

Thematic Research Leads 2027 – 2029: Application questions

The deadline to apply is 11.55pm, Sunday 9 August 2026.

Please consult the Guidance Notes BEFORE applying for the role ([available here](#)), and refer to the Person Specification information available on the recruitment portal.

At initial, written application stage, you will be assessed against four criteria.

Selection criterion 1: Expertise

We will assess the extent to which you meet this criterion through your anonymous three-page CV.

Where you describe your research expertise, the fit with the thematic policy area (both your specialist and broad knowledge) should be made apparent. You should also highlight your relevant knowledge exchange, policy and engagement activities as well as your work with networks. You should upload the anonymised CV to the recruitment portal and submit it along with your application.

Selection criterion 1: Expertise

Evidence of significant expertise in the portfolio area, including: a) deep knowledge of one area within the portfolio, b) broad knowledge of key research and experts across the portfolio, or strong evidence of the ability to quickly get up to speed on relevant research and experts across the portfolio, c) knowledge of the policy landscape in relation to the portfolio, and d) knowledge exchange and policy engagement experience, including connections with relevant networks.

Selection criterion 3: Resilience

We will assess the extent to which you meet this criterion through your answer to the following question (max 500 words):

Please describe a time where you had to manage multiple projects simultaneously, explaining how you did it and what you learned through it that will help you in the future.

Selection criterion 3: Resilience

Ability to: a) manage quickly shifting priorities, working at pace, b), manage a demanding workload with competing priorities, and c) manage ambiguity.

Selection criterion 5: Teamwork

We will assess the extent to which you meet this criterion through your answer to the following question (max 500 words):

Please describe a time when you had to pivot your work and re-prioritise to support delivery of team or organisational goals, whilst also managing to meet commitments around your own work.

Selection criterion 5: Teamwork

Ability to: a) deliver work collaboratively and inclusively, contributing to shared goals and a positive team culture, b) communicate effectively with colleagues and parliamentary stakeholders, c) and prioritise outcomes for the team or organisation in challenging situations.

Selection criterion 7: Proactivity

We will assess the extent to which you meet this criterion through your answer to the following question (max 500 words):

Please describe a time where you proactively identified a problem on the horizon, or an opportunity, which you then acted upon using resourcefulness, efficiency, and innovation.

Selection criterion 7: Proactivity

Ability to: a) take initiative by anticipating needs and problems, then identify effective solutions, b) proactively identify potential opportunities and, being resourceful and courageous, develop plans to capitalise on them, and c) drive innovation; reflecting on observations, knowledge and experience, and responding with practical new ideas.

Through the recruitment portal you will also need to respond to two questions which are NOT assessed. The information we gather from these questions helps us with planning. These questions are listed below.

Your applications to other TRL roles: You may apply for up to three different TRL roles. You should submit separate applications for each role. You should list here the roles you are applying for in order of your preference. This should reflect the order in which you would choose the roles if successful in all your applications.

Conflicts of interest: A conflict of interest is a situation that has the potential to undermine the impartiality that the TRL role requires, due to a clash between the public (parliamentary) interest and your own. Applicants to the TRL role should carefully consider whether any personal, professional, or financial interests could compromise, or appear to compromise, their ability to carry out parliamentary work impartially. If you consider you may have potential conflicts, you should declare these here.