

Senior Research Fellow – “Energy” x 1

The Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) Research Commissioning Centre (RCC) has been established to commission and manage research to enhance development and foreign policy impact. The RCC provides support to FCDO teams for commissioning and delivering high-quality and impactful research. It addresses challenges associated with research bureaucracy, as highlighted by the [Independent Review of Research Bureaucracy](#), by providing a streamlined process for commissioning and delivering FCDO-funded research.

The FCDO RCC is excited to announce several Senior Research Fellow (SRF) placements within the FCDO. Placements are for roles under the themes of Clean Energy and Innovation (x1), Food and Agriculture (x1), Migration (x1), and Humanitarian (x1).

These placements will be for two years at 0.4FTE, upon successful offer. All placements will be subject to the Fellow successfully passing “[Security Check](#)”(SC) level security clearance.

Please submit applications by **5pm on Wednesday 10th September 2025**, however we will be assessing candidates on a rolling basis and reserve the right to close the recruitment early.

Fellowship title
Clean Energy Transition SRF (Recruiting for one fellow)
Host team
Climate, Environment, Energy and Water (CEEW) Team, under Research and Evidence Directorate (RED)
Summary
As the up to £1 billion Ayrton Fund for clean energy innovation enters its final year, under the third phase of International Climate Finance (ICF3), the SRF will lead the synthesis of research and lessons learned across the Ayrton portfolio. This portfolio includes over 30 research, development and demonstration (RD&D) HMG programmes, including flagship FCDO programmes such as THE Transforming Energy Access (TEA) platform and the Modern Energy Cooking Services (MECS) programme. This work is essential to ensure that the insights and evidence generated from the Ayrton Fund are fully analysed, captured, and communicated to inform future programming and policy - both within the FCDO, across government, and beyond. The SRF will be responsible for producing high-quality, academically rigorous synthesis outputs across Ayrton Challenges and innovation interventions, coordinating contributions from FCDO partners and advisers, conducting their own research, and ensuring that research findings are translated into actionable recommendations. This role will directly support the effectiveness of future clean energy innovation and energy access initiatives - including the Prime Minister’s Global Clean Power Alliance , and the next phase of HMG’s ICF Energy portfolio, as well as informing wider research and innovation partnerships in other sectors which are looking to draw on the lessons of the Ayrton Fund model.
Topic
The SRF’s work will focus on clean energy innovation and energy access, with particular emphasis on regions facing the greatest energy access deficits, but with a global perspective on technology trends, financing, barriers, and enabling factors.
Fellowship structure
Fellowship duration: 2 years Working pattern: 0.4 FTE (~2 days per week) Fellow will remain an employee of their academic institution throughout the placement with FCDO.

Work arrangements
<p>Security Clearance: All successful applicants will be required to complete and pass Security Check (SC) level clearance prior to joining the team. Processing time for this can take 2-3 months.</p> <p>Location requirement and hybrid working: Applicants may work at either King Charles Street (KCS, London), or Abercrombie House (East Kilbride, Scotland), at the applicant's employing institution, or at home.</p> <p>Applicants should be able and willing to travel to an FCDO office at least once per month or more frequently.</p>
Fellowship Opportunity Description
<p>The SRF role will involve:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lead and author research synthesis pieces on clean energy innovation and access. • Coordinate, review, quality assure and facilitate the production of research outputs by FCDO partners and advisers, particularly working under the FCDO Transforming Energy Access (TEA) and Modern Energy Cooking Services (MECS) programmes (part of the Ayrton Fund). • Enhance the academic rigour and quality of the research synthesis process. • Communicate findings to maximise the impact of RD&D investments and inform future programming and partnerships.
Person specification - essential
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Professorial level academic with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Energy technology, innovation and transition expertise • International energy policy and regulatory expertise • Data, analysis and research expertise • Writing and communications expertise 2. Strong communicator, adept at drawing on evidence to provide rapid insight and strategic advice at a leadership level to guide policy directions, combined with an ability to convey detailed information clearly and succinctly to non-expert audiences. 3. Desire to work as part of a cross-cutting team, engaging with other parts of FCDO as well as external partners.
Person specification - desirable
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experience in leading cross-portfolio research initiatives. • Track record in managing collaborative research projects. • Ability to work effectively in a hybrid working environment. • Experience in synthesising complex research findings into actionable insights. • Familiarity with the clean energy innovation sector, the Ayrton Fund and ICF.