UKRI policy fellowships 2027

Fellowship position

Fellowship title:

Public Health Wales costs of gambling harms and the value of prevention policy fellowship

Fellowship type:

Gambling policy fellowship

Host organisation:

Public Health Wales NHS Trust

Host team:

Well-being Economics and Value (WEAVE) Team

Academic discipline/s:

Health economics, public health, epidemiology, social policy, behavioural science

Summary:

An opportunity to generate policy-ready evidence on the health, social and economic costs of gambling harms and the value of prevention, helping inform gambling reform, investment decisions and the effective use of statutory gambling levy funding across the UK.

Policy topic:

The fellowship focuses on generating evidence to inform gambling harm prevention, gambling reform and the effective use of statutory gambling levy funding, with particular attention to health inequalities and populations disproportionately affected by harm.

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 applicant can be based anywhere in the UK. The base for the role is the Public Health Wales Cardiff Office in Capital Quarter 2 (CQ2), with travel approximately once per month to the office to meet with team members.

Hybrid working:

The successful applicant will be expected to travel to the Public Health Wales Cardiff Office in Capital Quarter 2 (CQ2), both during the inception and placement phases, approximately once per month to meet with team members. There may be occasional travel to engage with stakeholders, including with Welsh Government and UK partners. A laptop will be provided enabling work from home or other sites, providing access to host systems. 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:

The fellowship is open to candidates who have the right to work in the UK at the point of commencing the post. If you require sponsorship under the Skilled Worker or Health and Care Visa routes, please ensure you self-assess your eligibility for sponsorship for this role before applying. Check the Skilled Worker visa guidance or Health and Care visa guidance for details on job eligibility, salary, English language, and sponsorship requirements.

Fellowship position description

Fellowship overview

The fellowship will provide an opportunity to undertake co-designed, policy-embedded research on the health, social and economic burden of gambling-related harms and the value of prevention and harm reduction. The fellow will be embedded within the WEAVE Team and will work with colleagues across Public Health Wales (PHW) and relevant external partners to develop evidence that is relevant to current and emerging gambling policy priorities. Potential original research activities may include analysis of population survey data, economic modelling, burden-of-harm estimation, return-on-investment modelling, scenario analysis and assessment of equity impacts.

Research scope

The precise research questions and analytical approach will be agreed during the inception phase, shaped by the fellow's expertise and interests and by host priorities. Depending on the fellow's expertise and priorities agreed during the inception phase, the fellowship may focus on one or more of the following areas:

- estimating the health, social and economic costs of gambling-related harms across healthcare, social care, criminal justice, housing, productivity, wellbeing, and impacts on affected others, families and communities
- reviewing and synthesising existing evidence and identifying important evidence and data gaps affecting policy and investment decisions
- assessing the economic and social value of prevention, early intervention and harm-reduction approaches, including cost-effectiveness, return on investment and social return on investment where feasible
- examining distributional and equity impacts to understand which populations may experience the greatest harms and where prevention investment could deliver greatest value
- developing practical analytical outputs that can support gambling reform, prevention policy and decisions on the use of statutory gambling levy funding

The fellow will be encouraged to use appropriate quantitative, qualitative or mixed methods and to undertake original analysis using relevant evidence and datasets. Potential data sources may include the National Survey for Wales and Gambling Survey for Great Britain (where Wales has commissioned a booster sample), alongside other relevant administrative, population and published evidence available to the host. Findings will support decision-making in Wales while generating transferable evidence relevant to gambling prevention policy, investment approaches and statutory levy implementation across the UK.

Collaborative environment

The fellow will be embedded in the PHW work environment, with opportunities to engage directly with PHW colleagues working on gambling harms, health economics, research and evaluation, wider determinants of health, observatory and health policy. The fellow will work collaboratively with multidisciplinary experts across PHW, Welsh Government, UKRI gambling programme, academic institutions, the Wales Adverse Childhood Experiences Hub, WHO Collaborating Centres and relevant UK and international policy networks.

The fellowship will provide:

- the opportunity to co-design, undertake and publish original research with direct relevance to policy and practice
- access to multidisciplinary expertise in public health, health economics, social value methodologies, research and evaluation, policy and wider determinants of health
- experience of working within a WHO collaborating centre in a national public health organisation and gaining insight into how evidence is developed, governed, translated and used in policy
- opportunities to present emerging findings to policy and governance groups and to develop high-quality policy and academic outputs
- opportunities to contribute to other funding bids which may be used to extend the work and the relationship with the policy fellow
- knowledge exchange through policy roundtables, workshops and wider professional and academic networks
- opportunities to influence emerging UK and international conversations on gambling harm prevention, public health and investment for health

This fellowship is funded through the UKRI Research Programme on Gambling as part of the statutory gambling levy. Fellows will become part of the wider network of research funded through the programme and are expected to engage both with the cohort of policy fellows and the levy system as a whole.

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:

- expertise in health economics, behavioural economics, economics, public health or a closely related discipline
- experience of conducting applied research using population, survey, administrative or routinely collected data
- strong analytical skills including economic evaluation, evidence synthesis or quantitative policy analysis

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 working with population, survey or administrative data relevant to gambling harms, addiction, public health or health inequalities

- experience applying economic evaluation, return on investment, social return on investment or equity-focused analytical approaches
- experience engaging policymakers, practitioners or other stakeholders and translating research findings into policy-relevant recommendations

Processing personal data

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

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

Please see the PHW 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.