Call for Policy Engagement Projects 2022/23

The University of Reading has received funding from Research England as part of their Policy Support Fund. This funding aims to support universities to link effectively with policy research priorities and opportunities, from the local to the international.

Relevant research activity which might be funded includes:

- New research activity working in partnership with policymakers, particularly to better understand local, regional or national challenges;
- Extending existing research activity;
- Facilitating the use of existing research and the exchange of knowledge between universities and policymakers;
- Activity aimed at improving the dialogue between universities and policymakers;
- Activity and training to better equip academics, including postgraduate researchers and early career researchers, to communicate effectively with policymakers;
- Partnerships and collaborations aimed at supporting evidence-based policy making;
- The exchange of people, e.g. staff secondments, contributing towards professional doctorates in policy, joint PhDs, etc.

Call for proposals

Short applications are invited for eligible projects that address the aims of the scheme as outlined above from all staff at the University, including the Professional Services. Applicants should ensure that their line managers are aware of their application and that they will be able to commit time to the projects as detailed in the proposal. Applications from Research Division Leads to pursue policy relevant division-level initiatives as part of the implementation of the impact strategy are welcome.

Application process

All applications must be made through the online application form. The deadline for applications is the 9th December 2022.

The funding requests per project are expected to be between £3,000 and £20,000. Funds can be used to pay for staff time, travel, consumables and other direct costs. Paying for permanently funded academic staff time will only be considered alongside a supporting statement from their Head of School. The funding cannot be used to support equipment or overheads. Costs should be estimated using a cost calculator available from Research Services (contact a.atkin@reading.ac.uk).

Assessment

Proposals will be assessed against our two essential criteria to determine the eligibility of the proposal:

- supports a public sector policy need
• confidence of delivery by 31st July 2023

If funding requests exceed the available budget, the University Committee for Research and Innovation will select the proposals to be funded based on strategic importance/alignment to current research priorities.

Given the short deadline for the both the application and the funds to be spent, only brief details of projects are required at this stage and successful applicants will be asked to work with staff in Research Services once awarded to ensure that projects meet the aims of the scheme.

Successful projects will be expected to start from January 2023 and activities finished and expenditure processed by the end of the financial year (31st July 2023). Funded projects are required to provide a short final report on the project no later than 31st July 2023.

Queries related to this scheme can be addressed to Anthony Atkin (Senior Impact Development Manager).

10/11/2022