

Parliamentary Academic Fellowship Scheme Open Call 2020 - Guidance Note for Applicants

Please ensure you have the read this document before completing your application, as it contains important guidance to support you in completing it.

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1. Key dates

Monday June 8th – 23:59 Friday June 26th 2020: Expression of Interest Applications open.

Wednesday 2nd September 2020: Deadline for communication to applicants of outcomes of assessment of Expression of Interest Applications.

Thursday 3rd September – 23:59 Wednesday 30th September 2020: Window for applicants successful at Expression of Interest stage to write and submit Detailed Applications.

Friday 23rd October 2020: Deadline for communication to applicants of outcomes of assessment of Detailed Applications.

October – mid November 2020: Applicants successful at Detailed Application stage invited to attend interview.

November/ December 2020: Communication to applicants of outcomes of interviews and onboarding begins for successful applicants.

Fellowships will commence from **January 2021** at the earliest (following successful security clearance, for which timescales can vary).

Please note that it is our expectation that the process will follow the timescales above. Should any changes to this be necessary, we will update [our webpages](#) with details as soon as possible.

2. Introduction to the scheme

The POST Parliamentary Academic Fellowship Scheme delivers opportunities for researchers to forge useful and lasting connections with decision-makers in Parliament.

The fellowship provides a unique opportunity for researchers to learn about how research feeds into practice and the challenges faced by decision-makers, as well as increasing opportunities for researchers from all disciplines to engage and connect with people in Parliament. The scheme has five main objectives:

- To improve awareness of academic research within Parliament and more systematically learn about and benefit from its findings.
- To support parliamentary offices to expand their engagement with academic stakeholders in order to enrich and promote law-making, scrutiny and democratic engagement.
- To promote knowledge and public understanding of Parliament amongst the research community.
- To grow an alumni network of fellows that can feed into Parliament's outreach and engagement work.
- To enable projects identified as important by parliamentary offices to be undertaken, that would not have otherwise been possible due to capacity or resources constraints.

Former fellows report outcomes including:

- **Research impact**, for example through contributing to scrutiny, or changing processes in Parliament
- **Increased knowledge of Parliament**, for example about parliamentary processes and Parliament's use of research evidence
- **Developed networks**, for example amongst parliamentary staff, Members and other stakeholders

- **Impact on own research agenda**, for example, insights leading to new research questions
- **Publications**, for example peer reviewed journal articles or blogs
- **Impacts on teaching**, for example feeding into lectures and seminars
- **Impacts on career**, for example leading to professional recognition

3. Eligibility

Fellowships are open to all UK-based university researchers who have a PhD or are employed in a university on an academic contract, or university staff working in impact or knowledge exchange (including university libraries), and who are eligible for a parliamentary pass. Applicants must have permission to work in the UK, and will need to receive security clearance from UK Parliament to CTC level ([see Government webpages on United Kingdom Security Vetting for more information](#) and information on [the security vetting process in Parliament](#)). If you aren't sure whether you are eligible to apply, please do get in touch with the Knowledge Exchange Unit to ask.

4. Funding

The fellow is expected to secure funding to cover costs to enable them to take up the fellowship, such as for teaching cover, travel, subsistence, accommodation and any other associated expenses. In the pilot scheme, fellowships were funded from Research Council Impact Acceleration Awards. Following evaluation, we have now widened the criteria for permissible sources of funding to enable more people to apply. It is expected that funding will come from sources of impact funding within the applicant's institution, for example Research Council Impact Acceleration Awards or specific university impact budgets. Applicants may also seek funding from other research organisations or funders, for example research networks, charitable funding, learned society funding, or professional association funding. Fellowships may not be funded with private funding or funding from industry.

The Expression of Interest Application Form requests the applicant to tick to confirm that they have begun the process of considering the prospective source of funding for their project. Should they be successful at the Expression of Interest stage, the applicant's funding source should be confirmed and stated in the Detailed Application Form, due in September. Confirmation will need to be given by the funding scheme administrator (e.g. university or charitable institution budget holder).

5. How to apply

The application process for a fellowship comprises three stages:

1. Expression of Interest
2. Detailed Application
3. Interview

If successful at Expression of Interest stage, applicants will be invited to draft and submit a Detailed Application during September. They will be given up to 250 words feedback on their Expression of Interest Application, and offered a phone call with their prospective host office to support them in putting the Detailed Application together. If successful at this stage, applicants will be invited to interview in October or November. At Expression of Interest, Detailed Application and Interview stage, all applicants will be notified of outcomes.

Please note that flexibility will be required throughout the project, and that Host Offices may

ask applicants at Expression of Interest and/or Detailed Application and/or Interview stage to make modifications to their proposals, in order to ensure the maximal alignment, relevance and timeliness to the Host Office and Parliament.

a. Expression of Interest stage

In the first instance, applicants are required to complete an Expression of Interest Application Form and send an electronic copy of the completed form, along with a two-page CV (both in MSWord format) to postfellowships@parliament.uk. They should mark the subject of the email as: "PAFS Open Call: [name of proposed parliamentary Host Office]". They are also invited to send a diversity monitoring questionnaire, although this is voluntary. The deadline for submission is 23:59, Friday 26th June 2020.

Applicants ***should not*** contact prospective Host Offices when drafting Expressions of Interest with questions about the scheme or their office, or to seek support or gauge interest in their project, as, unfortunately, Host Offices do not have the capacity to advise at this stage. More information on where to find support or help with drafting Expressions of Interest is found in section 7 of this document.

i. Expression of Interest: Assessment criteria

To ensure that the project proposed is relevant, useful and timely for both the proposed Host Office and Parliament, applicants should use information provided in the Appendix to this document to inform the drafting of their project proposal.

Applications (Expression of Interest Application Forms and CVs) will be assessed by panels within Parliament comprised of staff from the Knowledge Exchange Unit, parliamentary Office (such as Commons Committee Office or Lords Library) and Host Office (such as the specific select committee secretariat or Library section to which the applicant has applied). They will be assessed against the below criteria. Applicants should consult the Assessment Criteria *before* drafting and submitting their application.

- The overall proposed project, including focus and aims
- The appropriateness and feasibility of activities and milestones
- The appropriateness, feasibility and usefulness of intended outputs
- The suitability of the candidate
- The feasibility of the timetable, including any risks and proposed alternative strategies
- The usefulness of expected benefit(s) to Parliament, the applicant and their university/employer
- The likeliness and usefulness of impacts
- The appropriateness and feasibility of dissemination plans
- The applicant's understanding of the functions of Parliament and, in particular, the Host Office
- The degree to which the proposed project contributes to and builds on the function and work of the Host Office and Parliament
- The interest / relevance /use of the project to the Host Office and Parliament
- The timeliness and degree to which the project is a priority for the Host Office and Parliament

Based on the above criteria and capacity to take on a fellow, the Host Office will decide whether or not to invite a Detailed Application. All applicants will be made aware of the outcome as this stage. Unfortunately, Parliament will not be able to provide feedback on

applications which are not progressed at Expression of Interest stage.

b. Detailed Application stage

Where Host Offices decide they would like to invite a Detailed Application, this will be communicated to the Knowledge Exchange Unit. The Knowledge Exchange Unit will then invite a Detailed Application.

The Knowledge Exchange Unit will send a Detailed Application form to the applicant (requiring max 2,000 words), along with the assessment criteria.

At this stage, applicants may contact the prospective Host Office to discuss the project proposal, to ensure that the project proposed in the Detailed Application is maximally aligned, relevant and useful to the Host Office and Parliament.

The prospective Host Office will provide up to 250 words of feedback for the applicant on their Expression of Interest application to support them in writing their Detailed Application. They will also offer the applicant a phone call to discuss their proposed project.

The applicant should submit an electronic copy of the completed form and a sample of writing for a non-academic audience (such as a blog or media piece) of between 500–1500 words– all in MSWord format – to postfellowships@parliament.uk by 23:59, Wednesday 30th September. They should mark the subject line as “PAFS Open Call: [name of proposed parliamentary Host Office] [applicant surname]”.

c. Interview stage

Where Host Offices decide they would like to interview an applicant, they will get in contact with the applicant to arrange an interview. Assessment criteria for the interview will be communicated to the applicant at invite to interview. The interview will take place with staff from the Host Office, between October and mid-November, and will normally take place virtually.

Based on the interview, the Host Office will decide whether or not to offer a fellowship. All applicants will be made aware of the outcome as this stage.

Applicants will be asked if they need any additional support in order to participate in an interview (and/or to take up a fellowship at Parliament), and to outline their requirements.

6. Terms and conditions

Applicants who are successful in being offered a fellowship will be required to enter into a formal agreement that sets out the specific terms governing their fellowship in Parliament or with the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association-UK Branch. All fellows must also undergo a security vetting process and comply with Parliament’s security rules and instructions (including cyber- and information security). Fellowship placements are conditional on the Fellowship Agreement being signed and security clearance being obtained and retained.

The paragraphs below are intended to give applicants a general indication of some of the key terms that will apply to the fellowship; the paragraphs in themselves are not intended to be legally binding, but the Fellowship Agreement will be, once signed.

Impartiality

In line with the policies of the UK Parliament and the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association-UK Branch, all fellows must be, and appear to be, honest and impartial in the exercise of their work as fellows. They must demonstrate the same impartiality as parliamentary staff, who must provide services with complete political impartiality, and whose work, including briefing and advice, must not be influenced by their personal political opinions.

Confidential Information

The Fellowship Agreement will set out the terms on which fellows will be permitted to access and use confidential information. Such information may include:

- any information that relates to the proceedings, business, affairs, personnel and suppliers of either House of Parliament or the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association-UK Branch;
- personal data as defined by the General Data Protection Regulation and Data Protection Act 2018;
- information which is confidential or private (whether or not marked as such);
- information protected by the Official Secrets Act 1989;
- information protected by parliamentary privilege, including papers and evidence received by select committees, draft committee reports and internal committee papers.

Intellectual Property Rights

The Fellowship Agreement will allow for fellows to retain ownership of the intellectual property rights in material they create as sole author through the fellowship in accordance with the policies of their respective institutions and in agreement with the terms that govern the fellowship. The agreement will include a term whereby fellows grant to Parliament or to the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association-UK Branch a non-exclusive, indefinite, cost- and royalty-free, worldwide licence to use the material they create through the fellowship in all media and for any purpose. It will include that the fellow and Parliament or the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association-UK will jointly own the intellectual property rights of works created jointly.

Publication of Fellowship Outputs

The Fellowship Agreement will contain provisions specifying that:

- Publication of material that draws upon or includes confidential information will be subject to the prior agreement of the Host Office in Parliament.
- Publication of material that includes information gained in the service of a select committee or otherwise protected by parliamentary privilege will be subject to the prior agreement of that committee or either House of Parliament or the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association-UK Branch as appropriate. Fellows will be required to keep the material confidential if such permission is denied.

Payment

The placement is unpaid and nothing in the agreement will be taken to mean that the fellow is an employee of the House of Commons/ House of Lords or the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association-UK Branch.

Conflicts of interest

Fellows will be required to follow the standard procedures of the House Department or the

Commonwealth Parliamentary Association-UK Branch for registering any conflicts of interest that may arise during the course of their placement.

Conduct

The Independent Complaints and Grievance Scheme applies to all fellows. Fellows must comply with the Scheme and all other rules concerning conduct and discipline, for example, anti-bribery, whistleblowing, and gifts and hospitality policies.

7. Contacts and sources of further information

For more information please see the [Open Call webpage](#).

Applicants should also ensure they have read the Appendix to this document which provides further information about UK Parliament and prospective Host Offices for Open Call fellowships.

Applicants ***should not*** contact prospective offices when drafting Expressions of Interest to seek support or gauge interest as, unfortunately, Host Offices do not have the capacity to advise at this stage.

If the applicant's university has a knowledge exchange, impact, or policy focussed team, applicants are encouraged to contact them a) to let them know they are applying and b) to ask what support and advice they can offer to applicants in applying for the scheme.

Applicants may also wish to consult a resource compiled by the Knowledge Exchange Unit: '[A short guide to producing research to support the work of UK Parliament](#)'. This 3-page guide outlines what Parliament is and does, how it uses research, and knowledge exchange mechanisms, as well as tips on shaping proposals, and what to do when conducting research and disseminating findings.

Further information about the Parliamentary Academic Fellowship Scheme can be found in the Knowledge Exchange Unit's [report on the parliamentary academic fellowship scheme pilot \(2016 – 2019\)](#), which provides information about different kinds of projects, impacts of fellowships, and a number of detailed case studies, as well as perspectives from parliamentary hosts.

Any projects for the rolling Directed Call for parliamentary academic fellowships, for which teams in Parliament seek fellows to work on specific projects within Parliament, will be publicised on [the webpage for the Parliamentary Academic Fellowship Scheme Directed Call](#).

For any queries, please contact:

Dr Laura Webb
Knowledge Exchange Manager
Parliamentary Office of Science and Technology
London, SW1A 0AA
Tel: 0207 219 8542
Email: webblj@parliament.uk

8. Appendix: Information about Parliament to inform the shaping of a fellowship project proposal

We know that researchers have varying degrees of knowledge and understanding about the UK Parliament, including its ways of working and use of and engagement with research. In this Appendix you can find some key background information, to help you ensure the project you propose will be of interest, relevance and timeliness to Parliament. This document was written and compiled by the Knowledge Exchange Unit who co-ordinate the fellowship scheme, in consultation with offices across Parliament. The information covers the following topics:

1. [UK Parliament: an overview](#)
2. [UK Parliament's use of research](#)
3. [List of Host Offices at Parliament participating in the Open Call of the Parliamentary Academic Fellowship Scheme](#)
4. [Participating parliamentary offices: functions and work, use of research, and shaping your project proposal to work with them](#)
 - 4.1 [House of Commons and House of Lords Committee Offices](#)
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 - 4.3 [Parliamentary Office of Science and Technology \(POST\) and the Knowledge Exchange Unit \(KEU\)](#)
 - 4.3.1 [Function and work](#)
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 - 4.4. [Participation \(Education and Engagement team\)](#)
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 - 4.5 [Heritage Collections Team: Parliamentary Art Collection](#)

[4.5.1 Function and work](#)

[4.5.2 How the Parliamentary Art Collection uses research](#)

[4.4.3 How you can work with the Heritage Collections Team: Parliamentary Art Collection](#)

4.6 [CPA-UK \(Commonwealth Parliamentary Association UK Branch\)](#)

[4.6.1 Function and work](#)

[4.6.2 How the CPA-UK uses research](#)

[4.6.3 How you can work with the CPA-UK](#)

5. [Previous Open Call Parliamentary Academic Fellowships](#)

1. UK Parliament: an overview

This section gives an overview of the composition and role of Parliament and how it differs from the UK Government and devolved administrations.

UK Parliament

[Parliament](#) has three parts: the House of Commons, the House of Lords and the Monarch.

- The **House of Commons** is the elected House. There are currently 650 Members of Parliament (MPs), who each represent a constituency in the UK.
- The majority of Members of the **House of Lords** (Peers) are appointed. There are approximately 800 Peers, made up of Life Peers (appointed for life with no limit on numbers), Hereditary Peers (92 seats are available) and Bishops (26 bishops in the Church of England).
- The **Monarch** is a politically-neutral Head of State. The Monarch's role is mainly ceremonial and includes opening Parliament each year and giving Royal Assent to each new piece of primary legislation.

Parliament is supported by several thousand non-partisan parliamentary staff, who occupy diverse roles ranging from secretarial duties, security, catering and research. Members of Parliament also employ their own staff (often known as 'Members researchers') to support them; these positions are partisan where a Member has a political affiliation.

Parliament (the 'Legislature') is different to [the Government](#) ('the Executive'). The Government runs the country, and is made up of the party (or parties) that can command the confidence of the House of Commons. The leader of the winning party in a general election is appointed as Prime Minister and chooses other party members to work in the Government with them, as Cabinet ministers and junior ministers. The Government sets taxes, chooses what to spend public money on and decides how best to deliver public services.

The main functions of Parliament are to:

- Check and challenge the work of the Government (**scrutiny**)
- Make and change laws (**legislation**)
- Debate the important issues of the day (**debating**)
- Check and approve Government spending (**budget/taxes**)

A lot of the work of Parliament is done in the chambers of the House of Commons and House of Lords. Here, Members of each House can question Government ministers or the Prime Minister, and debate and vote on Government policy and proposed new laws.

Committees, made up of small groups of MPs or Lords, scrutinise policy issues or legislation in more detail outside of the chambers.

Members of Parliament each represent a constituency in the House of Commons. MPs split their time between working in Parliament itself, working in the constituency that elected them and working for their political party. In their constituency, MPs often hold a 'surgery' in their office, where local people can come along to discuss any matters that concern them. MPs also attend functions, visit schools and businesses and generally try to meet as many people as possible. This gives MPs further insight and context into issues they may discuss when they return to Westminster.

Devolved Administrations

Since 1999 certain powers have been [devolved](#) to the Scottish Parliament, Senedd Cymru/Welsh Parliament and Northern Ireland Assembly, such as education and healthcare. In the past these powers were controlled by the Parliament in Westminster, but decisions in these areas are now taken by the devolved administrations. Some powers are reserved to Parliament in Westminster, such as UK defence and foreign policy. In each case, the legislation establishing the separate bodies determined which powers were devolved and which were reserved. Parliament in Westminster can still ultimately legislate on devolved matters, but generally does not. The Parliament in Westminster and the devolved administrations can be collectively referred to as the legislatures of the UK.

2. UK Parliament's use of research

There's information on [how UK Parliament uses research on our webpage](#).

For more information on how Parliament uses research, see also the following briefings:

[Research, Impact and the UK Parliament](#) (1 page)

[Research Impact and Legislatures](#) (4 pages)

[A short guide to producing research to support the work of UK Parliament](#) (3 pages)

3. List of Host Offices at Parliament participating in the Open Call of the Parliamentary Academic Fellowship Scheme

A list of Host Offices participating in the scheme is below. Please ensure you specify which Host Office you are applying for a fellowship in on your Expression of Interest Application Form (for example 'Business Energy and Industrial Strategy Committee', rather than 'Commons Committee Office', or 'HoC Library, Research team: Business and Transport Section', rather than 'HoC Library'. Please do research the priorities of the Host Office you are applying for a fellowship in and use this to inform your application, taking into account that fellowships will begin in 2021.

Host Offices open to fellowship applications within the House of Commons Committee Office

- All [select committees within the House of Commons](#) are open to receiving applications. Please apply to work with a specific committee.
- Fellows can also apply for projects within the [House of Commons' Scrutiny Unit](#) within the House of Commons Committee Office.
- Fellows can also apply to the International Affairs Unit within the Commons

Committee Office. It is a hub of policy expertise working across and in support of international-facing committees in the House of Commons. This includes the Foreign Affairs Committee, the International Development Committee, the Defence Committee and the Joint Committee on the National Security Strategy. The IAU supports these committees in performing scrutiny of international policy and facilitates joint lines of enquiry between these committees.

- Fellows can also apply to [joint committees](#) of the House of Commons and House of Lords.

Host Offices (select committees) open to fellowship applications within the House of Lords Committee Office

- All [committees within the House of Lords](#) are open to receiving applications. Please apply to work with a specific committee.
- Fellows can also apply to [joint committees](#) of the House of Commons and House of Lords.

Host Offices open to fellowship applications within the House of Commons Library

- HoC Library, Research team: Business and Transport Section
- HoC Library, Research team: Economic Policy and Statistics Section
- HoC Library, Research team: Home Affairs Section
- HoC Library, Research team: International Affairs and Defence Section
- HoC Library, Research team: Parliament and Constitution Centre
- HoC Library, Research team: Science and Environment Section
- HoC Library, Research team: Social and General Statistics Section
- HoC Library, Research team: Social Policy Section
- HoC Library, Library Services
- HoC Library, Service Development Group

Host Offices open to fellowship applications within the House of Lords Library

- HoL Library, Research Services
- HoL Library, Information Management
- HoL Library, Service Development

Host Offices open to fellowship applications within the Parliamentary Office of Science and Technology (POST)

POST undertakes works on biology and health, energy and environment, physical and digital sciences, and social sciences. POST works in an interdisciplinary way, however the team work in sections. The list of sections is below for you to choose from when making your application, however please be aware that you are likely to liaise more widely across POST when completing your project.

- POST, Biology and Health
- POST, Energy and Environment
- POST, Physical and Digital Science
- POST, Social Science
- POST, Knowledge Exchange Unit

Host Offices open to fellowship applications within the Education and Engagement Team, Participation

- Education and Engagement, Business Support team
- Education and Engagement, Campaigns team
- Education and Engagement, Outreach team
- Education and Engagement, Resources and Content Development team
- Education and Engagement, Select Committees Engagement team
- Education and Engagement, Teacher Training

Host Offices open to fellowship applications within Heritage Collections Team: Parliamentary Art Collection

- The Heritage Collections Team: Parliamentary Art Collection is open to receiving applications

Host Offices open to fellowship applications within Commonwealth Parliamentary Association UK Branch (CPA-UK)

- The CPA-UK is open to receiving applications.

4. Participating parliamentary offices: functions and work, use of research, and shaping your project proposal to work with them

This section provides information on the parliamentary offices which are participating in the 2020 Open Call. Below you can find for each office an overview of its function and work, how it use research, and some ideas for the kinds of fellowship project proposals in which it might be interested.

We strongly recommend that you also look on the webpages for the Host Office in which you are applying to conduct your project to give you a sense of the office's work and priorities.

4.1 House of Commons and House of Lords Committee Offices

4.1.1. Function and work

Both Houses have [select committees](#) that scrutinise the policies, work and expenditure of the Government. They mainly do this by conducting inquiries and producing reports, on topics ranging from the conduct of Government to specific subject areas under each committee's remit. The Government has to respond in writing to the recommendations in committee reports within 60 days, and the reports can be debated in the chamber of the relevant House.

Committees are made up of backbench politicians (i.e. not Government or Shadow Ministers) from across the parties in each House. In addition to committees in each House, there are also joint committees (such as the Joint Committee on Human Rights), which are made up of both MPs and Peers.

When committees conduct inquiries, they issue a call for written evidence, outlining the questions the committee wishes to find answers to. These may also be called the terms of

reference for the inquiry. Any individual or organisation may contribute evidence. The committee will hold oral evidence sessions to discuss issues in more detail with individuals, organisations and Government representatives.

[You can find a full list of select committees here.](#)

House of Commons select committees are largely concerned with examining the spending, policy and administration of Government departments; there is a Commons select committee for every Government department. There are also some cross-cutting committees, such as the Science and Technology Committee and the Women and Equalities Committee; committees focused on the running of the House itself, such as the Administration Committee; and legislative committees, such as the European Scrutiny Committee.

Each House of Commons committee is staffed by a parliamentary team led by a clerk. The size of the team varies, but each committee has a clerk, one or more committee specialists, and one or more committee assistants. Committees may also have a second clerk. Additionally, committees are supported by a media officer, engagement officer and social media officer, who are shared across clusters of committees.

Unlike the House of Commons, select committees in the House of Lords do not shadow individual Government departments. Instead, committees in the House of Lords are cross-cutting, and aim to complement, not replicate, the work done by House of Commons committees. There are seven permanent (also known as 'sessional') Lords committees:

- European Union (which has five sub-committees focusing on different aspects of the Brexit process)
- Science and Technology
- Economic Affairs
- Communications and Digital
- Constitution
- International Relations and Defence
- Public Services.

In addition to the sessional committees, the House of Lords normally appoints four 'special inquiry' committees each year, the topics for which are proposed by members of the House. As in the Commons, the Lords has several committees focused on the administration and processes of the House, and legislative scrutiny committees.

Committees in the House of Lords have smaller secretariats than in the House of Commons; each has a clerk, a policy analyst (equivalent to a committee specialist in the Commons) and a committee assistant. Lords committees tend to work on only one major inquiry at a time. Given their cross-cutting remits, these inquiries are often 'deep dives' into wide-ranging policy areas, and can lend themselves to longer timeframes than Commons inquiries.

4.1.2. How select committees use research

In committees, research is used to help Parliamentarians and staff to identify inquiry topics, shape the focus of inquiries, inform questioning of witnesses, and underpin recommendations.

The views and recommendations of experts are considered extensively when select committees conduct inquiries, via both written and oral evidence.

Committees sometimes appoint specialist advisers to particular inquiries. These are experts (often academics) on the topic of the inquiry, who are on hand to provide expert advice to the committee. This can include advising on questions for the Committee to ask witnesses in oral evidence sessions, and briefing the committee.

4.1.3. How you could work with a select committee in the House of Commons or House of Lords

4.1.3.1. How to pick which select committee/ unit

You will need to choose one select committee to apply to conduct your fellowship in, either in the House of Commons or the House of Lords, unless you are applying to conduct your project with one of the joint committees comprised of members of both Houses (or you are applying for a fellowship in the House of Commons Scrutiny Unit or International Affairs Unit, in which case please list one of these as your proposed Host Office).

A useful starting point is to think about which policy area/s your proposed project focuses on. Identify the select committee/s that has responsibility for this policy area – if the policy area falls under the remit of a particular Government department, then look to identify the Commons select committee that shadows this department.

Some projects will focus on issues that cut across different policy areas. Nevertheless, you will still need to apply to work with a specific select committee, so may like to consider why specific committees might be interested in the cross cutting topic, and be sure to articulate this in your application.

If you are applying for a fellowship hosted by a select committee, we strongly encourage you to look at the website of the relevant committee to see what kinds of areas they work on.

4.1.3.2 Making a project relevant to a select committee

Applications will have a higher chance of progressing where they align with the committee's interests and areas of work.

[You can find out more about committees on the webpage here](#), from where you can find the webpages of individual committees. You may wish to use this information to inform your awareness of the areas the committee has focused on before, bearing in mind that fellowships will begin in 2021, and the committees' work programmes and priorities are likely to evolve and may change between now and then. You might want to look at former and current inquiries run by the select committee to see if any overlap with your project and, where available, look at the reports from that inquiry to find out what issues the committee identified as important/questions going forwards, if relevant.

Select committees are especially responsive to current affairs which means that their priorities can change at short notice. Committees will seek to accommodate fellows' projects throughout any such changes that may take place during a fellowship, but this may not always be possible, and fellows placed within committees may need to show flexibility in their projects, and be willing to adjust or re-focus their projects based on the priorities and/or needs of the committee.

4.1.3.3 *Some ideas for projects working with a select committee*

Here are a few ideas for potential projects you could propose to do with select committees; please note that this list is not exhaustive:

- Drawing on your **research expertise** in an area relevant to the work that the committee does (for example proposing to conduct scoping or horizon-scanning activities, or to produce briefing material or conduct primary research on a timely and relevant research topic relevant to the work of the committee, which builds on their wider work and priorities)
- Using your **skills and methodological expertise** to conduct a project relating to the committee's ways of working (for example, suggesting different approaches to help the committee gain evidence from more diverse sources, or using your skills in evidence synthesis and analysis to analyse evidence submitted to committees to support inquiries the committee is running)
- **Studying** an aspect of a committee within the Committee Office, or how a committee shares learning with other committees, and how it incorporates learning from those teams into its own work (for example, looking at the ways in which committees with shared interests work and share information, and making suggestions to maximise efficiency and shared learning)

The Scrutiny Unit within the House of Commons Committee Office is particularly interested in projects in the following areas:

- a) How central Government works and the scrutiny relationship between Government and Parliament;
- b) The effectiveness and impact of select committees; and
- c) Planning teaching and learning for parliamentary staff on either topic a) or b)

4.2 House of Commons and House of Lords Libraries

4.2.1 Functions and work

The [House of Commons](#) and [House of Lords](#) Libraries provide specialist, impartial information and briefings for MPs, Peers, their staff, committees and staff of the Houses. They produce a wide range of briefing materials, which tends to be in response to questions from Members, business in each House, or current affairs. Enquiries are handled on a confidential basis, but [all briefings are available to the public online](#).

The [House of Commons Library](#) provides politically impartial and fact-checked policy analysis and statistical research for MPs and their staff. Research resources they produce include:

- [Research briefings](#): In-depth analysis of bills, legislation, policy and topical issues
- [Insights](#): Quick-read articles on current affairs
- [Local data](#): Interactive dashboards for constituency and local-level data
- [Constituency caseworker articles](#): FAQs and short explainers to help MPs with casework
- [Podcasts](#): Commons Library researchers talk policy in 20-minute episodes

The House of Commons Library is divided into Research teams and Research and

Information teams. There are eight research teams, which each focus on a broad area of policy:

- Business and Transport Section
- Economic Policy and Statistics Section
- Home Affairs Section
- International Affairs and Defence Section
- Parliament and Constitution Centre
- Science and Environment Section
- Social and General Statistics Section
- Social Policy Section

Each section is made up of around ten subject specialists, whose roles include senior library clerks, library clerks, research analysts and/or library researchers. Sections also have a head of section. All members of staff within a section have further sub-specialisms. Subject specialists have two main tasks: researching and writing briefing materials on policy areas within their remit, and providing information as requested by Members.

More information on the Research and Information teams (Library Services and the Service Development Group) can be found in section 4.2.3.

The [House of Lords Library](#) provides impartial research and information services to Members of the House of Lords, their staff and the staff of the House. It has around 45 staff, most of whom are organised in three main teams that work closely together: Research, Information Management and Service Delivery.

The Research team in the House of Lords Library comprises around 15 generalist researchers, whose key work includes producing bespoke responses to enquiries from individual Members and authoring impartial, authoritative and timely [research briefings](#) (primarily for business taken in the chamber or on the House itself) and shorter [In Focus blog pieces](#) on topical issues. Members of the team also produce the Current Affairs Digest, a monthly roundup of specialised press, blog and journal articles on a variety of subjects. The Information Management team manages the Library's extensive collection of hard copy and electronic resources, while the Service Delivery team oversees the Library's customer service points and manages the Library's reference enquiry and book loan services.

4.2.2 How Libraries use research

Staff in both Libraries use a wide range of research to produce briefing materials as outlined above. This can include primary and secondary research outputs utilising a wide range of research methodologies. Researchers will use their professional discretion to judge which material may be most appropriate for use in briefing in any given case, but this will be informed by the requirement that any Library-produced material must be impartial, authoritative and timely. Briefings are often produced at pace (sometimes in the course of a matter of hours). As a result, material that is readily accessible from recognised and/or reputable sources is more likely to be used in such work. Less time-sensitive briefing pieces may be informed by less readily-available material. Both Libraries will also signpost research material for Members as further reading where relevant. Find out more about how the Libraries use research in this [POST report](#).

4.2.3 How you can work with the House of Commons or House of Lords Library

Applicants to the Fellowship programme will need to apply to work within either the House of Commons or House of Lords Library. If you are applying for a fellowship within one of the Libraries we strongly encourage you to look at the Library's webpages ([here for the House of Commons Library](#) and [here for the House of Lords Library](#)) to familiarise yourself with its structure, ways of working and outputs.

4.2.3.1 Fellowships in the House of Commons Library

Applicants can apply to various parts of the House of Commons Library: Research (the teams that oversee briefings and research enquiries), Service Development (the team that oversee data science and customer service) and Library Services (the team that oversees traditional library functions).

Research

The Research team is divided into sections covering broad policy areas. Applicants will need to apply to a specific section.

Service Development Group

The Service Development Group includes strategy planning and business management functions for the whole of Research and Information (the team within Parliament which provides services including online subscriptions, procedures for Freedom of Information and the Data Protection Act, and research by the Commons Library and POST, to Members, Parliament and the public). This includes work on customer service and cultural change. In addition, the group includes a data science function and the Indexing and Data Management Section who maintain and enhance parliamentary procedural data.

Library Services

Library Services provides a range of services for MPs, their staff and the staff of the House. These include enquiry support, training and events, and access to online and physical resources.

Library Services' core collection of parliamentary material, official publications, pamphlets, reference works, books, journals and digital material is focused on the parliamentary needs of Members and their staff, and the business needs of House of Commons Library staff. The Palace of Westminster Restoration and Renewal Programme (R&R) will bring major change to Parliament, including the Library; reductions to the Library's front of house footprint and collection storage capacity mean Parliament needs to transform these services to make best use of the new spaces. This also gives the Library a rare opportunity to undertake a comprehensive review of all of the services that it provides, the needs of its users and opportunities to improve public access to its unique collections.

4.2.3.2 Fellowships in the House of Lords Library

Fellows in the House of Lords Library could be based in Research (the team that oversee briefings and research enquiries), Service Delivery (those who oversee customer service and reference enquiries) or Information Management (who oversee traditional library functions). The Library is open to facilitating projects that may focus on one area of the Library's work; the impact of the Library as a whole; or the work and impact of the House of Lords itself.

4.2.3.3 Some ideas for projects in the House of Commons or House of Lords Library

Here are a few ideas for the potential kinds of projects you could propose to do with the House of Commons or House of Lords Library; please note that this list is not exhaustive:

- Drawing on your **research expertise** to support one of the Libraries to produce research briefings on topics of interest in specific policy areas (through proposing to produce impartial and in-depth briefing material on topics the Library provides briefings on)
- Using your **skills and methodological expertise** to conduct a project relating to one of the Library's ways of working (for example, suggesting different approaches to help the Library process and respond to the bespoke requests for research they receive from Members and their staff)
- **Studying** an aspect of Library as a whole (for example, looking at the ways in which the sections/ teams of the Library work and share information and making suggestions to enhance products or maximise efficiency and shared learning)
- Conducting a project to support the Library in **expanding its academic networks** (for example, considering how academic expertise and research evidence can most efficiently feed into the Library's work)

The House of Commons Library is particularly interested in projects in the following areas:

- The Library Services Team is interested in an ethnographic or UX review of MPs' needs; in particular, their use of the Library space and their information seeking behaviours.
- Related to the above, the Library Services Team is also interested in the information-seeking behaviours of the Library research staff and those of colleagues in the House of Commons Chamber & Committees teams, and measuring the impact of training interventions.
- The Library Resources Section within Library Services is interested in exploring alternative provision of its archive of parliamentary material for the benefit of internal and external users. The Library Resources Section has responsibility for the House of Commons Library's collection of parliamentary and non-parliamentary, hard copy and digital resources, and the work associated with managing this collection from acquisition through to disposal.
- The Research Information Service within Library Services is interested in the role that academic libraries can play in aiding knowledge exchange between academics and House of Commons research staff.

The House of Lords Library is particularly interested in projects in the following areas:

- Evaluating the Library's impact
- User experience research and design

4.3 Parliamentary Office of Science and Technology (POST) and the Knowledge Exchange Unit (KEU)

4.3.1 Function and work

POST, is a bicameral body that bridges research and policy. With more than 30 years of experience in sourcing reliable and up-to-date research evidence for the UK Parliament, POST is one of the first bodies of its kind in the world.

POST [produces impartial and peer-reviewed briefings](#), designed to make scientific research accessible to the UK Parliament. The briefings come in the form of POSTnotes and POSTbriefs. Timely and forward thinking, they cover the areas of biology and health, energy and environment, physical sciences and computing, and social sciences.

Beyond that, POST:

- [Organises parliamentary horizon scanning activities.](#)
- Offers a range of services to select committees.
- [Runs fellowship schemes for PhD students and academics.](#)
- [Holds seminars and events for UK Parliament and the public.](#)
- [Develops best practice with legislatures across the globe and supports foreign research advisory bodies.](#)
- Facilitates knowledge exchange between UK Parliament and research communities.

The Knowledge Exchange Unit (KEU) is based within POST. The KEU supports the exchange of information and expertise between researchers and Parliament. It does this through:

- Being a first point of contact for any researcher wishing to work with or find out more about UK Parliament, and a first point of contact for any member of parliamentary staff wishing to engage with researchers.
- Training for researchers and those working in knowledge mobilisation.
- A @UKParl_Research Twitter feed, bringing together opportunities, information and advice for researchers, and a platform to interact with teams across UK Parliament.
- Producing online content and resources about why and how to engage with UK Parliament.
- Working with Research England on Research Excellence Framework (REF) and Knowledge Exchange Framework (KEF), to ensure understanding of knowledge exchange and impact in legislatures.

4.3.2 How POST and the KEU use research

POST's key role is to support and advance the use of research evidence in parliamentary debate and scrutiny. POST uses research and engages with experts primarily in the production of POSTnotes and POSTbriefs. [POSTnotes](#) are comprehensive, impartial four-page briefings on topics likely to come onto the parliamentary agenda in the coming months. They review the current research landscape and draw together different stakeholder perspectives. To produce POSTnotes, POST advisers and PhD fellows consult with relevant experts and stakeholders to improve and check their understanding of the topic and identify relevant research. POSTnotes also undergo rigorous internal and external peer review.

[POSTbriefs](#) are dynamic and strategic evidence syntheses. They are produced rapidly in response to major developments in current affairs, select committee inquiries, or in

support of Library work. POSTbrief production focuses on summarising the available research literature.

POST conducts Horizon Scanning activities, to identify and highlight to Parliament topics that are likely to be important over the next 2 years and beyond. [Its 2019 Horizon Scanning can be found here.](#)

POST also brings together Parliamentarians and their staff, parliamentary staff, experts and external stakeholders for events to talk about areas of research of parliamentary relevance.

POST works with other parts of Parliament (such as select committees, Libraries and Members' researchers) to build capacity in sourcing, understanding and appraising research.

All POST advisers closely monitor the research landscape on an ongoing basis, to identify topics for POSTnotes and POSTbriefs. Topics may also be suggested by researchers and experts.

The Knowledge Exchange Unit draws on research evidence to strengthen its understanding of knowledge exchange and impact, and to inform its work, including determination of priorities, activities and methodologies. It also works with researchers to critically reflect on its ways of working, including to analyse the effectiveness of its knowledge exchange activities.

4.3.3 How you could work with POST

If you are applying for a fellowship within POST, we strongly encourage you to look at the [POST website](#) to familiarise yourself with its structure, ways of working and outputs. You will need to specify which section of POST you are applying for a fellowship in.

Here are some ideas for projects you could propose to do with POST; please note that this list is not exhaustive:

- Drawing on your **research expertise** in an area relevant to the work that POST does. For example, proposing briefing materials or primary research on a timely and relevant research topic that Parliamentarians would benefit from being informed on.
- Using your **skills and methodological expertise** to conduct a project relating to POST's ways of working or the services it provides. For example, studying an aspect of POST's work and drawing on your skills to propose and trial new ways of working.
- **Studying** an aspect of POST. For example, studying the evolution of POST's work over the years, or its role in informing parliamentary scrutiny.

POST is particularly interested in projects in the following areas:

- How POST can better monitor and evaluate its impact
- How POST can expand and diversify its networks

4.3.4 How you can work with the Knowledge Exchange Unit (KEU) within POST

If you are applying for a fellowship within the Knowledge Exchange Unit, we strongly

encourage you to look at the [webpages of the KEU](#) to familiarise yourself with its structure, ways of working and outputs.

Here are a few ideas for the potential kinds of projects you could propose to do with the KEU; please note that this list is not exhaustive:

- Drawing on your **professional experience** in an area relevant to the work that the KEU does. For example, proposing, conducting or contributing to KE activities between the research community and Parliament.
- Using your **skills and methodological expertise** to conduct a project relating to the KEU's ways of working or the services it provides. For example, studying an aspect of the KEU's work and drawing on your skills to propose and trial new ways of working.
- Conducting **research** of interest/relevance to the KEU
- Conducting a project to support the KEU in **expanding and diversifying its networks**

The KEU is particularly interested in projects in the following areas:

- The use of research in – or its impact on – Parliament. This includes research made available to Parliament by different parliamentary offices, and research that feeds in in other ways.
- Proposals and delivery of diversity initiatives, including suggesting and piloting projects to increase diverse researcher engagement with the KEU and Parliament more widely. This could be in terms of demographic background, institutional background, academic background and career stage.
- Evaluating the impact of the KEU's work. This includes project proposals around how the KEU can further the impact of its work through monitoring and evaluation.

4.4 Education and Engagement Team, within 'Participation'

4.4.1. Function and work

'Participation' seeks to open up Parliament to the public and strengthen connections between the two. Participation delivers the public engagement objectives of both Houses of Parliament through a focus on achieving increased relevance and understanding of Parliament, active and engaged citizens who are empowered to have a voice, a UK wide presence, and increased evidence of impact. It does this through engaging with communities and audiences across the UK.

The Education and Engagement team within Participation contributes to delivering the public engagement objectives of UK Parliament through working with people, schools and communities across the United Kingdom. More specifically, this team raises awareness of the work, processes and relevance of Parliament through a nationwide programme of events and activities including:

- Running a range of educational programmes and activities, and supporting Members

of both Houses of Parliament in their work with young people

- Demonstrating how the UK Parliament affects people's day to day lives
- Exploring how the UK Parliament works as a vehicle for change and equipping people to campaign effectively
- Engaging with people who the UK Parliament has not yet reached
- Adding value to the business of the UK Parliament by diversifying the range of people who engage and participate

4.4.2. How the Education and Engagement team uses research

The Education and Engagement team sees research playing a role in helping it to develop its ways of working; to work towards its aims of increasing public understanding of, and engagement with, UK Parliament.

The Education and Engagement team recently received research looking at the following:

- How digital tools can support the public's engagement with select committee inquiries
- Barriers to engagement on attending select committee engagement events
- Teachers' use of online continuous professional development and what lessons it can learn in developing its own online CPD offer

4.4.3. How you can work with the Education and Engagement team

If you are applying for a fellowship within the [Education and Engagement team](#) we strongly encourage you to look at its webpages to familiarise yourself with its structure, ways of working and outputs.

The Education and Engagement team would like to engage more with research to help improve its understanding of its audiences and how best engage with them, and would like to collaborate with researchers to generate practical and actionable recommendations. Researchers could bring expertise in virtual learning to support the team to develop its suite of online resources, or expertise in public engagement to suggest new approaches the team might take in its work, or suggest approaches to further diversify the range of people who engage and participate with Parliament.

Here are a few ideas for the potential kinds of projects you could propose to do with the Education and Engagement team; please note that this list is not exhaustive:

- Drawing on your **research expertise** in an area relevant to the work that Education and Engagement does (for example proposing to conduct primary research relating to engagement of a specific sector of society, or proposing a project to operationalise research insights in public/citizen engagement, or working with groups (for example, schoolchildren).
- Using your **skills and methodological expertise** to conduct a project relating to Education and Engagement's ways of working or the services it provides (for example, bringing insights in remote learning to the Education and Engagement team and suggesting new and innovative ways in which the team can develop its digital offer).
- **Studying** an aspect of the way that the Education and Engagement team works (for example, studying specific projects or activities. This could include making

suggestions for how to enhance them to maximise impact. Examples might be conducting a study of the impact of the team's teacher training programme, or a project looking into the long-term benefits of engaging with Education and Engagement, particularly around attitude and behavior change.

The Education and Engagement team is particularly interested in projects in the following areas:

- Welsh language and democratic engagement
- Devolution
- The use of digital resources for learning, including an analysis of the impact of different kinds of digital learning across stakeholder groups
- Their target audiences and democracy, including: barriers to engagement (beyond engagement at events); long-term outcomes of engagement; impact of activities with specific audiences undertaken by the team

4.5. Heritage Collections Team: Parliamentary Art Collection

4.5.1. Function and work

The Heritage Collections Team comprises the [Parliamentary Art Collection](#), the Historic Furniture and Decorative Arts Collection, and the Architectural Fabric Collection. The team looks after, develops and raises awareness of these internationally significant collections, which are managed by an on-site team of professional staff who serve both the House of Commons and House of Lords. The team is responsible for providing outstanding care and collections management such as conservation, preservation, storage, acquisitions, loans, research, interpretation and engagement.

The Parliamentary Art Collection is owned jointly by the House of Commons and the House of Lords and is displayed throughout the buildings of the Parliamentary Estate. It is a national collection which illustrates the history of Parliament and British politics over the centuries. There are approximately 9000 works in the permanent Collection, including wall paintings, easel paintings, photographs, works on paper, sculpture, textiles, medals and political memorabilia.

The earliest works of art in the Collection relate to the medieval Palace of Westminster and are 14th century statues of Kings in the Gothic style. During the mid-19th Century many of the larger works were commissioned as part of the building of the new Palace of Westminster and these remain central to the Collection. Areas of particular strength are the topographical works; these chart the evolution of the buildings through the 17th, 18th and early 19th centuries, including the dramatic fire of 1834, the construction of the New Palace of Westminster, the WWII bombing and recent additions to the Parliamentary Estate including Portcullis House. Portraiture is also a central strand of the collection, and still an active area of collecting and commissioning.

The Parliamentary Art Collection is unique in its existence in that it is a working collection which continues to be displayed throughout the busy working interiors of the Palace and the Estate, adding to and reflecting communal values, as well as historical significance. The history of the location of each artwork adds to their aesthetic and historical values, and the collections are inextricably linked to the function and form of their environment. As well as their artistic, historic and functional qualities, the Parliamentary Art Collection plays a significant role in the documentation of the history of Parliament, the Parliamentary Estate and British politics and democracy. The historic, aesthetic, communal and evidential values

of the Parliamentary Art Collection mean it is a significant tool to engage and inspire institutional and external audiences, both within the building, and through outreach and digital channels.

The House of Lords Works of Art Panel and House of Commons Works of Art Committee, supported by a team of professional curatorial staff, have pursued active acquisition policies and, since 1990, have expanded the Contemporary Collection of works, which span all collecting areas.

For further information, see:

- [Art in Parliament](#)
- [Art UK: Parliamentary Art Collection](#)
- [Speaker's Advisory Committee on Works of Art](#)
- [Lord Speaker's Advisory Panel on Works of Art](#)

4.5.2. How the Heritage Collections Team: Parliamentary Art Collection uses research

Academic research brings valuable understanding not only to the aesthetic and historical value of the artworks but their evidential and communal value in terms of the history and use of the Palace and the work of Parliament.

The Heritage Collections team: [Parliamentary Art Collection](#) has a strong history of support and working with academics both in the provision of research access and in joint project such as exhibitions and displays. In recent years this has included [a collaborative PhD with the University of Nottingham](#) and the collaboration with the University of York [on the St Stephen's Chapel project](#), which led to a project which delivered [an audio landscape](#) for Parliament's 2018 ['Voice and Vote' exhibition](#).

The team continue to be interested in opportunities to collaborate with academics to increase knowledge and understanding of the Parliamentary Art Collection and provide new and exciting ways to engage the public with the work of Parliament.

4.5.3. How you can work with the Heritage Collections Team: Parliamentary Art Collection

If you are applying for a fellowship within the Heritage Collections Team: Parliamentary Art Collection, we strongly encourage you to look at the [webpages of the Heritage Collections Team](#) and [Parliamentary Art Collection](#) to familiarise yourself with the structure, ways of working and outputs of the team. Please note, it is only the Parliamentary Art Collection that is participating in the 2020 open call.

Research would be supported by the curatorial team; research sources would include Parliamentary Archives, The National Archives (WORK series particularly), access to the artworks and their (paper) history files where possible (subject to Covid-19 restrictions) along with the R J B Walker 'Catalogue of Paintings, Drawings, Sculpture and Engravings of the Palace of Westminster (1976)' volumes and other catalogue information.

Here are a few ideas for the potential kinds of projects you could propose to do with the Heritage Collections Team: Parliamentary Art Collection; please note that this list is not exhaustive:

- Drawing on your **research expertise** in an area relevant to the work that the Heritage Collections Team: Parliamentary Art Collection team do (for example studying part of the collection, or its evolution over time, the history of collecting methodologies and display, or the relation of the artworks to politics, policy or democracy)
- Drawing on your **expertise** to conduct a project relating to interpretation and engagement with the Parliamentary Art Collection (which might include both study and proposal and delivery of initiatives and activities)

The Heritage Collections Team: Parliamentary Art Collection is particularly interested in projects in the following areas:

- Work that investigates history of management of the Collection and how this has impacted collecting;
- The role of the artworks in terms of audiences' reception (both internal and external audiences)
- Research into particular areas of collecting - portraiture, topography, cartoons etc,

4.6. CPA-UK (Commonwealth Parliamentary Association UK Branch)

4.6.1. Function and work

The [CPA-UK](#) (Commonwealth Parliamentary Association UK Branch) works to support and strengthen parliamentary democracy across the Commonwealth.

The CPA-UK works with over 60 countries and jurisdictions across the Commonwealth. Using an approach of peer to peer learning, it designs bespoke programmes and projects between Parliamentarians and staff in the UK and other Commonwealth Parliaments to enable and facilitate knowledge-sharing and development of good-practice. These programmes are intended to achieve improved parliamentary oversight, scrutiny and representation.

4.6.2 How CPA-UK uses research

The CPA-UK uses research to reflect on their past work and identify strengths and weakness in their approaches and examine how they can improve their work. They also integrate expert advice into their Parliamentary Strengthening programmes across their organisation and link Commonwealth members of Parliament.

Currently the CPA UK has two Academic Fellows, one is looking in depth at the National Assembly of The Gambia and the CPA-UK's work supporting them since the Democratic Transition in 2017. The second is reviewing the CPA-UK's work on Modern Slavery and different legislation across the Commonwealth that the CPA-UK has supported.

4.6.3 How you can work with the CPA-UK

If you are applying for a fellowship within the CPA-UK ([Commonwealth Parliamentary Association UK Branch](#)) we strongly encourage you to look at its webpages to familiarise yourself with its structure, ways of working and outputs.

Here are a few ideas for the potential kinds of projects you could propose to do with the

CPA-UK; please note that this list is not exhaustive:

- Drawing on your **research expertise** in an area relevant to the work that the CPA-UK does (for example proposing to produce research insights around one or more of the priority themes that guide their work - Public Accounts Committees, including Public Financial Management; Modern Slavery; Security; Women in Parliament; Trade).
- Using your **skills and methodological expertise** to conduct a project relating to the CPA-UK's ways of working or the services it provides (for example, studying some of the CPA-UK's activities or working methods and drawing on your skills to propose and trial new ways of working).
- **Studying** an aspect of the CPA-UK (for example, studying the evolution of the CPA-UK's work over the years, or including evaluating the impact of activities and outputs)

The CPA-UK is particularly interested in projects in the following areas:

- The role of election monitoring in bringing about electoral reform in small jurisdictions (since 2011, CPA-UK has conducted 11 Election Observation Missions in Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies)
- Comparative approaches in the Commonwealth of parliamentary scrutiny of trade agreements
- Measuring impact of Parliamentary Strengthening activities

5. Previous Open Call parliamentary academic fellowships

We strongly encourage applicants to the scheme to look over the case studies from alumni of the pilot scheme included in the [evaluation linked here](#), including many from the Open Call. The case studies include information on the activities, outputs and impacts of those projects. Other Open Call fellowships conducted as part of the scheme included projects on the topics of: Role of parliament in shaping legislation; Opportunities and risks for the UK fisheries sector; Public engagement and parliament: Mini-publics; Food waste; Impact of healthcare apps in nudging behaviour.