have a great opportunity to undertake a placement at the interface between science/research/evidence and policymaking which will directly inform decisions.

We welcome applications from people with backgrounds in social research/behavioural science, physical & life sciences, statistics & analysis, AI & computer science and operational research.

Policy Internship opportunities available

Research, Development and Innovation (RDI) Strategy Team: The intern will work at the heart of the Home Office's research and innovation system, spanning both strategic engagement and Research, Development and Innovation (RDI) strategy. They will support work that connects cutting edge academic research with live policy and operational challenges across public

safety, security and borders. This will include helping shape how the Home Office works with universities and research funders, contributing to briefings for senior leaders, and supporting the delivery of the Department's RDI Strategy. The placement will offer first hand experience of how evidence, science and innovation inform real world policy decisions.

Home Office Science Advice Function: You will join the Home Office Science Advice Function, supporting two independent advisory committees: the Animals in Science Committee (ASC) and the Medical Implications of Less Lethal Weapons Expert Committee (MILLWEC). Working at the intersection of evidence, ethics and policy, you will help translate complex expert advice into clear reports and recommendations to inform Ministers and senior leaders. The role offers exposure to high profile Home Office priorities including animal welfare and policing, alongside close working with policy teams, external experts and other government departments in a fast paced, impactful environment.

Managed Migration Research Team (two roles): Join the Managed Migration Research team as a PhD intern and be part of a dynamic, multi-analytical profession directorate. Our team focuses on evaluating high-profile UK migration routes, examining user experiences, motivations, and intentions, to shape policy and operational delivery. You'll collaborate directly with policy teams and employ a range of analytical methods. Contribute to impactful research projects and explore data-matching opportunities to maximise the value of migration data and enhance data capability and infrastructure. Publish your findings on GOV.UK and help to inform migration policy at the highest level in government.

Policing Research Team: The Policing Research team provides research and analytical support on all aspects of policing policy, on topic areas including policing reform, police powers, police workforce and police use of technology. This internship will provide an opportunity to be embedded into a team of policy-facing analysts, designing and advising on research and evaluation to provide evidence on which to base policy decisions. We commission, contract and manage research and evaluation both ourselves and through external providers, at our desks and out in the field with police officers.

Homeland Security Science and Technology Team: The Homeland Security Science and Technology team supports Home Office policy by developing and using evidence and technology to address priority homeland security challenges. Interns will work with the team to understand real world operational and policy problems and help shape science and technology activities to respond to them. This includes engaging with academics, industry and other public sector bodies to identify and access solutions and collaborating with international partners to share insight and effort. The work is varied, multidisciplinary and closely linked to current Home Office mission priorities.

Central Analytical Services Unit: The intern will spend three months with the Home Office Animals in Science Statistics team, working at the intersection of data, policy and real-world impact. The project will explore what data we currently have from the Animals in Science Regulation Unit, what questions it can (and can't yet) answer, and how it can best support delivery of DSIT's Replacing Animals in Science Strategy. You'll work closely with statisticians and policy teams to uncover insights, identify gaps, and shape how evidence is used and

communicated, helping ensure progress against this ambitious policy can be clearly and confidently tracked.

Technology Exploration Team: Your work will assist the Home Office to understand the implications of complex connected systems. Working with a range of government, policing and security partners, to consider the threats and opportunities posed by the collection, storage and sharing of data enabled by new and emerging technologies. Your role will see you explore these systems specifically in relation to future technologies and the vulnerabilities and opportunities they may offer. Your expertise and advice will help further understanding of the way individuals, organisations and technologies interact, helping the UK to benefit from the opportunities and mitigate the risks posed in this transformative context.

Chief Scientific Adviser's (CSA) Office: This internship will put you at the heart of science in the department, working the Department's most senior scientists. It will give you the opportunity to work with operational and policy teams across the Home Office to ensure that science and evidence is the basis of good decision making. There will be the chance to work across the science network in government, with academia and international partners. During the placement you might support the CSA with ways to support individuals' professional development, provide advice on cutting-edge science and technology or understand where we should be investing in research and development – and much more!

AI Research and Development Team: The Home Office AI Research and Development team is seeking an intern to support work on some of the UK's most pressing challenges at the intersection of artificial intelligence, public safety and national security. The team focuses on issues such as Generative AI misuse, deepfake detection, online harms, and the development of trusted AI capabilities that can operate at national scale. The intern will work closely with technologists, policymakers and operational partners, helping to translate cutting edge research into practical policy and delivery decisions. This is a unique opportunity to engage with novel AI technologies and contribute to nationally significant, high impact programmes.

Central Economics Unit: This exciting opportunity allows a doctoral student to modernise the methodology used to look at the deterrence effect of arrests. The role will analyse evidence on how arrests deter crime across different offence types, updating the approach from Steven Levitt's 1995 paper for a UK criminal justice system context. The research will be policy relevant and directly shape how crime reduction benefits are valued in government appraisal. It will have wide application across major policy decisions and offers opportunities to collaborate across the Home Office and other departments, providing rare insight into analysis at the heart of public decision making.

Radiological and Nuclear Science and Technology: The RN S&T team provides scientific and technical expertise to support evidence-based policymaking on radiological and nuclear detection, response and preparedness. This internship offers a unique opportunity to work at the intersection of science and policy within the UK's radiological and nuclear landscape. The intern will contribute to live policy projects, translating complex science and technical information into accessible, actionable briefings for senior policymakers. This will involve engaging with stakeholders across government and industry and will support the development of skills in policy analysis, science communication and cross-government collaboration.

Internship arrangements and location

Most posts will be based at 2 Marsham Street, London, SW1P 4DF. Some posts may be available at our Croydon, Liverpool, Sheffield or Solihull offices. We work in a hybrid way, between offices and home.

Applicants from part-time registered students and for flexible hours are welcomed. If successful, part-time students who are eligible for studentship extensions will have these applied on a part-time basis.

Security restrictions

There may be different requirements for different postings. Applicants must have spent the last 3 years living within the UK for a Counter Terrorist Check (CTC) or 5 years for Security Check (SC). Clearance is processed in approximately 30 days.

Testimonials from past Interns

"I wanted to say a massive thank you to every one of you, not only for your support in helping me organise and deliver Professional Development Week, but for making the overall internship experience incredible. These last few months have exceeded all expectations. I am going to miss this brilliant team"

"Everyone made me feel very welcome and it really helped me to get over my initial nervousness. I really wish that I'd been able to stay longer."

"Every person I have met has been very friendly, and always eager to help or share information whilst maintaining professionalism. I was treated as an equal analyst and was welcomed in the team straight away."

"I wanted to extend my thanks for offering the internship opportunity to me! I've had a fantastic experience in the team and feel very grateful to have had such a positive time."

Contact

Name: Sonya Anscombe

Email: Science-and-Evidence-Ecosystem@homeoffice.gov.uk

Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government

Up to 8 internships available for AHRC, BBSRC, EPSRC, ESRC, MRC and NERC students

About Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government

The Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) is at the forefront of the government's mission to transform the UK by kickstarting economic growth and breaking down barriers to opportunity.

Our work spans a wide remit from investing in local areas to drive growth and create jobs, delivering the high quality, safe and affordable homes our country needs, supporting our community and faith groups, strengthening local government, and planning and building safety.

We lead on delivering a wide range of policies and programmes that support our key priorities which include:

- Getting Britain building – including the commitment to 1.5 million net additional homes during this Parliament and fast-tracking planning decisions on 150 major infrastructure projects
- Improving housing quality and security – including through strengthened renters' rights.
- Reducing homelessness and rough sleeping
- Strengthening local government – including through improved and reformed funding.
- Delivering growth in every corner of the country – including by extending English devolution and by building stronger communities
- Responding to the Grenfell Inquiry report – including by accelerating remediation of unsafe buildings

In addition to these priorities, we are committed to increasing social cohesion and mitigating and responding effectively to a really broad range of natural and anthropogenic risks and adverse events which affect place-based communities.

Our teams engage regularly with a variety of stakeholders from other departmental teams and government institutions, Ministers, No. 10 and HMT to local leaders, business developers, academia, and manufacturers.

Research interests

- Urban and Regional Planning and Design
- Economics
- Human Geography, Sociology and Behavioural Science
- Engineering and Architecture
- Environmental Science

Please note that resilience and health are cross cutting themes that run through all five disciplines.

Policy Internship opportunities available

Interns will have the opportunity to work at the interface of research and policymaking to directly inform policy decisions. Potential activities could include evidence syntheses, analysing data to support key policy needs, gathering evidence from a range of cross-government or academic stakeholders, organising workshops with external experts to facilitate policy discussions and communicating conclusions to policy professionals and ministers verbally and/or in writing.

Interns could work on policy, legislation, strategy and/or operational delivery whilst being embedded in a policy team or within the Chief Scientific Adviser's team, working across the range of MHCLG's remit. Please note that at this stage of the bidding process we cannot guarantee which opportunities will be available for interns at the start of the internship, although we will endeavour to work with interns to align their experience with an appropriate policy area.

In previous years interns have worked in Planning reform and housing strategy (making access to justice in the private rented sector as quick, fair and robust as possible, covering court improvement and alternative dispute resolution services), Local Growth and Devolution (drives work to boost regional and national growth across the UK), and Resettlement Strategy, Governance and Comms (covers policy and strategic decisions relating to asylum resettlement and specific resettlement cohorts such as Ukraine, Afghanistan and Hong Kong).

Internship arrangements and location

MHCLG is well equipped for remote and hybrid working and most policy teams are dispersed in offices around the country. Locations include: London, Wolverhampton, Leeds, Belfast, Cambridge, Cardiff, Edinburgh, Hastings, Hemel Hempstead, Liverpool, Manchester, Bristol, Nottingham, Norwich and Plymouth. You may be based in an office, working remotely from home or a combination of the two depending on your matched policy team.

Applications from part-time registered students are welcomed. Part-time students who are eligible for studentship extensions will have these applied on a part-time basis. If you are successful, we will discuss the hours and location with you.

Security restrictions

Successful candidates will need to undergo security vetting to Baseline Personnel Security Standard (BPSS) level, which requires a baseline Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check and the right to work in the UK.

Testimonials from past Interns

"The UKRI Policy Internship was one of the highlights of my PhD degree. The programme allowed me to gain a better understanding of the policy-making processes as well as the government's ways of working. The internship also became an opportunity to use my research skills and learn about how research findings may inform policy. My team was very welcoming and incredibly supportive in also allowing me to pursue my policy interests. Finally, the

internship also encouraged me to think about careers outside of academia, including in the civil service. I would highly recommend it to everyone!"

"During my internship with the Central Strategy Unit, I had the opportunity to engage in a diverse range of projects; not only allowing me to apply my research interests to governmental work, but also providing me with valuable insights into the general workings of and day-to-day life in the civil service. This exposure is sure to be beneficial as I pursue future job opportunities within the civil service beyond my PhD studies-a career path which I am now much more certain of. I highly recommend the MHCLG internship to any and all prospective UKRI students- it has equipped me with both an understanding of how research can impact policy, and important skills and insights that will surely help with future career steps."

Contact

Name: Victoria Wright

Email: psChiefScientificAdviser@communities.gov.uk

Ministry of Justice

10 internships available for AHRC, BBSRC, EPSRC, ESRC, MRC and NERC students

About Ministry of Justice

The Ministry of Justice (MoJ) is a major government department, at the heart of the justice system. MoJ work to protect and advance the principles of justice, with a vision to deliver a world-class justice system that works for everyone in society.

PhD placements in MoJ are part of the MoJ Evidence and Partnerships Hub's impactful academic engagement programme, enabled by the departmental Areas of Research Interest (ARI). The Hub, based in Policy Group's Analysis Directorate, enhances MoJ's strategic research capabilities, to enable evidence-based decisions, by collaborating with academic experts, research networks, and research funders.

The Analytical Community in MoJ consists of multidisciplinary teams embedded throughout the department, providing analysis and research across a diverse and exciting agenda. They provide high quality data, analysis, and research to ensure strategic, policy, finance, corporate and operational decisions are based on robust evidence.

Research interests

Opportunities that span the breadth of the UKRI remit.

Policy Internship opportunities available

MoJ will have placement opportunities across a range of policy and operational-facing areas. For each opportunity, the student will be responsible for the delivery of a project that addresses an evidence gap in the 2025 Areas of Research Interest (ARI) publication. All projects are part of a wider portfolio of analytical work that supports policy development and operational decision-making across MoJ.

Each student will be embedded within a team and responsible for a discrete project requiring technical skills and research methods. Embedding gives students direct experience of working in a real-life role and rich insight into life in a fast-paced government department. Placements will culminate in an end-of-project report and student-led presentation/seminar to disseminate the findings to key stakeholders.

Students will be given the freedom to work independently on their project whilst actively contributing to the wider work of their team, with the day-to-day support of a line manager and team members. This will include balancing and prioritising multiple tasks through effective communication with their team.

MoJ placements can draw on a range of skills and research methods. These will vary according to the specific project but could include: evidence reviews and syntheses; descriptive analysis and statistics; qualitative research; evaluation and trialling; mathematical or econometric modelling; data science and data engineering; behavioural science.

Students can access networking opportunities and learning and development available to the Analytical Community, giving them a richer experience during their placement. As a cohort, they will be supported by Evidence and Partnerships Hub and will benefit from peer mentoring and learning throughout their placements.

Internship arrangements and location

MoJ welcome applications from students based in England, Scotland, and Wales. There will be some requirement to travel to meet other team members based in the MoJ National Office Network. A laptop will be provided and MoJ offers hybrid working arrangements that allow students to work from different MoJ offices, their university office, from home, or a combination – subject to adherence to information security at all times.

Applications from part-time registered students are welcomed. Part-time students who are eligible for studentship extensions will have these applied on a part-time basis.

Security restrictions

Baseline Personnel Security Standard (BPSS) is required as a minimum, which usually takes around 6-8 weeks; please see [National security vetting clearance levels](#) for more information.

Testimonials from past Interns

"My placement at the Ministry of Justice has been a valuable and enjoyable learning opportunity. I got to work on an interesting project that allowed me to both apply my existing knowledge and develop new skills. In addition to that, the placement provided me with a good understanding of what it can look like to work in the civil service."

"Working in a team at the Ministry of Justice has been an invaluable learning experience. During my placement, I have established my own individual project whilst also making wider contributions to the work of my team. Researching a topic area outside the typical scope of my PhD topic area has been fascinating and has significantly broadened my interests. I also feel as though the connections I have made during my team here have assisted in my professional and personal development. My time here will stand me in good stead for my post-PhD career and I would highly recommend working with the Ministry of Justice."

"I have really enjoyed taking part in the internship scheme with the MoJ. During the scheme I was able to take ownership of a small-scale evaluation project. This has enabled me to build on the research skills I have developed during the PhD and apply these within a policy context. The work I have been involved in at the MoJ has opened my eyes to how research is used beyond academia. The team were incredibly welcoming and supportive, and I would thoroughly recommend participating in the internship scheme with the MoJ!"

Contact

Name: Ben Hepworth

Email: benjamin.hepworth@justice.gov.uk

Northern Ireland Assembly

Up to 8 internships available for AHRC, BBSRC, EPSRC, ESRC, MRC and NERC students

About Northern Ireland Assembly

The Northern Ireland Assembly is the devolved legislature based on the principle of cross-community power-sharing under the devolution settlement in Northern Ireland. Its remit, roles and responsibilities are specified under the Northern Ireland Act 1998.

Routine Assembly business encompasses policy, legislation and public finance, arising within the areas devolved to Northern Ireland by the United Kingdom (UK) government. The Assembly is to: (i) hold the Northern Ireland Executive and individual Departments to account for their decisions; (ii) enact legislation to make new laws or to amend existing ones; and, (iii) debate and decide on issues raised. It does so via its 90 elected Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs), who work in three distinct capacities – plenary, committee and constituency.

The Research and Information Service (RaISe) is the Assembly's in-house, independent, non-partisan research and information provider, currently comprising: The Assembly Library; five Research Teams; Knowledge Exchange; and, the Central Support Unit.

RaISe provides a range of services in a manner that is timely and confidential (unless otherwise specified), including undertaking research and delivering outputs (written/digital/oral) that are evidence-based, non-partisan, objective and accessible.

RaISe users include: individual MLAs; Assembly committees; Assembly officials; UK Parliament's Northern Ireland Affairs Committee; and, North South Inter-Parliamentary Association. Consequently, RaISe regularly engages with a range of sectors and stakeholders - for example: government departments across the UK, the Republic of Ireland and elsewhere; non-departmental and arm's length bodies; non-governmental organisations; local government; voluntary/community groups; think tanks; academia; labour unions; and, private firms from industry and business.

Our work in RaISe is relevant to the remits of AHRC, BBSRC, EPSRC, ESRC, MRC and NERC; addressing a wide breadth of issues impacting diverse sectors and stakeholders.

Research interests

Those funded by any of the following Research Councils would possess academic expertise and or disciplinary backgrounds that would be relevant to undertake one of the internships hosted by the Northern Ireland Assembly's Research and Information Service (RaISe) under the UKRI Policy Internship scheme: AHRC, BBSRC, EPSRC, ESRC, MRC, or NERC.

Policy Internship opportunities available

Interns are assigned to one of the five RaISe Research Team for the duration of their internship, where they will:

- Provide timely, evidence-based, non-partisan research on issues relating to policy, legislation and or public finance that are of interest to MLAs, Assembly officials and/or others, which contributes to various aspects of the Research Team's work, including replying to MLA, Assembly committee or other queries
- Produce at least one written research briefing on an agreed topic and at least one blog article for Research Matters or one Topical Digest
- Undertake opportunities to develop greater awareness and understanding of research and information needs arising from Northern Ireland's policy, law and budget-making processes
- Enhance existing/ acquire new skills to: distil research findings in short timeframes; write concisely for non-specialists in an accessible, non-partisan and balanced manner, including infographics/data visualisation; deliver research briefings - written and, if possible, oral - in a formal setting; and, work within a team

Throughout the internship, the intern must comply with relevant Assembly Commission staff policies, procedures and practices, including those that relate to all Commission staff and those that are RaISe-specific; undertaking the internship in a manner that assists and does not hinder the Assembly Commission in meeting its business needs and achieving its strategic priorities, as discussed during the their induction programme and every day on-the-job learning.

Internship arrangements and location

RaISe will host internships under the 2026/27 Scheme at its offices located in Parliament Buildings, on the Stormont Estate located in East Belfast, Northern Ireland. There, the interns will be assigned to a RaISe Research Team, fully integrated, with a line manager and "buddy".

Each will be allocated a work station, including desk, chair, laptop, headphones, webcam and access to both relevant internal systems and the Assembly's intranet. They will be expected to work in accordance with the Assembly's Hybrid Working Policy; currently two days a week in Parliament Buildings and three from home, unless business requires other. They will be welcome to work on-site in Parliament Buildings for the entire work week, if they prefer.

Applications from part-time registered students are welcomed. Part-time students who are eligible for studentship extensions will have these applied on a part-time basis.

Working arrangements will be in accordance with relevant Assembly policies, practices and procedures for flexible working (such as compressed hours) and part-time working. RaISe is committed to equality of opportunity and will make reasonable adjustments to ensure that disabilities or conditions do not exclude prospective interns from this opportunity.

Security restrictions

For security vetting purposes - before starting their internships for the agreed period in RaISe - each intern will be required to provide the Assembly with a copy of their current Access NI basic level certificate (must be valid for the duration of the internship); or, an equivalent criminal record check.

Interns who do not provide the above in a timely manner will not be issued security passes and will not undertake their internships. Please see the [AccessNI website](#) for more information regarding costs and turnaround times for an Access NI basic level certificate.)

Testimonials from past Interns

Reflecting on his internship experience in the Assembly's RalSe, a former Imperial College London PhD student stated:

'Completing a policy internship in the Assembly's RalSe was an eye-opening and enriching experience that will have a huge impact on how I approach the rest of my PhD and how I view my options beyond my PhD. Throughout my time, I joined a Research Team and contributed to it work as a valued team member, not "just the intern". I gained broad experience, including developing my written and oral communication skills and undertaking research in new fields. This experience has served to expand how I think about my PhD research and its potential impact in policy and law-making contexts and beyond. I would strongly recommend such an internship to others.'

To view examples of RalSe publications (co)delivered by a number of past interns hosted by RalSe under this Scheme, use below weblinks:

[Written Briefings for Assembly plenaries and committees](#) – for example: Oracy Education in Northern Ireland, Northern Ireland's marine and freshwater fish stock health, Management of Algal Blooms, The Small Business Research Initiative and Innovate UK Contracts for Innovation

[Articles for Research Matters \(RalSe blog\)](#) – for example: Intergovernmental relations: What is Northern Ireland's role, Algal Blooms and Lough Neagh, Wind in a Bottle, how can Northern Ireland maximise its wind energy potential?, Women's Gynaecological Health in NI

[Topical Digests for Assembly plenaries](#) – for example: Large-scale energy storage methods for wind energy, Gambling regulation and gambling-related harm

Contact

Name: Eileen Regan

Email: eileen.regan@niassembly.gov

Parliamentary Office of Science and Technology

30 internships available for AHRC, BBSRC, EPSRC, ESRC, MRC, NERC and STFC students

About Parliamentary Office of Science and Technology

The [Parliamentary Office of Science and Technology](#) (POST) works in the House of Commons and the House of Lords to make the best research evidence available for MPs and Peers. These decision-makers use POST to help them to examine the work of Government and to represent the people.

Our work is trusted as we are independent, non-biased and non-political. We cover everything from energy and climate change to education and child welfare, to economics and crime, to digital technologies, artificial intelligence and beyond.

We, and the interns we work with, make scientific research accessible to Parliament in several exciting ways:

- we publish respected and influential briefings (examples can be seen on the [POST website](#))
- we advise groups of MPs and Peers
- we hold seminars and events in Parliament
- we create links between Parliament and the research community
- we work with and support other parliaments around the world

Research interests

POST are able to provide opportunities that span the breadth of the UKRI remit.

Policy Internship opportunities available

Research students (who we call POST Fellows) have told us that their experience with POST can be life-changing. By the end of their time in POST, fellows will have developed a unique understanding of policy making, created important relationships with key stakeholders, and have conducted new and exciting research. They will also have developed new communication and relationship skills that are valuable for their future careers.

Fellows normally help us to research, write, publish and publicise a briefing for Parliament. However, our Fellows may also work directly with MPs and Peers on select committees, or work in other exciting research teams in Parliament, such as the House of Commons or House of Lords Libraries. Fellows may also get involved in the organisation of [POST events](#), they may produce content for other high profile publications such as the [House Magazine](#), and they may participate in outreach activities with the expert community.

We work hard to make all our fellows feel welcome and positive about their experience. When you join us, we provide training, supervision, support and mentoring to enable you to make the most out of the opportunity. We normally have multiple fellows with us at any one time, so you will also have a network of peer support.

We are committed to increasing diversity, so we welcome and encourage applications from underrepresented groups. Look at the [Work with us section](#) of our website to see what it's like to work in POST and for information on our values and people.

Internship arrangements and location

Internships are full-time for three months or part-time over a longer period. We are based in Parliament, London. The standard in-office attendance requirement is 40% (2 days a week) but we are happy to discuss remote or hybrid working arrangements, subject to discussion about the nature of your placement and if this can be accommodated successfully.

Applications from part-time registered students are welcome. If successful, part-time students who are eligible for studentship extensions will have these applied on a part-time basis. If you are successful, the working arrangements will be discussed with you, and a Parliamentary laptop and desk space allocated.

POST is bicameral and strictly non-partisan. Fellows will need to abstain from any political activity for the duration of their Internship and to uphold the principles of parliamentary service, including impartiality and confidentiality. See our [Frequently Asked Questions](#) page for further information.

Security restrictions

You must be eligible to work in the UK. If you are an international student, discuss whether you are eligible to work with your institution. POST cannot advise.

All Internship offers are conditional on obtaining security clearance. This includes security vetting to Counter Terrorist Check (CTC) level which may take up to 12 weeks. Please see the [National Security Vetting](#) booklet for more details.

You must have resided in the UK for at least three of the last five years from the date of your fellowship offer to pass security vetting. These years do not need to be consecutive. The five-year period is backdated from the date when Internship offers will be made. Holidays and trips abroad will count as time spent outside of the UK if they exceed one month. Applicants should determine whether this will affect their eligibility if they only just meet the three-year residency criterion. The security team are unable to make any exceptions for applicants that have lived in the UK for a shorter duration.

All successful candidates are required to pass these checks before an offer will be confirmed.

Testimonials from past Interns

"It's been an incredible experience." – Frankie Boyd, [Early Interventions to Reduce Violent Crime, POSTnote 599](#)

"The POST Internship was one of the best experiences of my PhD. I learnt a lot about communicating in a policy context, in a really supportive and friendly working environment. The writing skills and policy experience I have gained are already helping me in my new research job, working in climate policy research. I would wholeheartedly encourage anyone interested in

science policy to apply for a POST Internship, I can pretty much guarantee you won't regret it." – Heather Plumptre, [Climate change and agriculture, POSTnote 600](#)

"I took a step away from the lab to explore the world of science policy, and it was the most insightful experience of my PhD so far! Working as a Postgraduate Fellow at POST was a wonderful opportunity and I'd highly recommend the Policy Internships scheme" – Alana Dowling, [Reservoirs of Antimicrobial Resistance, POSTnote 595](#)

You can learn more about the experiences of some of our previous Fellows, and where they ended up in their careers, in the [POST Fellowship Spotlights](#) and in this [video interview](#) with a former fellow.

Contact

Name: Jonathan Wentworth

Email: wentworthj@parliament.uk

Scottish Parliament Information Centre

Up to 3 internships available for BBSRC, ESRC and NERC students.

About Scottish Parliament Information Centre

The Scottish Parliament Information Centre (SPICe) is the Scottish Parliament's in-house research unit, providing information and research to 129 Members of the Scottish Parliament (MSP), and their staff.

SPICe provides impartial and accurate advice and briefings to individual MSPs and parliamentary committees. This is an exciting time to be an intern in SPICe; analysing the overarching themes of Climate and Constitution across all of the devolved subject areas, as well as many reserved subjects where there is a devolved policy interest.

Research interests

Our research is relied upon by MSPs from all sides and shared widely. SPICe Research consists of three units:

- The Environment, Rural, Constitution and International Relations Research Unit covers a wide range of areas, including: Planning, Rural Affairs, Environment, Transport, Climate Change, Energy, Agriculture and Fisheries
- The Financial Scrutiny Unit scrutinises public finances and the economy
- The Justice, Health and Social Affairs Research Unit covers a wide range of areas, including: Health, Social Care, Civil and Criminal Justice, Parliament and Constitution, Culture, Children's Services, Education, Lifelong Learning, Housing, and Equal Opportunities

Further information is available from [SPICe's website](#) and in a [blog about how the scheme works](#) and what former interns have gone on to do.

Policy Internship opportunities available

Interns based in SPICe will join one of our Research Units and will focus on providing at least one proactive Research Briefing. You are also expected to contribute to all aspects of the work of the unit that you join, and you will have the opportunity to get involved in the day-to-day work of the Parliament by contributing to briefings for Committees and helping to answer enquiries from MSPs. Interns undertaking this placement will have an opportunity to get first-hand experience of working in a political environment and will develop a good knowledge of policy-making, law-making and scrutiny processes. Examples of the projects of previous interns include:

- [Artificial Intelligence and Healthcare in Scotland](#)
- [Preventative spending in Scotland](#)

Internship arrangements and location

We are predominantly based in the Scottish Parliament building at Holyrood, Edinburgh. However, remote working arrangements may be made, depending on circumstances.

Applications from part-time registered students are welcomed. Part-time students who are eligible for studentship extensions will have these applied on a part-time basis.

Security restrictions

Full Parliamentary security vetting required. You must be eligible to work in the UK, this opportunity is not available to international students on a Tier 4 visa.

Testimonials from past Interns

"I joined the Financial Scrutiny Unit of SPICe for a three-month internship to explore how public services can use prevention as a principle of delivery and why this is not a trivial thing to do. During my normal EngD work, I interact with policy stakeholders almost daily, but it was interesting to get a lot closer to policy through SPICe, and to see how information is used in Parliamentary activity.

While working in Holyrood, I have met a lot of people who are very good at what they do and felt supported by a team of focussed researchers with deep knowledge of the function of Committees and how researchers can best help them.

I have improved my scientific communication, project management and stakeholder engagement skills. I got to speak to experts from the OECD, Scottish Government, and professional organisations about the subject. I sat in at meetings of the Health, Social Care and Sport Committee and the Finance and Public Administration Committee when they discussed relevant policy to prevention.

The output of my three months is an extensive summative briefing about prevention in public services in Scotland from the point of view of resource allocation, which can be used by incoming MSPs and others to learn about the topic. I also produced a shorter blog as a taster for the larger briefing document, and I look forward to hopefully speaking to MSPs at a seminar during Session 7.

I would recommend a policy internship with SPICe to anyone who wants to learn about how MSPs use information, get closer to understanding how laws are made and apply their research skills to work on something that makes sense with skilled people in a beautiful building."

- Ota Dvorak, March 2026

Contact

Name: Alasdair Reid

Email: alasdair.reid@parliament.scot

Senedd Cymru/Welsh Parliament

Up to 8 internships available for AHRC, BBSRC, EPSRC, ESRC, MRC and NERC students

About Senedd Cymru/Welsh Parliament

The Welsh Parliament/Senedd Cymru is the devolved parliament for Wales. Its elected Members make laws, check and challenge the actions and spending of the Welsh Government, and represent citizens of Wales.

Senedd Research is the in-house research service in the Senedd. It is one of the four parliamentary hosts of the UKRI Policy Internship scheme.

Senedd Research provides impartial, independent, and expert research and analysis to support all Members of the Senedd in their roles as elected representatives, and to help them conduct high quality scrutiny of policy and legislation.

Research interests

We are able to provide opportunities that span the breadth of the UKRI remit.

Policy Internship opportunities available

Interns based with Senedd Research will get first-hand experience of a fast-paced political environment. Engaging directly with Members of the Senedd and their staff you will develop a good knowledge of policy-making, law-making and scrutiny processes, and with that, an understanding of political sensitivity.

You will join one of our teams, depending on your subject knowledge and areas of interest. You will provide information on policy issues of interest to Members of the Senedd and will contribute to all of a diverse work of the team they join. This will include producing at least one research briefing and writing research articles on topical issues. You will be involved in the fast paced, day-to-day work of the Senedd by contributing to briefings for Senedd committees and helping to answer research enquiries from Members of the Senedd. You will see how academic research is used in parliamentary business and have the opportunity to engage with a variety of stakeholders including NGOs, academics, industry representatives and others.

You will participate in a programme of induction about the work of the Senedd, including attending First Minister's Questions. You will engage with other services including Senedd lawyers, clerking teams, translation services and communications & engagement to maximum the impact of their project.

Internship arrangements and location

Students placed with us will be based at the Senedd Commission offices adjoining the Senedd building in Cardiff Bay. Hybrid and remote working is also possible.

Applications from part-time registered students are welcomed. Part-time students who are eligible for studentship extensions will have these applied on a part-time basis.

Security restrictions

Students must have resided in the UK for a minimum of three years. The successful candidates placed in Cardiff will have to undergo security vetting. The security vetting will be to Counter Terrorist Check (CTC) level and will require the candidate to complete an online security questionnaire with United Kingdom Services Vetting (UKSV). Placements are subject to the successful completion of this level of security vetting.

Testimonials from past Interns

Nearly 80 PhD students have undertaken internships with Senedd Research since 2006. Among 14 of the most recent interns, 100% said that their experience greatly exceeded or exceeded their expectations.

Thomas Mitcham, who carried out the internship in 2020, said: "I couldn't have asked for a better experience at Senedd Research. I felt a part of the team from the first day and received great training and support from colleagues. I had the opportunity to sit in on ministerial scrutiny sessions, write research briefings and blogs on fast-moving events and respond directly to enquiries from politicians. The internship gave me a real insight into how legislative bodies work on a day-to-day basis, and allowed me to be a part of that process from the beginning. The Welsh language classes were also a real highlight! I would highly recommend applying for a policy internship at Senedd Research."

Contact

Name: Chloe Corbyn

Email: chloe.corbyn@senedd.wales

UK Health Security Agency

15 internships available for AHRC, BBSRC, EPSRC, ESRC, MRC and NERC students

About UK Health Security Agency

UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) is an executive agency, sponsored by the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC). At UKHSA, our mission is to protect people's health by preventing and responding to threats, whether that's a new pandemic, everyday infections like influenza, or environmental dangers like radiation or extreme weather. We save lives, protect livelihoods, and work with partners across the NHS, care systems, and globally to keep communities safe.

We're a hub of scientific and operational expertise, tackling health challenges at every level; local, national, and international. The Chief Data Officer (CDO) group is the analytical powerhouse of UKHSA and plays a key role in making sure data is used safely, legally, and ethically. We support every step of the data journey, from collecting and managing information to analytics and delivering insights that drive real-world action.

If you're passionate about using data to make a difference and want to help solve big health challenges, there's a place for you here in the CDO group.

Research interests

- Data Science
- Public Health/Policy
- Environmental science
- Computer Science
- Geography

Policy Internship opportunities available

We work hard to make all our interns feel welcome and positive about their experience. When you join us, we provide training, supervision, support and mentoring to enable you to make the most out of your time with UKHSA. We normally have multiple interns with us at any one time, so you will have access to a network of like-minded peers for support that meet and chat frequently.

Join us and be part of a dynamic and diverse range of impactful projects shaping public health responses and strategy. As part of our Infectious Disease Modelling team, you could be leading epidemiological modelling and analysis on COVID-19, Mpox, climate-related vector-borne diseases, and Chemical, Biological, Radioactive and Nuclear threats. Opportunities also exist within our Health Analytics and Automation Team, where you might assess the use of AI tools like MS Co-pilot or lead strategic work on operationalising open-source coding across government. We have an exciting opportunity to work in the buzz of the CDO Private Office. Here you will learn so much, from strategy to stakeholder engagement with senior civil service members such as our Director General, Professor Steven Riley, working not just across the agency but across government.

We continually develop and strengthen our infectious disease surveillance tools across an array of public health areas so it's a great opportunity to join us and contribute towards meaningful public health policy. Wastewater surveillance is fast becoming valuable for tracking public health threats like COVID-19 and poliovirus. You could join this pioneering team interpreting complex data and helping shape clear policy guidance.

Our Emerging Hazards team offers roles in forecasting global disease scenarios and evaluating overseas health system capabilities, while the AI Delivery Team is driving pan-agency transformation in AI adoption, perfect for those skilled in project management, policy development, and stakeholder engagement. Join our Geospatial team with some hands-on research into health disparities and the effects of extreme weather on vulnerable populations. Join the Epidemiological Insight Team, providing critical epidemiological evidence, supporting analytical tools, and enhancing the quality and impact of UKHSA publications. Finally, collaborate with a multidisciplinary team to conduct user research and inform the design of data products like the UKHSA dashboard.

Internship arrangements and location

The internship will be offered as remote based with the option for attending offices more frequently if the intern wishes to. There will be some travel required to our head office at 10 South Colonnade, Canary Wharf, London to attend team meetings/away days and to enable greater team working. We do also have offices across the UK if the intern would like to attend an office more frequently, these are in Liverpool, Leeds and Birmingham.

Applications from part-time registered students are welcomed. Part-time students who are eligible for studentship extensions will have these applied on a part-time basis.

Security restrictions

Basic Personnel Security Standard (BPSS) will be 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 internship has been confirmed by UKRI and UKHSA.

Please see the [National security vetting: clearance levels](#) webpage for more information.

Testimonials from past Interns

"The internship with the UKHSA exceeded all my expectations. The internship presented me the unique opportunity to experience scientific work in a real context and understand the pros and cons of working, when compared to academia. From the moment I started my project, I had very clear understanding of the importance of my work and how the produced insights can be utilised in the nearest future to improve the strategies for coping with ongoing health crisis."

"I had so many highlights at UKHSA but the biggest was organizing and co-facilitating a 5-day workshop series with the World Health Organisation to review UKHSA's respiratory surveillance systems. We had over 25 attendees from across the agency, in-person, and the positive feedback received was immense."

"My PhD background focuses on a very similar area of work but I found that both the soft and hard skills learnt through this placement have really changed my ways of working and how I view my own work. Especially, skills in using GitHub and providing QA on code were most important, but also communicating to a team about the work I'm completing and thinking about the best way to help others understand what I've implemented to help the team."

Contact

Name: Kat Paes

Email: cdoPartnerships@ukhsa.gov.uk

