UK Research and Innovation

Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport

UKRI policy fellowships 2027

Fellowship position

Fellowship title:

DCMS cultural sectors' access to innovative finance fellowship

Fellowship type:

Core policy fellowship

Host organisation:

Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport

Host team:

The fellowship will be based in the Culture Analysis team, which is part of the DCMS's Culture directorate. The Culture Analysis team's mission is to ensure that high-quality evidence and analysis inform all stages of the policy cycle across the Culture Directorate.

Academic discipline/s:

Economics, political economy, cultural policy, financial economics

Summary:

An opportunity to undertake research to help the department to better understand the cultural sector's obstacles in accessing finance and capital.

Policy topic:

This fellowship will support the department's work on resolving current barriers to growth, innovation and self-sustaining business models within the cultural sector, recommending solutions through enquiry into alternative financial instruments.

Research career stage:

Open to 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 host team is currently based in London, but the fellow can work from DCMS's London or Manchester offices. There will be some requirement to travel to meet other team members, this would be approximately four times within a year. Eligible travel and subsistence costs can be supported by the main UKRI grant.

Hybrid working:

During the inception phase when the fellow is based with their home institution, the fellow will work remotely. Whilst DCMS has a 60% minimum office working requirement in line with the rest of the UK Civil Service, we would be content for a minimum one day a week office attendance, at either the London or Manchester office, during the main placement phase.

Security clearance and nationality eligibility criteria:

A fellow working from the DCMS London Office, is required to obtain Counter Terrorism Clearance (CTC); the fellow cannot start their inception phase before security clearance is completed. For CTC, we recommend allowing for a minimum of three months processing time. Security clearance required for the Manchester Office is Baseline Personnel Security Standard (BPSS), we recommend allowing a minimum of two months processing time. Please note that vetting may take longer for applicants who have resided outside of the United Kingdom. Please see National security vetting: clearance levels for more information.

This job is broadly open to the following groups:

- UK nationals; nationals of the Republic of Ireland; nationals of Commonwealth countries who have the right to work in the UK;
- nationals of the EU, Switzerland, Norway, Iceland or Liechtenstein and family members of those nationalities with settled or pre-settled status under the European Union Settlement Scheme (EUSS);
- nationals of the EU, Switzerland, Norway, Iceland or Liechtenstein and family members of those nationalities who have made a valid application for settled or pre-settled status under the European Union Settlement Scheme (EUSS);
- individuals with limited leave to remain or indefinite leave to remain who were eligible to apply for EUSS on or before 31 December 2020;
- Turkish nationals, and certain family members of Turkish nationals, who have accrued the right to work in the Civil Service.

For further information on nationality requirements see Nationality rules.

Fellowship position description

The fellowship is an exciting opportunity to co-design, co-produce and publish original research that can inform policy development. The position will focus on exploring financial instruments designed to stimulate cultural sector growth. Key areas of enquiry, specific to the cultural sectors, are likely to include:

- organisational saving and investment behaviours — specifically the marginal propensity to invest — and map how capital is currently spent, saved, and reinvested within the sector
- exploring whether alternative models such as intellectual property-backed finance, impact investment and community bonds can provide an additional sustainable route for public investment
- assessing the barriers to private finance in the cultural sector alongside drivers
- how does the role of charitable status impact access to private finance
- how does increasing private equity into the sector impact innovation and risk appetite

Embedded in the Culture Analysis Team, the fellow will interact regularly with policy makers, analysts and the Chief Scientific Adviser's Office, in a policy environment. This fellowship will take a highly collaborative,

co-designed approach throughout. The fellow will work closely with analytical and policy colleagues from the design phase through to dissemination, jointly developing and shaping work to produce outputs that can best inform policy development.

The fellow will have the opportunity to support innovative future thinking for cultural sector finance, providing evidence and insight that will directly inform DCMS and Arts Council policy on the use of innovative financial instruments. This will mean the fellow will be able to play an important role in developing a cultural sector that is more resilient, in line with the current industrial strategy. The fellow will engage with a wide number of stakeholders from across the culture/creative and finance sectors, proactively building DCMS' network and access to a wider number of key experts in the field.

The Culture Analysis team has a strong track record and extensive experience of hosting and line managing UKRI-funded research and policy fellows. The fellow will have regular check-in meetings with the line-manager and will be assigned relevant DCMS IT equipment and access to the DCMS office. The fellow will also have access to no-cost internal training and will be part of the Department's network of academics.

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:

- strong understanding of econometrics and quantitative methods of analysis
- an excellent understanding of core concepts from financial economics, the economics of growth and theory of the firm
- experience and expertise in primary qualitative research, such as expert interviews, case studies, etc

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

Desirable criteria:

- strong understanding of political economy
- experience of working in/with the cultural sectors
- ability to draw on or connect with a network of experts in the culture/creative or finance sectors

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 DCMS' privacy notice and they will delete your data at the end of the selection process unless you are successful, in which case we will retain your data as an independent data controller.