



Local  
Policy  
Lab

# Local Policy Lab 2026 Fellowship Applicant Guidance

## About the Local Policy Lab

The Local Policy Lab is an alliance between the University of Oxford, Oxford Brookes University and Oxfordshire County Council which aims to support evidence-informed policymaking and address the socio-economic underpinnings of health across Oxfordshire.

The Lab envisions a future where local policymaking and research develop hand in hand, mutually informing and reinforcing each other, supporting a successful whole-systems approach to eliminating inequalities and improving the quality of life for Oxfordshire's residents.

The Local Policy Lab aims to:

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

## Local Policy Lab Fellowship

The Local Policy Lab Fellowship provides University of Oxford and Oxford Brookes University graduate students the opportunity to work with County and District policy officers on 10-week research projects addressing the socio-economic underpinnings of health.

The 2026 Fellowship will be recruiting up to 15 graduate students for the 2026 cohort (April to July 2026) from diverse experiences and across disciplines to work on teams of two to four Fellows. Each project team will be supported by a researcher from the University of Oxford or Oxford Brookes University.

In addition to working with policy partners on interdisciplinary project teams, Fellows will:

- Receive mentorship from both policymakers and researchers,
- Collaborate and build relationships with local authorities and community organisations,
- Participate in training and professional development opportunities.

## Fellowship Projects

Local Policy Lab Fellows will work with their project team, comprised of co-Fellows, a researcher, and policy officers, to develop and conduct their research. Examples of projects include impact evaluations, quantitative data analysis, scoping exercises and the development of evaluation frameworks, among others.

The 2026 projects will fall under one of the following thematic areas, which applicants may select from:

- Enabling children and young people to thrive
- Delivering inclusive growth, a skilled workforce, and fair employment
- Ensuring a healthy standard of living for all

## Application Process

The application form is available [\*\*here\*\*](#). **Applications are due 23:59 GMT on 8 March 2026**. Applicants will have the ability to start, save and resume their application at a later date.

If you would like to view a PDF copy of the application questions, please reach out to [localpolicylab@admin.ox.ac.uk](mailto:localpolicylab@admin.ox.ac.uk)

In addition to submitting the application form, applicants must send the following to [localpolicylab@admin.ox.ac.uk](mailto:localpolicylab@admin.ox.ac.uk) as part of their application:

- Your CV
- A brief letter of support (or email) from your course supervisor or academic advisor. For Master's students, a letter of support from a Course Director or Director of Graduate Studies may be provided. The letter (or email) of support may either be attached or emailed directly to [localpolicylab@admin.ox.ac.uk](mailto:localpolicylab@admin.ox.ac.uk)

In the application, applicants will have the opportunity to select their thematic area of preference: enabling children and young people to thrive; delivering inclusive growth, a skilled workforce, and fair employment; or ensuring a healthy standard of living for all. Project assignments will be shared upon offer of Fellowship.

Fellows will be matched to projects based on the research and policy needs of local policy partners as well as Fellows' preferences and areas of expertise.

Fellows will be notified of appointments by mid-April.

## Fellow Eligibility

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

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

## Key Dates and Time Commitment

The Local Policy Lab Fellowship will run from 27 April 2026 to 10 July 2026.

From 27 April to 19 June, Fellows are expected to allot four hours per week for project development work alongside bi-weekly training. From 22 June to 10 July (3-weeks), Fellows are expected to commit to their projects full-time. For these 3-weeks of the project, Fellows will be provided a stipend of £500/week, amounting to £1500.

Key programme dates and events are included below. Should applicants be offered a Fellowship, participation in the following is expected:

Event	Date	Time	Location
Induction Day	Tues, 28 April	10am-12pm	Uni of Oxford
Project Development & Planning	27 April - 19 June	4 hours/week	Hybrid
Training: Theory of Change	Tues, 5 May	TBC	TBC
Training: Research Methods	Tues, 19 May	TBC	TBC
Training: Introduction to Oxfordshire County Council	Tues, 2 June	TBC	TBC
Training: Writing for Policy Audiences	Tues, 16 June	TBC	TBC
Project Completion & Write-Up	22 June - 10 July	Full-time	Hybrid
Training: Showcase Preparation	Tues, 7 July	TBC	Uni of Oxford
Fellowship Showcase	Wedn, 15 July	10am-1pm	TBC

## Key Dates and Time Commitment

Please note that while the Fellowship is primarily online/hybrid working, there may be instances where Fellows are in the field or at their partner's office. This will vary by project. If you have constraints on particular dates, please note those in your application.

## Questions

For any questions about the programme or the application process, please reach out to [localpolicylab@admin.ox.ac.uk](mailto:localpolicylab@admin.ox.ac.uk)



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