

Policy Engagement and Impact Fellowship – Application FAQs

Background

- 1) What's the definition of public policy?

There is no single accepted definition of public policy; much depends on disciplinary perspective, beliefs on who is considered a policy professional, what type of engagement is desired through a particular policy tool. UCL Public Policy has adopted the definition that public policy can be seen as the process by which governments make decisions around how to implement their vision and create real world impact. Informing policy with evidence is part of the process. It is helpful when approaching academic-policy engagement to recognise that in the UK there are three branches of public policy: the Executive (the Prime Minister, his Cabinet and the civil service), the legislature (Parliament) and the judiciary (the legal system).

- 2) Will this Fellowship run annually?

We have every intention of running this Fellowship again next year, however at this stage we cannot confirm as it is subject to budget renewal so we therefore encourage people to apply this year.

Eligibility

- 3) I'm not technically an early career researcher (i.e. I'm more than 7 years beyond my last degree), but my research career has been affected by career interruptions and caring responsibilities, can I still apply?

Yes, people who are at a similar academic stage as an early career researcher are also welcome to apply. For example, you would be eligible to apply if you graduated from your last degree more than 7 years ago, but you have since experienced career interruptions or caring responsibilities.

- 4) Do I have to have completed my PhD in order to apply?

No, you do not need to have completed your PhD in order to apply, current students are also eligible.

- 5) I'm on a student visa or a working visa that will expire before the Fellowship starts so I'd need to apply for an extension. Am I eligible to apply?

No, unfortunately, if you do not have a current and valid visa for the duration of the Fellowship (April-July 2021) then you will not be eligible to apply.

- 6) I don't have any public policy engagement experience, can I still apply?

Yes! This Fellowship is specifically designed for early career researchers and people who may not have any prior with public policy engagement. We lead you through foundational training and offer hands-on support as you identify policy stakeholders and begin to collaborate with them.

- 7) Can I apply with someone as a co-applicant, such as my supervisor?

We understand the desire to work together, however, the funding is for candidates who meet the criteria to support their development and engagement. That being said, were your application to be successful, there is nothing to stop you from collaborating with other academics, including your supervisor, and having them contribute to the engagement/output.

Funding

8) Is child care an eligible item to include in the budget?

In principle the answer to this is yes. However, we intend to hold all training during core UCL hours and we expect the work with stakeholders to be carried out during these hours in order to minimise the need for these costs. Any costs should be proportionate to meeting the grant. If you are on a research council funded grant, we would suggest investigating with your funders to see if the costs of caring responsibilities, including childcare, may be claimed against the training portion of that grant to support your participation in the Fellowship. Costs associated with the participant's normal working patterns are not usually sought, but we would be happy to write a letter of support to your supervisor should you be selected.