

# 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.

