



Capabilities in Academic Policy Engagement

Policy Fellowship

Joint Bio Security Centre - Local Data Spaces Programme

Role description

Through the Capabilities in Academic-Policy Engagement (CAPE) project we are pleased to announce a new policy fellowship opportunity with the Joint Biosecurity Centre (JBC), working within the Innovation & Partnerships hub on the Local Data Spaces (LDS) programme.

LDS is a partnership between the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC), Administrative Data Research UK (ADR UK), the JBC, the Office of National Statistics (ONS) and the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG). This partnership works to enable Local Authorities across England to access COVID-19 data by creating Local Data Spaces in the ONS Secure Research Service (SRS).

Since early November the partnership has been running a Local Data Space pilot with a small group of Local Authorities across England. This role will require working closely with JBC staff, an ADR UK funded academic data analytical research team as well as Local Authorities across England to help develop a Local Data Space feasibility study.

In this role, you will be expected to lead on, or assist in several of the following tasks:

- Lead on the development of a Local Data Space feasibility study aimed at understanding how academic-policy partnerships can support Local Authorities to make best use of data and data insights.
- Support the development of a business case including policy recommendations for the system design of the Local Data Spaces programme at scale – i.e. across England into the economic-recovery phase of the pandemic response.

Research activities will involve:

- A review of Local Authority user needs and capacity requirements to better understand common policy needs and how academic collaboration can support these. This will draw on both Local Authorities engaged in the pilot and the wider landscape.
- Monitoring and evaluation of the pilot and capturing lessons learned.
- Development of a business case and policy recommendations for system design of Local Data Spaces programme.
- Conduct data collection including through organising and facilitating a number of knowledge exchange events, carrying out interviews and /or a survey --- note, we remain open to methodological approach.



About you

Essential

- Excellent research and analytic skills, with demonstrated experience or transferable skills in designing and carrying out feasibility studies of this kind.
- Expertise in digital and/or data related policy-advice.
- Ability to operate effectively, openly and collaboratively within highly sensitive political contexts; ability to demonstrate neutrality and impartiality while negotiating competing stakeholder interests.
- Excellent communication skills and ability to effectively engage with people from different backgrounds and at different levels of seniority. Particularly important are writing skills, demonstrated communications experience with non-academic audiences required.
- Understanding of the academic policy-engagement environment, and ability to grasp project priorities quickly.
- Ability to work proactively, managing and prioritising your own workload, while managing contingencies between multiple project stakeholders.

Desirable

- Digital/data policy system design experience highly desirable.
- Previous experience in the area of public health policy.
- Experience of working with Local Authorities.

Please note: fellows posted in the JBC will need to demonstrate the integrity required of all Civil Service staff, showing neutrality and impartiality in all their activities, and respecting the confidentiality of private meetings, materials or other proceedings they are made privy to. Staff and fellows are also expected to follow the [Civil Service Code](#). Specific terms and conditions will be stated in a fellowship agreement, which the successful candidate will be required to sign at the start of their fellowship.

About the Joint Bio Security Centre

The JBC brings together data science, assessment and public health expertise to provide analysis and insight on the status of the COVID-19 epidemic in the UK and the drivers and risk factors of transmission. This insight supports decision-makers at a local and national level to take effective action to break the chains of transmission, and in turn, protect the public.

The JBC works in partnership with PHE to strengthen knowledge and understanding of the evolving COVID-19 epidemic and provide insight to national and local decision-makers, local health protection teams and others.

The JBC is building on the UK's existing public health infrastructure and disease surveillance network, drawing on expertise from across government, industry and academia. The JBC will also provide insights and analysis to the devolved administrations to support the response to COVID-19 across all four nations of the UK.



External partnerships will be crucial to bring the latest and best thinking and innovation to bear. The JBC is keen to build close partnerships with the academic and scientific community. The JBC complements the work of the Scientific Advisory Group for Emergencies (SAGE), supporting its scientific consensus with operational capability, including data analysis and epidemiological expertise.

For more information, please see [here](#).

About CAPE

CAPE is a partnership between UCL and the universities of Cambridge, Manchester, Northumbria and Nottingham, in collaboration with the Government Office for Science, the Parliamentary Office for Science & Technology, the Alliance for Useful Evidence, and the Transforming Evidence Hub, funded by Research England.

It is a five year collaboration created to support effective and sustained engagement between academics and policy professionals across the higher education sector.

About policy fellowships

This fellowship is open to eligible academic and research staff at [CAPE partner universities](#). It is offered on a full-time basis, until the end of April 2021, in the first instance, with the possibility of renewal. The fellowship award may be up to £30,000 funded through CAPE.

The fellowship will start as soon as possible, subject to successful security clearance. The successful candidate will be embedded within the Joint Biosecurity Centre, based remotely to begin with owing to current Covid-19 working restrictions.

Top ranked candidates will be invited to an informal interview with the JBC in early December before a final decision on appointment is made.

How to apply

To apply please send:

- a short CV (max 2 pp)
- covering letter outlining your suitability for the role
- letter of support from your line manager, HoD or supervisor confirming eligibility to take up the placement if awarded
- A writing sample produced for a non-academic audience (if available)

To Katherine Welch k.welch@ucl.ac.uk by the closing date of **5.00pm on Friday 15th January**