UKRI policy fellowships 2027

Fellowship position

Fellowship title:

BIST growth and industrial strategy fellowship

Fellowship type:

Core policy fellowship

Host organisation:

Department for Business, Innovation, Science and Trade

Host team:

Analytical data science team

Academic discipline/s:

Mathematics, Data Science, Computer Science, Statistics, Economics

Summary:

Opportunity to establish new ways of measuring enhancing economic growth in general or in IS-8 sectors.

Policy topic:

BIST is interested in all aspects of economic growth in total in the context of any and all of the IS-8 sectors.

Research career stage:

Open for early and mid-career researchers

Fellowship structure

The fellowship is scheduled to begin on 1 October 2027 subject to security clearance requirements. The fellowship will have three phases:

- inception: duration is 3 months at 0.4 FTE
- main placement: duration is 12 months at 0.6-1 FTE
- knowledge exchange: duration is 3 months at 0.4 FTE

Work arrangements

Location requirements:

The team is based in London, Manchester, and Cardiff. There will be some requirement to travel to meet other team members, this would be every 1 or 2 months during the main placement phase and occasionally during the inception and knowledge exchange phases.

Hybrid working:

Although BIST has a two-days a week minimum office working requirement this will not apply to the fellow. If the academic institution is close to the locations listed above or Darlington, Edinburgh, Birmingham and Belfast, the fellow could benefit from 1 day a week in the office.

A laptop will be provided enabling work from home or other sites, providing access to host systems. In addition to potential office attendance, it would be useful to budget for travel to London, Manchester or Cardiff around once a month in the placement year and once in the inception phase and once in the knowledge exchange phase. Eligible Travel and Subsistence costs are supported in the main UKRI grant. Please see full call text and guidance for more details.

Security clearance and nationality eligibility criteria:

Basic Personnel Security Standard (BPSS) clearance is required and usually takes around six weeks. The successful applicant will be expected to begin the security clearance process, with support from the host team, as soon as their fellowship is confirmed by UKRI. The fellows must have the right to work in the UK by the expected start date of the award and maintain this for the duration of the fellowship.

The inception phase may begin while security clearance is still being processed, but clearance must be in place before the main placement phase begins.

There are no specific nationality requirements, please see national security vetting: clearance levels for more information.

Fellowship position description

The department has a broad range of interests related to measuring and facilitating growth across all IS-8 sectors as well as economic growth in general in the UK. We are keen to understand the international and global context around it. Investment behaviours, infrastructure implications, drivers of sectoral growth and shrinkage, innovation and technology adoption. We would also like to know how growth is influenced by intellectual property and how regulation standards and taxation influence business behaviours.
The full list of questions can be found on the DBT areas of research interest website.

Examples to demonstrate co-design and collaboration:

- we envisage the fellow will carry out a research project in one of these areas of interest (detailed above) with the scope to be agreed as part of the inception phase
- we are looking for a fellow to work on one of these three areas, with the choice of the area made by the fellow based on their interests and expertise
- exact topics will be determined by host priorities during the inception phase, shaped by the fellow's interests and input
- the analytical data science team has a focus on analytical modelling so the ideal candidate would pitch a model that addresses the issues in the areas of research interest. The team would support them with embedding the model in the department.

To deliver a fruitful collaboration:

- the successful candidate will be embedded into BIST Analysis group which is a central analytical resource with a holistic view over the department. This will allow them to get hands on experience in understanding policy levers and the process of policy making
- they will get first-hand experience in what form their research can support better evidence making and how different government portfolios work together to deliver effective policies
- the fellow can change the way the government work by teaching them new techniques and approaches
- weekly contact meetings will be in place with a key analytical leader who will ensure the benefits of the academic work is leveraged appropriately, and the research remains aligned with policy goals

The benefits to the fellow include:

- opportunity to codesign, produce and publish original research, ensuring that findings contribute to wider scientific and policy discussions while adhering to necessary security protocols
- being embedded in the host team and have access to internal systems and processes, gaining in-depth understanding of the policy process.
- the opportunity to inform and influence the departments attitude towards and understanding of growth and wider government policy on important industrial strategy issues
- access to datasets related to business trade and finance including microdata access as well as access to data experts on caveats and long-term data quality and cross-compatibilities
- access to a wider network of policy, analysis, other experts and opportunities to engage with government departments and aligned organisations
- knowledge exchange opportunities, including policy roundtables, cross-government workshops and wider networks
- opportunity to publish findings in scientific journals subject to content sign-off for sensitivity from the department

Person specification

Applications will be assessed by UKRI panel assessment against the following essential opportunity-specific requirements in addition to the generic eligibility and call criteria.

Essential criteria:

- a proven academic track record in Mathematics, Data Science, Computer Science, Statistics, Economics, quantitative methods and or modelling
- subject matter expertise in specific topics related to the fellowship (such as economics of growth and productivity)
- strong analytical skills relating to the opportunity (for example, the ability to synthesise a range of quantitative and qualitative data using statistical and data science methods)

Applicants shortlisted from the panel assessment will be invited to a host led interview. At this stage the host will also take into account the following desirable fellowship-specific requirements.

Desirable criteria:

- experience communicating the insights from technical analysis to non-technical audiences.
- ability to upskill others in their field
- strong coding and modelling capabilities

Processing personal data

If applicants are shortlisted by the UKRI assessment panel UKRI will need to share the application and any personal information that it contains with the host for the host led interview selection process.

Your personal data will be handled in line with UK data protection legislation and managed securely. If you would like to know more, including how to exercise your Rights, please see the UKRI privacy notice.

Please see BIST's privacy notice (please note the privacy notice link may change due to recent changes in some government departments) and they will delete your data at the end of the selection process unless you are successful, in which case we will retain your data as an independent data controller.