

Senior Research Fellow – “Migration” 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
Migration SRF (Recruiting for one fellow)
Host team
To be decided
Summary
This SRF role will support FCDO approaches and responses to migration to draw upon up-to-date and rigorous data, evidence and analysis about the patterns and dynamics of contemporary migration, the impacts of different policy instruments, and ‘what works’ in terms of best achieving FCDO strategic goals on migration.
Topic
Migration
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
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. Location requirement and hybrid working: Applicants may work at either King Charles Street (KCS, London), or Abercrombie House (East Kilbride), at the applicant’s employing institution, or at home. Applicants should be able and willing to travel to an FCDO office at least once per month or more frequently.
Fellowship Opportunity Description
The Foreign Secretary has identified irregular migration as a key strategic priority for FCDO. Research and Evidence Directorate seeks to work with Policy and Geographic departments to support approaches and responses to migration that draw upon up-to-date and rigorous data, evidence and analysis about the patterns and dynamics of contemporary migration, the impacts of different policy instruments, and ‘what works’ in terms of best achieving FCDO strategic goals on

migration. Recognising that most migration sits in the grey area between the regular and irregular migration, this role will support FCDO's access to wider migration evidence including global migration patterns and dynamics as well as engaging in evidence on irregular migration to the UK. It will work across a very broad range of policy areas and stakeholders in FCDO including development, conflict, security, serious organised crime, and trade policy as well as geographic directorates.

Issues include:

- the drivers and dynamics that shape the patterns and flows of migration and displacement including across and within different regions and from countries of origin through transit countries and countries of resettlement;
- the relationships between conflict and fragility and migration within and out of conflict affected and fragile countries and regions; the relationships between climate and environment induced displacement and migration;
- the role of illicit economies and organised crime in driving and facilitating migration;
- the linkages between development, economic growth and migration dynamics;
- what different interventions have impacted on migration flows including interventions directly targeting migration as well as wider development, diplomatic, peacebuilding, counter terror and trade interventions;
- which kinds of policies and interventions have played a role in increasing/decreasing harms associated with irregular migration and have been more/less effective in promoting more productive forms of mobility and integration;
- familiarity with the policy approaches and measures of a range of governments and regions;
- options for future FCDO strategy, policy and programming including across a very broad range of policy areas in non-development as well as development spaces.

Person specification - essential

For the SRF role we require:

- PhD in political science, conflict, economics or development studies with at least 10 years research experience on migration including a strong track record of publications in high impact academic journals;
- excellent written and verbal communication skills and proven ability to provide compelling strategic advice to different audiences including to senior policy and decision makers;
- understanding of the role of research, knowledge translation and social science in shaping strategies, policies and programmes;
- knowledge and understanding of a wide range of qualitative and quantitative research methods used regularly in interdisciplinary research bridging political science, data science and technology;
- substantial evidence of recognition within the external research community;
- an understanding of strategies for improving equity, access and inclusion in research;
- experience of research in an international development context;
- desire to work as part of a cross-cutting team, engaging with other parts of FCDO as well as external partners.

Person specification - desirable

In addition, we desire research leadership in migration including:

- knowledge of the upstream and downstream dynamics which affect patterns and flows of migration and displacement;
- strong understanding of the drivers of migration including economic drivers and dynamics of migration;
- good understanding of the interlocking economics between migration/conflict and illicit economies including smuggling networks and links to organised crime;
- familiarity with research and evidence about upstream interventions aiming to address migration;
- awareness of and experience navigating migration debates in a UK context including at senior levels;
- strong international networks and experience interacting with stakeholders and experience of engaging with key multilateral, governmental, and non-governmental actors involved in shaping and implementing migration policies and interventions.