

William Plowden Fellowship in Public Policy: Note for applicants

William Plowden, who died in 2010, began his career as a civil servant, was then a founding member of the Central Policy Review Staff, and later director-general of the Royal Institute of Public Administration and executive director of the UK Harkness Fellowships. He worked extensively as a consultant to overseas governments and had a life-long connection with the London School of Economics. He had a particular interest in how public policy making both in Britain and overseas could reflect and improve the life chances of people and communities in civil society.

1. The Fellowship has been created to commemorate William Plowden's distinguished career, and his concern to promote the principles and practice of good governance by supporting innovation and achieving positive social impacts. The project is now entering its fifth and final year. Six fellows have successfully completed their tenure.
2. The opportunity offered to potential Fellows is an interval away from their current work for reflection on a public policy issue on which they are competent to make a significant contribution. The duration of the Fellowship will be three months, usually taken as a continuous period. Candidates should have a substantial record of achievement in a relevant area.
3. The Fellowship is open to applicants from the United Kingdom but the chosen topic may extend more broadly. Fellows will usually be in the public or voluntary sector, but anyone in the private sector who can make similar arrangements for paid temporary release with their employer is eligible to apply.
4. A list of possible topics that might form the basis for a Fellowship is in the Appendix. But these are purely illustrative and potential Fellows are encouraged to develop their own projects within the broad framework of the good governance theme.
5. The Fellowship provides a challenging opportunity and in return also requires a positive commitment. The commitment required of successful candidates for a Fellowship is the production of a report on the chosen topic and the presentation of a lecture to an invited audience. It is intended that the lectures given will be published on line and in relevant journals, and later as a collection.
6. The Fellow appointed will be based at an academic institution, where they will be provided with some supporting facilities and mentoring, where appropriate. For this year of the Fellowship the partner institutions could be the Department of Social Policy at the LSE, the Third Sector Research Centre, Birmingham University and the Constitution Unit in the School of Public Policy at University College London. Further potential academic partners support the Fellowship and could host a Fellow with a relevant topic. Potential Fellows may wish to make direct contact with one of these institutions to discuss potential topics and their relevance to the interests and work programmes of these partners. Other suitable supervision arrangements can be made depending on the context and the proposed topic.
7. All reasonable expenses will be met, and some additional financial support may be available in exceptional circumstances.
8. The Fellow appointed will be expected to have agreed their own arrangements with their current employers for release from work for the period of the Fellowship, and the terms on which they are being released (salary, pension etc).

9. There is no standard form for applicants for the Fellowship. Candidates should set out their proposed project with supporting justification, confirming their availability for the three month period and arrangements for release, on not more than two pages of A4, font size 12, accompanied by a CV and names of two referees, one of whom should be the current employer
10. Criteria for shortlisting will include:
 - how the perceived problem is articulated
 - how the candidate proposes to address it
 - the possible solution envisaged
 - wider relevance.
11. The Fellowship is managed by an advisory group whose names are in the Appendix and is based for administrative purposes at the NCVO.

Applications to be emailed to teresa.scott@ncvo.org.uk by 13 January 2017, shortlisted candidates to be informed by 27 January. Interviews February, tenure will start in Spring 2017.