



Data Fellowship Project 2025

The Centre for Local Economic Strategies - Research and Analysis

Organisation and Team

CLES - Research and Analysis

Application Criteria

Essential:

- Proficiency in the analysis of quantitative data arising from multiple sources of insight.
- Advanced Microsoft Excel skills.

Desirable:

- An interest in putting theory into practice, and applying learning to a real-world problem.
- An interest in regional and local governance and policy-making.
- Knowledge of data analytics and visualization tools such as SQL, R, Python, Power BI.

Project Outline

The fellowship that offers insight into the operations of an independent think and do tank specialising in policy, insight, transformation, and strategy.

This will involve addressing issues of national, regional, and local importance. The fellow will contribute to a project aimed at generating tangible outcomes. The specific project will be tailored to the fellow's skills and interests. General tasks may include: Formulating a precise research question with accessible data; Collaborating with the CLES team to pinpoint pertinent data sources and enhance existing literature reviews; Conducting primary and secondary research to compile relevant datasets; Analysing collected data to derive insights and conclusions.

Types of data analysis at CLES: Descriptive statistics (e.g. wealth and income inequalities); Mapping the economy (e.g. regional GVA, employment); Spend analysis (e.g. local authority procurement spend); Dashboards (e.g. showing wealth inequality by region)

Data sources: Anchor data (e.g. NHS Trusts, local/combined authorities); Firm level data (e.g. SMEs, social enterprises) ; ONS – e.g., employment statistics



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Practical Considerations

- the fellow would have the flexibility to work remotely for a portion of the week. However, they would be required to attend the office for a minimum of 2 days per week.
- As CLES operates on a four-day workweek from Monday to Thursday, with team members working 30 hours, the fellow would be expected to adhere to this format.

Support and Training

The fellow will be allocated a dedicated line manager or mentor who will provide ongoing guidance, support, and feedback throughout their fellowship. This individual will serve as a reliable point of contact for addressing questions, concerns, and professional development needs.

CLES will ensure the fellow's full integration into the team dynamics by including them in relevant meetings, discussions, and events.

The fellow will be actively encouraged to participate in both internal and external events relevant to their role and interests. Additionally, they will have continued access to CLES training sessions conducted throughout the fellowship period

Selection Method

Interviews will be held in person at The University of Manchester

Supporting Information

In order for applicants to familiarise themselves with CLES, we recommend reviewing the following publications. While comprehensive reading is not required, we encourage applicants to peruse the list ahead of the interview:

On community wealth building:

- [The story in Preston](#)
- [The history of CWB more generally](#)
- [Impact](#)
- [CWB in Scotland](#)

For some short snappy opinion pieces:

- [Economic growth](#)
- [Local economic change](#)
- [Levelling-up](#)
- [Community power](#)

Longer pieces:

- [A light in the dark](#)
- [Healthy places](#)
- [A roadmap to decarbonisation](#)