



Nexus Network Policy Fellowship

An exciting opportunity has become available for a Nexus Network Policy Fellowship, based in the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra), to work on nexus issues at the interface between research and policy. The fellowship will run for four months, ideally from 16 March 2015 to 17 July 2015.

The Nexus Network is a three-year initiative to foster debate, innovative research and practical collaborations across the linked nexus domains of food, energy, water and the environment. Participation in the network is open to researchers from all disciplines, and to decision makers in government, business and civil society. The network is funded by the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) and is being coordinated by the University of Sussex, University of East Anglia and Cambridge Institute for Sustainability Leadership.

Defra is the UK government department responsible for policy and regulations on environmental, food and rural issues. With departmental priorities to grow the rural economy, improve the environment and safeguard animal and plant health, Nexus issues are at the heart of Defra policy interests from the protection of biodiversity and ecosystems to maintaining secure water supplies and adapting to climate change.

Fellowship outline

The Nexus Network and Defra are co-designing a series of interactions between government and key players across the nexus research community. These include a one-day conference on '**What works at the nexus? New connections in food, energy, water and environment**', which takes place in London on November 27.

The conference will be followed the next day by a workshop, hosted by Defra, on the theme of '**Improving decisions at the food, water, energy and environment nexus: values and valuation**'. Around 40 invited participants from academia, business, policy and civil society will attend the workshop to further debate and explore the research, practical and ethical challenges of environmental valuation. It is envisaged that outputs from the workshop will enable partners to co-design further knowledge exchange, synthesis and translation to help address the principles and practice of how land is used, for food, energy and water supply, and the impact of this on the environment. More details of both events are available here:

<http://thenexusnetwork.org/events/>

The focus of this Policy Fellowship will be taking forward ideas that emerge from the conference and workshop, and developing new research partnerships and collaborations within Defra and across other parts of Whitehall.

Job Description

The Policy Fellow will be based (on a full or part-time basis) within Defra for a period of four months. Specifically the role will entail:

- Prioritising key issues arising from the November 2014 events, and developing a plan of action that will address workshop outputs;
- Identifying critical stakeholders to engage and take forward this agenda, particularly from under-represented sectors;
- Collaborating with policy makers, decision makers and research experts to extend and embed knowledge exchange and translation.

Deliverables are likely to include:

- (i) A scoping report setting out a range of options for ongoing work arising from the November workshops;
- (ii) A stakeholder report which maps primary stakeholders, new and unknown groups and identifies means of working with each;
- (iii) An action plan developed with Defra Evidence Teams, setting out ways in which the Nexus Network can contribute to Defra's policy objectives.

Links between the Policy Fellow and other Nexus Network activities, such as the initial think pieces, will be encouraged. See <http://thenexusnetwork.org/projects/thinkpieces-2014/>

Key skills

The Policy Fellow will be able to demonstrate the following skills:

Collaboration: The successful candidate will actively involve a range of partners, and be open to challenge and new ideas. They will encourage and establish cross-disciplinary and cross-sectoral approaches.

Communication: The successful candidate will be able to engage confidently with a range of stakeholders to generate interest in, and raise awareness of, the Nexus Network and Defra priorities. Identifying opportunities to communicate, tailoring materials to the appropriate audience and conveying enthusiasm about evidence in support of policy will be key.

Making things happen: The successful candidate will identify priorities and develop a clear plan of activities to maximize impact, in partnership with a range of different stakeholders.

Dates and location

The Policy Fellowship will run for four months, ideally from 16 March 2015 to 17 July 2015. The Policy Fellow will be based with Defra researchers in Defra's London offices (Nobel House, 17 Smith Square, London, SW1P 3JR) for at least two days per week during this period, to ensure that they have direct access to key knowledge and personnel.

This secondment is open to any researchers currently employed by a University of similar research institute, who have completed their PhD or have a substantial period of equivalent research experience demonstrable through publications.

Although open to all qualified candidates, the Fellowship would be particularly well suited to an early career researcher, looking to build up their experience of government, policy and research impact.

Defra and the Nexus Network are fully supportive of flexible working approaches, and happy to explore different working models, although it is expected that at least 80% of a candidate's working hours would be dedicated to this secondment during the contracted period, including spending at least two days per week in Defra's offices.

How to apply

Interested candidates are asked to apply in writing to Prof. James Wilsdon, Nexus Network Director, using the email address: info@thenexusnetwork.org

The deadline for applications is 4pm on Wednesday 7 January 2015

Please provide a **full CV plus a 2-page cover letter**. The letter should describe your relevant experience and skills, and outline how you would approach the Fellowship, and why it would be beneficial to you at this point in your career.

A letter of support is also required from your university or research institute, indicating that they would support you taking on this role.

You should also outline the likely costs of the Fellowship in your cover letter. Up to **£16,000** of funding is available to offset your salary costs, travel and subsistence over the period of the Fellowship. This will be paid to your university or research institute, who will be expected to continue paying your salary as usual during the period of the placement. The £16,000 total must include any full economic costing (fEC). In-kind contributions from your current employer are also welcome, if the total costs are likely to exceed the £16,000 limit.

Interviews for the Policy Fellowship will be held at Defra in mid January, and a final selection will be made before the end of January.

If you have any queries, or would like to discuss the Fellowship in more detail, please get in touch using the contact details here: <http://thenexusnetwork.org/about/contact-us/>