

Policy Fellowships Application Guidance

Who should apply?

Civil or public servants with responsibility for policy or service design in any sector, with the ability to influence and impact public policy in their field.

The Academy is committed to diversity and inclusion. We welcome applications from a range of backgrounds for example economics, politics, sociology, health, planning, digital, science or engineering; as well as from a range of institutions with a public service mission, including central, devolved, and local government, arm's length bodies or public agencies, and public benefit non-profits.

When to apply?

The application window is open from September 1st until November 18th inclusive. All applications will be assessed at the same time, with responses provided in December.

How to apply?

Please register and complete the application form available via [our online portal](#). Further information about the programme can be found via our [FAQ](#) web page.

Application support

The Programme team holds drop-in support sessions every Wednesday at 15:00 during the application window. Please email policyfellowships@raeng.org.uk to access the registration link.

How are applications assessed?

Application will be reviewed after the closing of the window.

In addition to the support of their line manager, Policy Fellows are selected on the strength of their application, including:

- A well-defined complex policy problem or technical challenge.
- Clear expectations for the programme and plans for how they intend to use their learning within their organisation.
- A commitment to play an active role as a Policy Fellow and alumni of the programme.

We may be in touch by email to clarify the application within that time. It is a normal part of the assessment process to ensure we understand the interest, context and/or challenge.

Successful enrolment in the Policy Fellowships Programme must be funded by your employer for the cost of £3,100 plus VAT. Self-funding is not an option at this time.

What is meant by a complex policy problem or technical challenge?

The policy fellowships programme focuses on policy questions that participants are interested in. The selection of topics below are illustrations of the kinds of policy questions that Policy Fellows might wish to discuss:

- What factors influence the private sector's ability and willingness to invest in innovation, commercialisation and growing new markets?
- How can the UK drive productivity in sectors such as manufacturing, agriculture and construction?
- How does government ensure that regulatory approaches can accommodate future trends in new technologies, work demographics, threats and health hazards?
- How can policy ensure safety and ethics are embedded in the deployment of automation, AI and machine learning?
- How can we ensure that infrastructure decision-making, design and delivery is fit for the demands of the future?
- How can society take a systems approach to addressing air quality within UK cities?

You are expected to have a central research question as well as several sub-questions or areas of exploration within that main research question. There will be further opportunity to refine the policy question or challenge during the onboarding process.

What is meant by expectations from the programme and intention to use within teams and departments?

The policy fellowships programme aims to further the understanding and use of engineering ways of mind and systems thinking in policymaking. We encourage applicants to think about how they will bring their learning back to their teams or departments. The fellowship programme is highly bespoke, and we will welcome requests from applicants as signs that there is a clear opportunity for the fellowship to influence policy.

There is also an expectation to actively participate in the Alumni programme, where you can share experiences with colleagues and others who have gone through the same experience as yourself.

Contact



For any question about the programme or application process, please email the programme team on policyfellowships@raeng.org.uk.