



# APPLY TODAY!

## POLICY ENGAGEMENT TRAINING

Join our interdisciplinary policy engagement training programme, commissioned by the Natural Environment Research Council and the Economic and Social Research Council. It's designed to support and equip environmental, economic and social science researchers at all career stages<sup>1</sup> with the tools and skills to make a demonstrable difference to evidence-informed public policy with their research; to engage effectively with public policy at a range of levels and to translate their research into policy insights and real-world impacts.

The training programme offers a unique learning opportunity:

- **Learn from experts:** Our training leads are renowned experts in policy engagement and research impact. Their expertise ensures that you receive the most current and useful training in policy-related skills and knowledge.
- **Policymaker insights:** Direct interaction with policymakers at all levels, providing real-world understanding and skills.
- **Community:** Join an alumni network for continued support, collaboration, and professional growth post-training.

We are offering two 'live' strands<sup>2</sup> of the training series to enable participation from across the United Kingdom: **Virtual** (eight half-day online sessions; two half-day sessions per module) or **In-person** (four full-day, face-to-face sessions; one full-day session per module). The training will use a 'pick and mix' approach to allow combinations of virtual and in-person modules. Attending the full training course is encouraged, however, you do have the option to pick and choose which modules to attend. You will be provided with access to an online course that complements the live sessions to complete at your own pace.

Module	Virtual (Zoom sessions) <sup>3</sup> 9:30 am to 12:30 pm GMT	In-person sessions 10 am to 4 pm GMT
<b>1</b> How to Strategise, Scope and Plan for Policy Impact	4 and 6 March 2024	4 March 2024 Treforest, Wales
<b>2</b> How to Navigate the Policy Impact Process	12 and 13 March 2024	20 March 2024 Bath, England
<b>3</b> How to Make a Difference in Policy	19 and 21 March 2024	15 April, 2024 Treforest, Wales
<b>4</b> How to Evaluate and Evidence Policy Impact	25 and 26 March 2024	18 April 2024 Aberdeen, Scotland

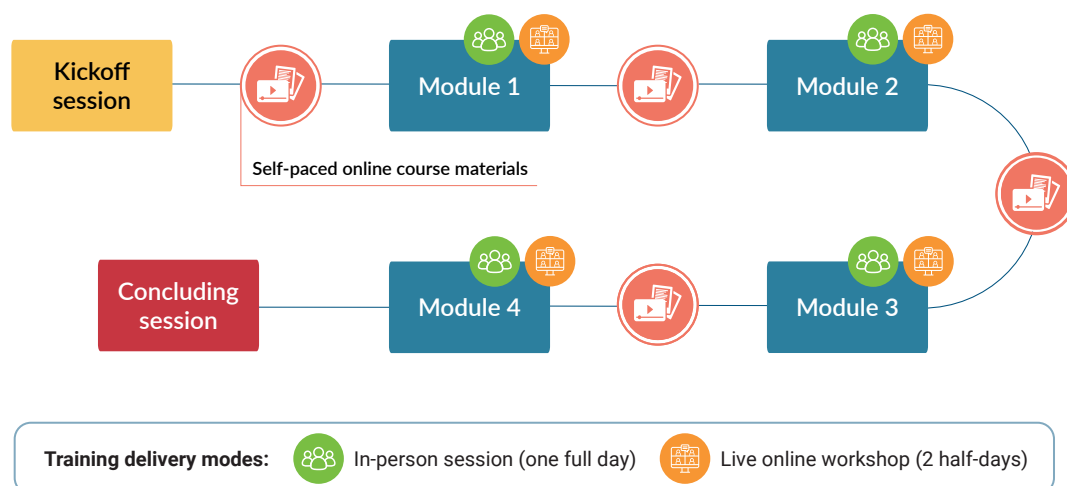
<sup>1</sup> Please note participants must be employed in a postdoctoral or equivalent position at a UKRI funding-eligible research organisation.

<sup>2</sup> Each module for each strand has 50 places available.

<sup>3</sup> Live online sessions will break each module into two half-days to avoid digital fatigue. Participants need to attend both virtual sessions.

There is no cost to participants to attend this training. Travel and subsistence for in-person course participants will be covered by UK Research and Innovation (UKRI), in line with the UKRI travel, subsistence and expenses policy: [shorturl.at/IFQVW](https://shorturl.at/IFQVW)

The programme uses a flipped classroom approach, linking self-paced online materials with live training sessions. This structure allows live sessions to focus on interactive learning and skills development, guided by expert trainers. We will facilitate networking across disciplines and to hear from and meet with a range of guest speakers that represent different areas of the policy ecosystem.



Complete the registration form by **noon on Monday, 19 February 2024** for full consideration to join this training programme. We encourage you to secure your place as soon as possible.

**APPLY TODAY**  
[shorturl.at/diG16](https://shorturl.at/diG16)

For queries, contact: [training@methodsinnovation.org](mailto:training@methodsinnovation.org)

# POLICY ENGAGEMENT TRAINING PROGRAMME OUTLINE

## Module 1: How to Strategise, Scope and Plan for Policy Impact

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By the end of this module, participants will:

- Be clear on their intrinsic motivations for engaging with policy, and capable of strategically aligning with extrinsic incentives for impact from funders and research assessments.
- Be able to articulate realistic policy, evidence and impact objectives.
- Be able to adopt an agile approach to policy engagement as an ongoing, career-long process in which research insights can be adapted to align with 'policy windows' of opportunity, reframing as needed to facilitate uptake.
- Have identified and prioritised the most relevant individuals, teams and organisations from policy networks for engagement based on their relative interest, influence and impact (3i) for at least one project/initiative.
- Each participant will understand how to use 3i insights to guide their policy engagement strategies and roles.
- Have practised risk management techniques for policy impact.

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## Module 2: How to Navigate the Policy Impact Process

By the end of this module participants will:

- Have an understanding of the policy process at different levels of government - including local, regional, national and international.
- Have an ability to identify the points at which direct interventions have the best chance of influencing policy.
- Recognise what counts as evidence in policy-making and how it is used.
- Use their 3i analysis to identify opportunities and challenges of working with intermediaries beyond central government, including NGOs, think-tanks, professional bodies, learned societies, and knowledge brokering organisations.
- Grow awareness of the pressures which policy makers are often under and empathise with their perspective.
- Understand the unique contexts of working with devolved administrations and policymakers in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

## Module 3: How to Make a Difference in Policy

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By the end of this module, participants will:

- Understand how to effectively engage and network with policy influencers in a variety of policy settings, based on insights from the latest interdisciplinary scholarship evidence on research-policy engagement.
- Have an understanding of the benefits and challenges of policy fellowships and secondment opportunities.
- Equip participants with an understanding of some key ingredients to enable successful interdisciplinary policy engagement.
- Have a grasp of the range of practical tools and activities for policy engagement and be able to identify those appropriate to their specific engagement objectives and context.
- Have created their own policy brief, policy infographic, or slide deck.
- Understand and be able to apply good practice principles for giving oral evidence.

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## Module 4: How to Evaluate and Evidence Policy

By the end of this module participants will:

- Clarifying their current policy impact priorities in concrete, measurable terms.
- Developing an evaluation plan.
- Understanding the practical and methodological strengths and limitations of major options for evaluating policy impact.
- Selecting an appropriate method to evaluate policy impact, taking into account personal/professional priorities, existing methodological skills, long-term plans for using the evidence generated, etc.
- Integrating EDI-related measurement in their evaluations.
- Efficiently implementing an impact evaluation, using modern technology.
- Capturing convincing evidence that can be used to demonstrate policy impact for a range of purposes.

