UKRI policy fellowships 2027

Fellowship position

Fellowship title:

GO-Science emerging technologies and industrial strategy fellowship

Fellowship type:

Core policy fellowship

Host organisation:

Government Office for Science (GO-Science)

Host team:

Emerging Technologies Team within the Technology Insights, Futures and Foresight (TIFF) Division

Academic discipline/s:

Engineering, space systems, physical sciences, life sciences, defence studies

Summary:

An opportunity to undertake a portfolio of technology assessments that help better understand the opportunities, risks and threats of emerging technologies to the UK Government's Industrial Strategy.

Policy topic:

The Industrial Strategy is a substantial 10-year policy plan to increase business investment and grow the industries of the future in the UK with emerging technologies playing a key role across all eight growth-driving sectors.

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:

GO-Science office locations are London, Birmingham, Cardiff, Darlington, Edinburgh and Salford. Immediate team members are currently based in London, Birmingham, Edinburgh and Salford with wider division across all locations. Occasional visits to London may be required.

Hybrid working:

To maximise the benefits of the fellowship it is recommended that the fellow would spend circa 40% of their time in a GO-Science office at both the inception and placement phases. A laptop will be provided enabling work from home or other sites, providing access to host systems. GO-Science operate a hybrid working model with a mix of office and home working. We will discuss suitable working arrangements with the successful fellow. In addition to office attendance, it would be useful to budget for some travel to London around four times in the placement year and once in the inception 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) checks, and, if London based, Counter Terrorism Check (CTC). We would ask the person taking up our fellowship opportunity to start the security clearance application process as soon as their fellowship has been confirmed and before the inception phase begins. Clearances are currently expected to take 6-8 weeks, and the fellowship can begin once clearance has been confirmed. Please see national security vetting: clearance levels for more information.

Nationality requirements

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

Fellowship position description

GO-Science works at the heart of government, ensuring policies and decisions are informed by the best scientific evidence and strategic long-term thinking. This fellowship sits in the Government Chief Scientific Adviser's Emerging Technologies team. The team uses technology assessments and horizon scanning to help Government anticipate and mitigate tech surprise. The role will focus on emerging technologies that are relevant to the Industrial Strategy, giving the fellow first-hand experience of working with policymakers on key S&T issues across Government.

The fellow will co-design a portfolio of technology assessments aligned with their academic expertise. These assessments will help GO-Science and senior decision makers better understand the opportunities, risks and threats associated with emerging technologies in the UK Government's Industrial Strategy. The work will involve a combination of desk-based research, horizon scanning, workshops, and engagement with Government and industry stakeholders.

The outputs of the fellowship, in many cases commissioned by senior decision makers, provide objective and evidence-based assessments directly to S&T teams in government. There are also opportunities to publish assessment summaries on GOV.UK as well as write blog articles.

The fellow should bring expertise across a broad range of technologies relevant to the Industrial Strategy. Expertise in technologies related to space systems, engineering, physical sciences, including sensors and photonics, life sciences, including agriculture and advanced water technologies, and defence studies will be particularly useful, but there is flexibility in academic background.

The Industrial Strategy spans several sectors, so the technology assessments will draw on the fellow's expertise and interests, as well as current issues facing Government. The co-design stage will be important, giving the fellow significant scope to shape their programme of work with GO-Science colleagues. Specific assessment topics and outputs will be developed jointly between the fellow and the Emerging Technologies team.

As part of the Emerging Technologies team, the fellow will be able to network and build connections with key policy teams across government and work at the intersection of science advice and science policy on some of the most cutting edge and complex S&T issues.

Recent examples of technology assessments that have been carried out by the team include:

- non-medical impacts of GLP-1 weight loss medications to 2035
- in-orbit servicing, assembly and manufacturing
- advanced connectivity technologies to 2030
- spotlight – sea-based data centres

The fellow will enhance the team's ability to access expertise and apply scientific knowledge. This will directly improve our ability to assess the opportunities, risks and threats of emerging technologies in the UK Government's Industrial Strategy and translate this into advice for senior policymakers. The primary output will be a coherent portfolio of assessments across a range of technologies relevant to the Industrial Strategy.

The fellow will also add value across the team through their expertise, networks and fresh perspectives. They will play a secondary role in supporting our technology horizon scanning capability by providing guidance and relevant expertise.

The fellow will become a full member of the Emerging Technologies team within the Technology Insights, Futures and Foresight (TIFF) division. GO-Science will provide office space, appropriate IT equipment, and access to relevant systems and networks for the duration of the fellowship. The fellow will take part in regular day-to-day activities and receive a designated email address and a line manager to support them during their fellowship. The fellowship provides the opportunity to see and play a part in how science advice and science policy have an impact across the UK and UK Government. They will be included in team

emails, meetings and programme boards, allowing them to contribute meaningfully to the work of the Emerging Technologies team in GO-Science.

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:

- ability to design and deliver high-quality research and evidence synthesis, including analysing complex scientific and technological developments and communicating findings clearly to non-specialist audiences
- subject matter expertise in emerging technologies – for example space systems, engineering, physical sciences, life sciences, and defence studies
- ability to work well both individually and as part of the team

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 convening and facilitating workshops and roundtables
- experience in horizon scanning or futures methodologies

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.

The GO-Science privacy notice can be obtained by contacting ukripolicyfellowships@ukri.org and requesting a copy. It will also be shared with all shortlisted candidates for this position prior to the interview. GO-Science 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.