

# **Policy Impact Academy Training Programme**

2025

This training programme is delivered by the Institute for Methods Innovation  
funded under the Research Ireland Discover Programme



Institute for  
Methods  
Innovation



Taighde Éireann  
Research Ireland

# Policy Impact Academy

## Introduction and background

The [Institute for Methods Innovation](#) is delivering a policy engagement training programme to support and equip Irish researchers to engage effectively with public policy. This training programme is funded under the [Research Ireland](#) Discover Programme.

You will develop a practical understanding of strategic approaches to navigate policy environments and generate policy impact. This includes gaining skills in articulating your research in policy-relevant terms and identifying optimal points for impactful engagement. Emphasising real-world applicability, the training includes tools, templates and examples for creating policy briefs, infographics and effective presentations aimed at policy audiences.

This unique training programme addresses the challenge of balancing academic commitments with professional development, offering a fresh, flexible approach. It consists of a comprehensive self-paced online training course on policy engagement and eight half-day live virtual training sessions taking place from the week commencing **8 September** to the week commencing **6 October 2025**.

*Full course attendance is encouraged. This training is offered at **no cost** to eligible participants.*

Participants in the training programme will be invited to join an existing policy engagement network. This international network will support researchers' continued professional growth relating to policy engagement.

## Why participate?

- Our training leads are **renowned experts** who are highly experienced in policy engagement and research impact, including [Prof. Eric A. Jensen](#), [Prof. Mark Reed](#) and [Prof. Katriona O'Sullivan](#). Their expertise and practical experience ensure that you receive the most current and useful training in policy engagement.
- You will hear directly from **policy professionals** via recorded interviews in the self-paced training course, providing real-world insights.
- Join a long-term **alumni network** of over 450 professionals across more than 130 universities and organisations for continued support, collaboration and professional growth post-training.

## Join an alumni network

All training participants will be invited to join a community of practice in which they can continue interacting with each other and the trainers.

The community of practice includes a series of interrelated activities:



- **Quarterly online networking and discussion groups** on policy-related topics and other types of impact with other researchers.



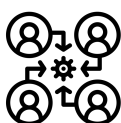
- **Bi-annual online surgery sessions** where researchers can bring impact questions and challenges to the policy engagement experts and get feedback from other researchers in the network.



- Free **quarterly live online training events** to build skills that can support their policy impact. For example, previous sessions have included workshop facilitation skills, online and social media engagement strategies, presentation skills, networking skills, impact culture, and leadership for impact.



- A **monthly newsletter** providing summaries and links to the latest peer-reviewed papers and other useful resources on policy and other types of research impact.



- Ongoing access to **policy engagement expertise** via these mechanisms, as well as social media, to provide long-term mentoring and support for participants applying what they learned in the course.



- Online networking opportunities, including a designated social media group on **LinkedIn** and hashtags for the community of practice.

## Eligibility criteria

To apply, participants don't need policy experience but should meet these criteria:

1. Study and/or work at least part-time at [an Irish Higher Education Institution \(HEI\) or a recognised Independent Research Organisation \(IRO\)](#).

AND

*EITHER*

2. Be a PhD candidate, postdoctoral researcher or higher (or equivalent), with academic research as a responsibility at an Irish HEI or IRO.

*OR*

3. Be employed at an Irish HEI or IRO to do work relating to education/public engagement and/or policy engagement.

## Application process

Submit the [application form](#) by **5 pm (Dublin time) on June 6, 2025**, to apply for the training programme.

## Application review

Please hold the dates for the live training in your calendar until you are informed of the result from your application. After submission, applications will be reviewed, and successful

individuals will receive a confirmation by email. Applications will be reviewed in the order they're received, based only on the application form.

## **Timetable**

- Closing date: **6 June 2025 at 5 pm (Dublin time)**
- Notification of outcomes for those who apply by the closing date: **Not later than 2 July 2025**
- Course information will be sent to successful applicants by **2 July 2025 at the latest.**
- A follow-up will occur after the course to evaluate its outcomes. Participants are expected to engage in these activities. For questions about the programme or application, contact [training@methodsinnovation.org](mailto:training@methodsinnovation.org).