UKRI policy fellowships 2027

Fellowship position

Fellowship title:

Public Health Wales embedding genomics into prevention policy fellowship

Fellowship type:

Core policy fellowship

Host organisation:

Public Health Wales

Host team:

Genomics Programme

Academic discipline/s:

Genomics, genomic epidemiology, population health sciences, health services research, implementation science

Summary:

Opportunity to assess how Wales' genomics infrastructure can support prevention policy and services, and to develop evidence-based recommendations for responsible implementation, data sharing and cross-sector collaboration.

Policy topic:

The fellowship focuses on how genomics can be used responsibly, effectively and equitably to support prevention policy and services, including the governance, implementation and system changes needed to realise public value.

Research career stage:

Open to early and mid-career researchers

Fellowship structure

The fellowship is scheduled to begin in 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 Wales Genomic Health Centre in Cardiff (Wales) 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 Wales Genomic Health Centre in Cardiff (Wales) or 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:

This fellowship will support Public Health Wales, NHS Wales and Welsh Government to understand where genomics can deliver the greatest benefit for prevention, screening, surveillance and population health. The role is centred on policy-relevant research rather than laboratory-based genomics, with a strong emphasis on translating emerging evidence into practical recommendations for decision-makers. Through engagement with policy, genomics, data and service stakeholders, it will assess the readiness of public health and NHS systems to embed genomics-enabled innovation, identifying opportunities and gaps in governance, data sharing, workforce capability and implementation capacity. The work will generate practical recommendations, prioritisation frameworks and policy-ready outputs to support responsible, ethical and sustainable adoption. Findings will inform policy development in Wales while generating transferable lessons for other UK nations seeking to embed genomics within prevention-focused health systems. By working across Public Health Wales, Genomics Partnership Wales, Welsh Government and NHS partners, the fellowship will strengthen collaboration between research, policy and service delivery, creating transferable learning for Wales and the wider UK.

Research scope:

While the final scope, methods and research questions will be co-designed during the inception phase, the fellow may undertake work in areas including:

- assessing the readiness of public health and NHS systems to incorporate genomics-enabled approaches, including consideration of governance, data sharing, workforce capability, equity and public acceptability
- identifying priority opportunities for genomics to support prevention policy and services
- evaluating barriers and enablers to implementation within public health and healthcare systems
- identifying where further evidence, infrastructure, partnerships or policy development may be required before implementation
- developing implementation and prioritisation frameworks to support responsible adoption of genomics in prevention

Collaborative environment:

The fellow will be embedded within the Health Protection, Infection and Environment Directorate, with access to Public Health Wales expertise in genomics, epidemiology, surveillance, screening, prevention and population health, alongside relevant data, policy and service networks across Wales and the UK. The fellow will be supported to engage genomics and epidemiology specialists and teams across the organisation. The fellow will work closely with teams across PHW, including the Communicable Disease Surveillance Centre (CDSC). They will also collaborate with the Genomics Partnership Wales (GPW), particularly in relation to the NHS digital infrastructure, and with Welsh Government policy officials.

In addition, the fellow will engage with academic partners with expertise in genomic data, public health, and policy research, including academic partners and national genomics programmes, as well as relevant cross-UK and international policy networks.

The fellow will receive:

- a PHW email account and IT access from day one
- office space in Cardiff
- inclusion in all relevant distribution lists and policy/analytic networks
- participation in team meetings, cross-directorate forums and stakeholder engagements
- a designated line manager with fortnightly structured check-ins
- senior sponsor oversight to enable strategic visibility and alignment

Benefits for the fellow:

The fellow will undertake highly innovative and impactful work at the intersection of genomics, prevention, public health and policy development. They will be embedded within PHW with access to internal systems and processes, enabling them to develop an in-depth understanding of how a public health organisation operates and how research informs policy. In addition, the fellow will have opportunities to publish and disseminate findings, influence national policy discussions on genomics and prevention, and engage with a wide network of partners across government, healthcare, policy and academic research.

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 genomics, prevention, screening, surveillance, population health sciences or a closely related field
- evidenced subject matter expertise (e.g., via research outputs) related to the use of genomic data in healthcare or public health settings
- experience of translating research evidence into policy, practice or service improvement

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:

- practical experience applying genomics, precision public health, screening or prevention approaches within healthcare, public health, laboratory, service delivery or other operational settings
- understanding of NHS services and information governance processes, policies and procedures
- experience engaging policymakers, healthcare professionals, patients or other stakeholders to inform research, policy or practice

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 Public Health Wales 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.