

## Overview of training for Evaluation Exchange 2021/22

The Evaluation Exchange training is co-designed and co-delivered between UCL staff and our community partners Compost London and Voluntary Action Camden. Participants are voluntary and community organisations and UCL postgraduate students and early career researchers from across disciplines.

We have a broad outline of what we want to cover in the training and also ask participants what specific topics they want covered. We also invite speakers on particular topics and share sign-posts to key evaluation networks and resources. The three training workshops are delivered over the course of the 6-month Evaluation Exchange programme. As well as the three training workshops, we offer drop-in surgeries and provide 1:1 support and advice ad-hoc when individuals need it.

More information about the Evaluation Exchange is available [here](#).

### Learning objectives:

1. Build connections and form working partnerships and networks between students, researchers, voluntary and community sector organisations and the Evaluation Exchange delivery team (UCL, Compost London and Voluntary Action Camden)
2. Develop understanding and awareness of relevant tools and resources for evaluation and learning
3. Increase confidence to apply skills, experience and knowledge
4. Build understanding of different perspectives, environments and academic and voluntary and community sectors

## Workshop 1:

- i. **Welcome to the Evaluation Exchange: Background and expectations**
- ii. **Values for collaboration**
  - Sharing values, understanding each other and generating team values
- iii. **Why evaluate (and why now)?**
  - What is evaluation and why evaluate?
  - Evaluation -v- research
  - The evaluation cycle
  - Overview of different types of evaluation
  - Pragmatic evaluation and key principles
- iv. **Planning and next steps**

## Workshop 2:

- i. **Reviewing progress and troubleshooting**
- ii. **Evaluation topics (choose from following options)**
  - a) **What is a monitoring and evaluation (M&E) framework and how to create one**

This session will outline what a M&E framework is, and what it (tends to) include; describe the key steps to creating an effective M&E framework; and provide examples.
  - b) **Everyday evaluation and creative methods**

This session will provide examples of evaluation methods that can be used day-to-day. It will help you work through key considerations in selecting practical evaluation methods i.e. participants, evaluation needs, topic, timing.
  - c) **What is a theory of change and how to create one**

This session will outline what a theory of change is and how it links to evaluation practice; provide examples of theories of change and how they are applied; and describe the key steps in developing a theory of change for a programme or project.
  - d) **Social return on investment**

Social return on investment (SROI) is a method for measuring social value or social impact. This session will provide an introductory background to social return on investment as an evaluation approach, giving some examples of where it has been applied in practice and the opportunities and limitations of it as a method.
  - e) **Including user experience in service design**

This session will provide approaches and methods to understand people and include a diversity of voices into design of services; and provide examples of where user experience and expertise has been included in service design.

**f) Stakeholder and community mapping**

This session will describe approaches to build an understanding of a community of interest or stakeholder group. It will outline key steps of profiling and mapping, with examples.

## **Workshop 3:**

**i. Problem sharing and solving**

Participants are asked to share problems they are facing in tackling their evaluation challenge. Topics typically include help with specific evaluation methods, as well as the practical application of approaches in the context of organisations with limited resources and competing demands.

**ii. Final planning and the legacy of the work together**