

Scottish Parliament Academic Fellowship Scheme 2024/25

Fellowship to explore the links between Health, Social Care and Climate Change

What will the work involve

The research involves identifying links between the remit of the Scottish Parliament Health, Social Care and Sport Committee and climate change. A significant focus for the committee is on the delivery of core health and social care services and this understandably places some constraints on opportunities to consider broader aspects of public health – for example, those which link health to the context of a wellbeing economy and a changing climate.

This research will explore how approaches to cut emissions and adapt to climate change relates to health and social care issues, identify evidence to demonstrate areas of significant relevance and overlap, synthesise and present this information in an accessible way. The fellowship will provide an evidence base for this committee, and future equivalent committees to draw on to inform and support their scrutiny work. The work is also set in the context of Scotland's National Performance Framework that seeks to provide a 'vision for collective wellbeing' and support a shared way of working. The Scottish Government has proposed including a new national outcome on climate action of 'We live sustainably, achieve a just transition to net zero and build Scotland's resilience to climate change.'

Why is this work important

In 2022 the Scottish Parliament Conveners Group [agreed a package of proposals to strengthen cross-cutting scrutiny of climate change](#). As part of this, SPICe is producing a series of blogs to illustrate how climate change impacts on policy areas across subject committees, to support scrutiny. SPICe is exploring different ways of producing these and keen to draw on diverse academic engagement routes to do this.

Outputs and ways of working for this fellowship

At this stage, we envisage that the outputs for this work would be:

- A SPICe briefing
- A SPICe blog

- A short presentation (either in the form of a SPICe breakfast seminar or presentation to the Health, Social Care and Sport Committee).

The blog and briefing must be written in a clear, accessible and jargon free manner which can be easily used and understood by MSPs. The SPICe style guide explains what this means in practice.

For a recent example of similar SPICe blogs see the SPICe blog that focuses on highlighting the [links between the remit of the Scottish Parliament Local Government, Housing and Planning Committee with climate change](#). For a recent example of a SPICe fellowship briefing see the 2022 [SPICe briefing on Human rights budgeting](#).

This fellowship complements the work of the Health, Social Care and Sport Committee. We expect that there would be some opportunities to engage directly with the Committee, for example in presenting issues identified in the blog/briefing to the Committee.

We aim to give the fellow a rounded experience of working in, and with, the Parliament, and where relevant can look for opportunities for the fellow to observe a range of parliamentary activities.

Experience needed

We are looking for candidates who have a good understanding of the climate research and policy landscape, experience in working on interdisciplinary issues and in reviewing and synthesising evidence. Ideally candidates will have high levels of familiarity with some areas that link climate and health and be well placed to draw on relevant expertise via their existing networks. An interest in the broad area of public health and wellbeing would also be advantageous.

As outlined above, candidates will need to be able to communicate clearly and succinctly for a parliamentary audience who are not necessarily experts in this field.

Timescale and working pattern

We anticipate at this stage that the work could begin in the autumn, with a view to completion and publication of the blog in December 2024 and briefing in early 2025.

We expect that this work would be around 1-2 days per week and can take place in Parliament or remotely, with any presentation of the outputs taking place in person.

Funding

It is up to the prospective fellow and their academic institution to set out the basis upon which their costs are determined and the sources of their funding.

Although funding cannot be guaranteed, the Parliament does, however, have a limited budget which it can potentially use to fund or part-fund fellows (previously, funding provided has typically been between £3-4,000). We can discuss funding in more detail with applicants once applications have been submitted and assessed.

Further information

Please contact Dan Barlow, or Sarah Swift in SPICe if you wish to discuss this further (dan.barlow@parliament.scot, sarah.swift@parliament.scot).