



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 and Economic and Social Science researchers at all career stages¹ 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:** Hearing from policymakers at all levels, providing real-world understanding and skills.
- **Community:** Join an alumni network for continued support, collaboration, and professional growth post-training.

The programme consists of a self-paced online training course and eight-half-day live virtual training sessions (two sessions per module)². Attending the full training course is encouraged, however, you do have the option to pick and choose which modules to attend. Regardless of which modules you choose, you will be provided with access to an online course that complements the live sessions to complete at your own pace.

There is no cost to participants to attend this training.

SCHEDULE

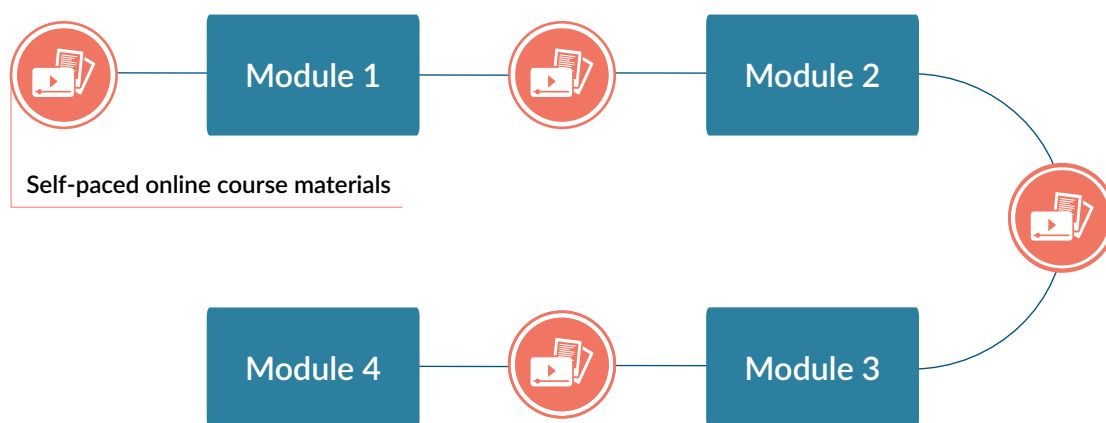
Module	Virtual (Zoom sessions)³ 9:30 am to 12:30 pm (UK time)
1 How to Strategise, Scope and Plan for Policy Impact	20 & 22 January 2025
2 How to Navigate the Policy Impact Process	28 & 30 January 2025
3 How to Make a Difference in Policy	3 & 5 February 2025
4 How to Evaluate and Evidence Policy Impact	10 & 12 February 2025

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

² Space is limited to 50 participants per module.

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

This training follows a flipped classroom pedagogical approach (blended learning) in which participants engage with self-paced online course materials prior to and between online sessions with trainers. This means we can use the live sessions for co-learning activities and discipline-specific skills development facilitated by expert trainers to ensure high levels of engagement and learning.



Complete the registration form by **5pm (UK time) on Wednesday, 4 December 2024** for full consideration to join this training programme.

APPLY TODAY

 shorturl.at/usaot

For queries, contact: training@methodsinnovation.org

POLICY ENGAGEMENT TRAINING PROGRAMME OUTLINE

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

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.
- Be capable of balancing personal and professional demands sustainably to be an effective and reliable policy impact contributor.

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.
- Succinctly articulate the potential value of their own social and environmental science for specific policy processes.

Module 3: How to Make a Difference in Policy

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.

Module 4: How to Evaluate and Evidence Policy Impact

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.

