



Local Authority Policy Fellowships: Local Data Spaces Programme

Role description

CAPE is pleased to announce a new policy fellowship opportunity working within a Local Authority or a regional grouping of Local Authorities within the England, on the Local Data Spaces Programme (LDS).

LDS is led by the Joint Biosecurity Centre (JBC), in partnership between the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC), the Administrative Data Research UK (ADR UK) and the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG). The Programme aims 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 group of Local Authorities and regions across England. This role involves being embedded within one Local Authority or a regional grouping of Local Authorities, to work with their in-house data analysis team in developing insights and analysis for their local COVID-19 response. The role will involve working with key national-level COVID-19 data sets made available through the SRS. Specific research activities will be shaped by yourself, will leverage your specific skills and expertise, but will be led by the research needs of the Local Authority which you will be matched with. Research activities may involve but are not limited to: prevention, containment and management outbreaks of COVID-19 and; understanding local social and economic impact aimed at feeding into local social and economic recovery planning.

In this role, you will be expected to lead on the following tasks:

- Working with Local Authorities' in-house analytics teams, health care officials and economics teams in identifying and designing priority research areas;
- Designing and carrying out priority research activities on the SRS;
- Supporting LAs in setting up their own project spaces on the SRS;
- Reporting analytical outputs and policy impacts into JBC for pilot study evaluation and future programme planning activities.

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.

You will also be asked to work with the CAPE team as necessary to evaluate aspects of the fellowship.

Criteria

Essential

- Experience of assessing data quality and reliability;



Capabilities in Academic Policy Engagement

- Understanding and experience of statistical modelling and quasi-experimental design for evaluation;
- Python, SQL and/or R skills;
- Evidence of the production of user-friendly outputs to a non-academic audience.

Desirable

- Master's (or higher) in a relevant subject (public health, statistics, epidemiology, other quantitative data science field)
- Experience of working with government or large-scale panel datasets;
- Experience of working within a governmental context;
- Existing SRS researcher Accreditation.

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 4 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.

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 four 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, for up to 12 months, 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 Local Authorities, based remotely to begin with owing to current Covid-19 working restrictions.



Capabilities in Academic Policy Engagement

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

Please combine documents into one PDF where possible.

Please note that fellowship is only open to academic and research staff at **CAPE partner universities**.

Applications should be sent to the CAPE Project Manager robyn.parker@ucl.ac.uk

Deadline for applications: 17 May 2021