



Training Programme: Improving Science-based Climate Policy for Flood Risk Management

Cumberland Lodge, Windsor Great Park, 4–6th June 2018

Do you want to:

- **Make your science relevant?**
- **Deliver value to society?**
- **Learn to work with decision-makers?**

In this free residential training retreat UCL is offering climate scientists a unique opportunity to develop understanding, tools and techniques to engage more effectively with policymakers.

Over two-and-a-half-days we will:

- explore the process of co-production and iterative dialogue between climate scientists and those charged with reducing flood risks.
- address barriers to progress such as cultural differences in the perception of risk
- consider the need to take into account human psychology and values in developing effective public policy

Action learning

In particular the training will be dedicated to preparing engagement activities for subsequent testing. You will be asked to commit to a subset of experimental approaches from a menu of options and these will be followed up via an on-line chat-room process. Following the retreat, participants will be invited to an evening event at UCL on July 9 to test approaches on a selection of 15-20 decision/policy-makers drawn from business, environmental organisations, and local and national government.

The final phase of the programme will draw together reflections on the learning process, and to further define actions and techniques enabling participants to adopt the on-going role of active policy decision-support specialists.

How to apply

This programme is open to Early Career researchers and second and final-year PhD students registered at UK universities.

Accommodation, meals and refreshments will be provided as well as **financial support for travel**.

Places on the programme are strictly limited. To apply, please [send an email to k.welch@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:k.welch@ucl.ac.uk) containing:

1. Your research area and / or topics of interest (100 words)
2. A brief statement detailing what you seek to gain from participating (100 words)
3. A brief statement detailing why you should be selected to participate/what you will contribute to the workshop (100 words)
4. Confirmation that you are able to attend the training and follow up events
5. A confirmation letter of support from your project supervisor, line manager or head of department indicating you are able to attend the programme

Closing date for applications: **5.00pm, Monday 21st May**

What you will get

- Two-and-a half days of expert training
- Support for the preparation of co-production activities
- A subsequent opportunity to test your approaches on a selection of 15-20 decision/policy-makers drawn from the water and insurance industries, environmental organisations, and local and national government
- Membership of a network of scientists interested in co-production of policy and decision-making

What we expect from you

- Attendance for the full two-and-a-half days at Cumberland Lodge (overnight residential)
- Continued preparation of co-production planning and preparation: 1-3 days in the 8 weeks following the training sessions and before the co-production event
- Participation in post-event debriefing sessions: 1-2 afternoons for a Skype call
- Participation in the follow up event at UCL on July 9.
- Ongoing working with flood-risk decision specialists to increase society's resilience to flooding

Background

The UK Adaptation Sub-Committee has identified flooding as the greatest risk from climate change for UK businesses and infrastructure. It has recommended that more and better coordinated action is required. To achieve this, there is a need to enhance the training and development of climate scientists to equip them with the tools and capabilities to engage more effectively with decision-makers. This project aims to provide such training for eight early-career climate scientists.

This unique training programme has been developed through the work of the UCL Policy Commission on Communicating Climate Science and will include a range of technology-based learning techniques, also used commercially. The overall package will be tailored and coordinated specifically to provide the necessary understanding, tools and capabilities to engage effectively with decision-makers addressing flood risk. A member of the UK Adaptation Sub-Committee (ASC) will provide input on changing flood risk under climate change and the complexities of flood decision processes involved, based on that part of the Evidence Report to the ASC.

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The **UCL Policy Commission on Communicating Climate Science** is an incubator of projects aiming to:

1. Identify gaps in climate change communication and policy and create targeted interventions with significant impacts.
2. Help break down communication barriers within and between professional communities and the wider public.

The Commission brings together members with a unique skill set and decades-long expertise in all aspects of climate change, from across academic disciplines, policy, business and the media. It is funded by the UCL Grand Challenge for Sustainable Cities and UCL Public Policy.

For more information on the work of the commission visit:
www.ucl.ac.uk/public-policy/projects