

## **2022 CALL: PARLIAMENTARY THEMATIC RESEARCH LEADS: SUPPORT AND FUNDING VERIFICATION FORM**

At application stage, we need to verify confirmed support from your institution, including commitment from the university to fund their contribution to your position as Thematic Research Lead.

Please complete part A of this form (p.3), then invite your Head of Department to complete part B of the form (p.4).

Please then upload the completed form along with your application and CV by the application deadline: 23:55, Monday 1 August 2022.

If the form is not returned by the application deadline, we will not be able to review your application and your application will be withdrawn.

### **About Parliamentary Thematic Research Leads**

For nearly ten years, the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) has collaborated with Parliament by investing in the Parliamentary Office of Science and Technology (POST). Through the collaboration, the partners have embedded social science research in Parliament, developed a world-leading Knowledge Exchange Unit, and established a culture of knowledge exchange between Parliament and the research community.

Building on the successes of the past decade, POST is now entering into a new phase of collaboration with ESRC that seeks to bring about a step change in the way research feeds into Parliament's scrutiny, legislation and debate.

This autumn, new pilot thematic policy hubs will be created to bring together experts from select committees, library staff and POST. These hubs will allow parliamentary staff to share and develop expertise to inform scrutiny, legislation and debate that addresses key economic and societal challenges.

POST and ESRC will pilot the creation of a network of Thematic Research Leads (TRLs) in support of this work.

TRLs will be mid-career researchers embedded part-time in the hubs, bringing their academic expertise and experience of working with research evidence to the policy, research and analysis work that is carried out across Parliament.

These positions, if proven, may ultimately become highly influential and prestigious roles at the heart of Parliament, somewhat akin to the Government's Chief Scientific Advisers, but shaped for a parliamentary context.

The TRLs that POST and ESRC will appoint as part of this pilot will help to shape the development of this new approach to evidence engagement in Parliament. They will help to ensure that:

- thematic policy hubs take a strategic, forward-looking, evidence-informed approach to engaging with policy areas
- the best available research evidence feeds into the committees, libraries and POST

Restricted when completed: Personal data

- networks and connections between Parliament and the wider research community are strengthened

TRLs will be mid-career researchers who conduct the role of TRL part-time: three days a week (0.6FTE), whilst retaining their substantive academic post the remaining two days a week.

*For the purposes of this call, mid-career academics are considered those in professional research roles up to but not including professorial level.*

POST and ESRC will launch this pilot at the end of 2022, with three TRLs appointed to join the pilot policy hubs in Parliament in the following areas:

- Climate and Environment
- International Affairs and Defence
- Parliament, Public Administration and Constitution.

Funding for the TRL positions will be provided by ESRC.

Throughout 2023, these three TRLs will establish ways of working and inform the future development of these roles and the policy hubs.

Applications are open to all UK-based mid-career university researchers who already have a PhD and are employed on an academic contract. Exceptionally, they are also open to those who don't have a PhD but have equivalent experience of a mid-career researcher and are employed on an academic contract.

### **Funding and support**

Funding for the Thematic Research Lead positions will be provided by ESRC. Each post is for a 12-month period at 0.6 FTE. Applicants will be able to request 80% of justified costs of a total Full Economic Cost of up to £125K (including justified travel and subsistence costs within this amount).

Applicants will be expected to comply with UKRI Terms and Conditions and applicants must be from a research organisation eligible for ESRC funding. ESRC will meet 80% of the full economic costs and the host institution is expected to support the remaining 20%.

POST will contribute in-kind funding including supervision, professional development opportunities, workspace and IT equipment.

If you have any queries, or for support with this form, please contact the Knowledge Exchange Unit on [keu@parliament.uk](mailto:keu@parliament.uk).

**A) Applicant details**

Applicants, please complete this part of the form with your details.

Please note that we do not ask for your name on the form at this stage, so that your application can be assessed anonymously.

Job title	
University or institution	
Department	
Thematic Research Lead position applied for	

## B) Statement of support from Head of Department

This part of the form should be completed by your Head of Department.

- I confirm that the above particulars are correct.
- I confirm that, if the applicant is successful, the university will meet the funding requirements laid out above, that is to say, to contribute 20% of the full economic costs.
- I confirm that, if the applicant is successful, I will ensure that they are able to dedicate the full 0.6FTE to their parliamentary role.

**PRIVACY NOTICE** Your personal data is important to us and we will handle it in line with our responsibilities under the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and Data Protection Act 2018 (DPA). We are asking you to provide the following personal data:

- Name
- Job title
- Institution

We require this for the purpose of being able to verify the institutional support and proposed funding for the above-named applicant for a Thematic Research Lead Role. The lawful basis we are using to collect your personal data is legitimate interest. We will share your information with other relevant teams of the House of Commons and the House of Lords, including Members of Parliament and their staff, and only for this purpose. We will retain your information for up to seven years, in line with our information retention policy, after which we will securely destroy it. More information on your rights and how we will process your personal data can be found on our main Privacy Notice

here: <https://post.parliament.uk/privacy-policy/>.

Name (please print)	
Job title	
Institution / organisation	
Signature*	
Date	

\*To sign this form, you should either:

- 1) copy and paste a digital image of your handwritten signature into the signature box; or
- 2) print this completed form, sign it in ink in the signature box, then submit a scanned-in copy of the completed form

PLEASE NOTE: WE CANNOT ACCEPT TYPED SIGNATURES