**Embedded academic supporting the GO-Science COVID-19 Response Team (Behaviours team)**

Background

The role of the Government Chief Scientific Adviser (GCSA), Sir Patrick Vallance, is to advise the Prime Minister and Cabinet on all science and technology issues. GCSA is supported by the Government Office for Science (GO-Science) who coordinate across Government, industry and academia. We are a new and high-profile area of GO-Science set up to coordinate and deliver the central science advice needed to support the Government’s ongoing response to COVID-19.

We are looking for highly motivated individuals who want to help us deliver the best possible science advice, and gain experience and insight into the mechanics and role of science advice and policy in government. We also provide scientific support to HMG in planning and preparedness for major national risks and emergencies, through the provision of the secretariat function for the Scientific Advisory Group for Emergencies (SAGE). SAGE exists to provide timely, independent, high quality, consensus-based science advice to the PM, COBR, departments and agencies. Details of SAGE structures can be found at https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/scientific-advisory-group-for-emergencies

The COVID-19-SAGE is co-chaired by GCSA with the Chief Medical Officer, and work is coordinated and delivered by the GO-Science COVID-19 Teams. The COVID-19 Evidence and Advice area is responsible for providing rapid and accurate information to the GO-Science COVID-19 response and relevant stakeholders.

**Job Description (Behaviours team)**

The Independent Scientific Pandemic Insights Group on Behaviours (SPI-B) provides independent, expert behavioural science advice to the Scientific Advisory Group for Emergencies (SAGE).

We are looking to find an early career academic/researcher to support the work of the SPI-B and GO-Science, as an embedded academic within the GO-Science Behaviours team, a group of Civil Servants providing the secretariat function to SPI-B.

Key responsibilities will include:

* Providing technical support to the SAGE Behavioural Science team;
* Supporting SPI-B in the development of its advice to SAGE and cross—Government stakeholders by providing technical support to the Secretariat and conducting rapid literature reviews to support SPI-B’s work;
* Translating discussions within the group into consensus statements and ensuring that the group’s advice to SAGE contains relevant references;
* Drafting summaries of findings and initial advice for the group’s consideration.

Potential applicants should have a background in Social and/or Behavioural Science. An ability to understand and accurately summarise scientific research from a wide range of disciplines is essential, including (but not limited to):

* Behavioural Psychology
* Health Psychology
* Behaviour Change
* Behavioural Economics
* Anthropology
* Sociology

In addition, applicants should have an interest in understanding how Government policy is developed and informed by scientific advice.

**Essential skills/experience:**

* Postdoctoral level or above in relevant topic.
* Excellent written and oral communication skills to audiences at all levels and seniorities, including non-technical policy and operational stakeholders.
* Ability to effectively translate and communicate scientific evidence for application in real world settings, particularly policy development.
* Quickly and accurately draw conclusions from wide range of information sources and disciplines and report findings succinctly.
* Ability to work cooperatively within a team as well as independently and proactively.

**Desirable skills/experience:**

* Experience working with, or in policy or governmental organisations.
* Science communication: systematic reviews, rapid evidence synthesis, science writing

We are constantly looking to diversify our workforce to give us the broadest range of perspectives possible. We will ensure that individuals with disabilities are provided reasonable adjustments to participate in the job application or interview process, to perform essential job functions, and to receive other benefits of employment. Please contact us to request any adjustments needed. This role will be carried out remote working; there is no need to be located in London.   
  
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