

Programme Information

Local Policy Lab 2024 Fellowship Programme

Overview

Together, the University of Oxford, Oxford Brookes University, and Oxfordshire County Council are collaborating on a new pilot project, the Local Policy Lab, delivered in partnership with the Oxford SDG Impact Lab. This partnership aims to bridge the gap between research and local policy in Oxfordshire, provide a forum for uplifting local research needs, and build meaningful relationships between local policymakers, community groups and residents, and university researchers in Oxfordshire.

The Local Policy Lab aims to:

- Connect University of Oxford and Oxford Brookes University researchers with County and District council policy-makers, local volunteer and charity organisations, and with communities to support evidence-based public policy in key areas, initially focusing on Health and Climate Policy; and
- Create opportunities for graduate students, supervised by academics and County officers, to work on existing datasets, collect new qualitative data, and undertake impact evaluations.

You can find more information about the Local Policy Lab [here](#).

Local Policy Lab Fellowship Programme

The Local Policy Lab will be recruiting a maximum of 16 fellows from diverse experiences and interdisciplinary backgrounds for its inaugural Fellowship Programme.

Graduate students from the University of Oxford who:

- are interested in climate and health research,
- are committed to narrowing health and environmental disparities, and
- who want to make an impact in the health and wellbeing of Oxfordshire residents are encouraged to apply.

Applications to the inaugural Local Policy Lab Fellowship programme are now open for University of Oxford graduate students.

Applications to the Local Policy Lab Fellowship programme for Oxford Brookes University graduate students are expected to open in the 2024-2025 academic year.

Local Policy Lab Fellowship Projects

Local Policy Lab Fellows will work with a local policy partner to develop and implement research projects with the aim to support evidence-based policymaking in Oxfordshire. Research projects will be grounded in health and climate but may include themes across the social determinants of health, including but not limited to:

- Food access
- Energy
- Transport

Fellows will work in partnership with their policy partner and on interdisciplinary teams to design and conduct impact evaluations, evaluate datasets, and collect qualitative data in the health and climate space.

In addition to the opportunity to contribute to research that directly informs local policy, Fellows will have the opportunity:

- For mentorship from both policymakers and academics,
- To collaborate and build relationships with local authorities and community groups, and
- For training and professional development covering topics from engaging with local policymakers, community engagement, social sciences for public policy, and data skills.

Please note the Local Policy Lab cannot guarantee a match to a specific project. Fellows will be matched based on the research and policy needs of local policy partners, skillsets of Fellows, and preferences and areas of expertise of Fellows.

Local Policy Lab Fellowship Eligibility

In order to be eligible for a Local Policy Lab Fellowship, applicants must:

- Be currently enrolled in a DPhil or Master's programme at the University of Oxford across any discipline
- Have a letter of support from their supervisor or academic advisor. For Master's students, a letter of support from a Director of Graduate Studies or a Course Director may be submitted.

Fellows will be notified of awards and project assignments by the 17th of April.

Key Dates and Time Commitment

The Local Policy Lab Fellowship Programme will run throughout Trinity Term, and into the first two weeks of the long vacation. Fellows will utilise the latter two weeks to work on their brief report and presentation to their policy partner.

Fellows are expected to allot a maximum of four hours per week throughout the duration of the programme, which runs 22nd of April to the first week of July.

Local Policy Lab Fellowship Programme	Date	Time	Location
Induction Day	Monday 22nd of April	5:30 - 7:30 pm	TBC
Project Placements & Research*	Week 1 - Week 10	Various	TBC
Training: Local Policy & Community Engagement	Monday 29th of April	5:30 - 7:30 pm	TBC
Training: Data Skills and Ethics	Tuesday 7th of May	5:30 - 7:30 pm	TBC
Training: Social Sciences for Public Policy	Monday 13th of May	5:30 - 7:30 pm	TBC
Final Presentation and Findings	By the first week of July	TBC	TBC

*Fellows will work with their placements to arrange a working and meeting schedule, which may vary according to project.

Before initiating the application process, ensure you have the following attachments ready:

- Your CV
- Your headshot
- A letter of support (an email would suffice) from your course supervisor or academic advisor. For Master's students without direct supervisors/academic advisors, you may include a letter of support (an email would suffice) from your Course Director or Director of Graduate Studies.
- A short video statement recording your responses to the following questions:

Question 1: In no more than 2 minutes, explain why engaging in the local policy landscape is important to you.

Question 2: In no more than 2 minutes, elucidate the strengths you bring to the Local Policy Lab.

Please record the video in a quiet, distraction-free environment using your mobile phone. When saving the video, use your name as the title.

Start the video by stating your full name and course title, followed by your answers to the two questions.

Preview the application form questions [here](#).

It is essential to submit your application using your University Single Sign-on (SSO), for example, qeh1111@OX.AC.UK, and not an alternative email address.



Application deadline is 23:59 GMT on 2nd of April 2024.
Applicants will be advised if they have secured a Local Policy Lab fellowship by the 17th of April 2024.

For any questions about the programme and application process, please reach out to partnerships@socsci.ox.ac.uk

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