



Royal Academy
of Engineering



Capabilities in Academic
Policy Engagement

Universities
Policy
Engagement
Network



Policy Secondment: **The Royal Academy of Engineering - Articulating Policy Impact**

Context

Through the Universities Policy Engagement Network (UPEN) and Capabilities in Academic Policy Engagement (CAPE) project, we are pleased to announce a new Policy Secondment opportunity with the Policy and International Partnerships Directorate of the Royal Academy of Engineering.

Role description

The Royal Academy of Engineering is the UK's National Academy for Engineering and Technology. Policy advice is an integral part of what the Academy does, bringing the insights and problem-solving expertise of engineers to the great challenges of the day, working with partners across the engineering profession through the National Engineering Policy Centre (NEPC).

The Academy has recently strengthened its ability to track its output and impact in this area, through measures such as recording feedback, setting and monitoring KPIs, evaluating projects and undertaking perceptions and awareness studies.

The Academy is now looking to complement these measures by taking a 'bigger picture' approach. They are looking for someone to work with them to develop 4-5 deep, rich impact narratives which look back at issues on which the Academy has a track record of sustained policy work, to document that work and to track, understand and articulate the influence that workstream has had.

Not only is the Academy interested in the influence these projects have had on policy, but also the relationships they build and any perceptions of the Academy and the National Engineering Policy Centre (NEPC) as a trusted advisor. There are some parallels to the REF impact case study approach, but the work is not beholden to any one method.

Priority tasks will include:

- To work with the Academy to rapidly finalise the list of candidate topics.

For each issue identified:

- Become familiar with, and document, what the Academy/NEPC has done in this area. To include desk research and speaking with lead Fellows and Academy staff to understand the work, and the engagement that accompanied it.
- Develop an accompanying narrative of how government policy and commentariat discussion changed during and after that time, through a mix of interviews with Academy colleagues and policy makers, and any relevant desk research.
- Work with the Academy and its Fellows to reach a judgment as to what degree of change or influence it is reasonable to attribute to the Academy's work.
- Build the supporting evidence base behind that attribution, for instance letters of support from policy makers or select committees or references to the work in

government policy.

- Write up the final case studies.
- Share any lessons with the team to increase our approach to policy impact going forward.

Research activities may involve:

- Stakeholder identification, and locating and contacting key individuals. • Data collection and trend analysis.
- Qualitative evidence gathering (including through interviews and conversations) • Building a well-constructed narrative for the appropriate audience. • Working with the Academy and its governance to reach a judgment on the level of influence the Academy and its partners have had and can evidence.

About you

Essential criteria

- Excellent research and analytic skills, with demonstrated experience or transferable skills relevant to the role.
- Ability to work proactively, designing, managing and prioritising your own workload, while managing contingencies between multiple project stakeholders. • Understanding of how using research informs and contributes towards policy development.
- Ability to operate effectively, openly and collaboratively within sensitive political contexts; ability to demonstrate neutrality and impartiality.
- Excellent communication skills and ability to effectively engage with people from different backgrounds and at different levels of seniority. Writing skills and proven communications experience with both technical and non-technical audiences are particularly important.
- Understanding of the policy engagement environment, and an ability to grasp project priorities quickly.
- Knowledge and understanding of the wider political landscape and the mechanisms of policy development including the UK Parliament, UK Departments including ministers and Civil Servants, and devolved and regional government.

Desirable criteria

- Experience designing and implementing impact case studies, REF Case studies, or policy evaluations.
- Policy development and implementation experience.

Please note specific terms and conditions will be stated in a fellowship agreement, which the successful candidate will be required to sign at the start of their fellowship.

About the Royal Academy of Engineering

The Royal Academy of Engineering is a purpose-led charity responsible for providing progressive leadership for engineering and technology, for public benefit. We are at the forefront of policy and innovation, and we bring together creative thinkers to tackle the greatest challenges of our age, from environmental sustainability to improving public health, safety and security. We work with some of the world's best innovators, researchers and technologists – our Fellows - and have exceptional networks across Government, industry and academia, in the UK and

globally, who can and do make change for a better future.

[Read more about the Royal Academy of Engineering](#)

About UPEN

The Universities Policy Engagement Network (UPEN), is a community of UK universities committed to increasing the impact of research on policy.

UPEN offers a dedicated contact point for policymakers, and a collective response to requests for evidence.

It organises knowledge exchange events with government, parliament, devolved bodies, and identifies mechanisms to take forward specific projects.

UPEN is also developing best practice amongst universities in policy engagement activities and will act as a champion for this relatively new role within universities.

[Read more about UPEN](#)

About CAPE

CAPE is a partnership between UCL and the universities of Cambridge, Manchester, Northumbria and Nottingham, in collaboration with the Government Office for Science, the Parliamentary Office for Science & Technology, the Alliance for Useful Evidence, and the Transforming Evidence Hub, funded by Research England. It is a four year collaboration created to support effective and sustained engagement between academics and policy professionals across the higher education sector.

[Read more about CAPE.](#)

About Policy Secondment

This placement is open to eligible staff at UPEN member universities. To see if your institution is a member, check via the website [link](#).

It is offered on a full- or part-time basis. The project will commence as soon as possible and runs until the end of 2021 with significant outputs required in September and November.

The secondment may be funded up to £28,785 pa, depending on salary level, experience, and time commitment, and is funded through The Royal Academy of Engineering.

The secondment will start as soon as possible. The successful candidate will be embedded within the Academy's Policy Directorate. It is expected that the successful candidate will be based remotely to begin with due to current Covid-19 working restrictions. For this role, we are open to discussing the possibility of flexible working.

To apply

Please send:

- a short CV (max 2 pp)
- covering letter outlining your suitability for the role
- a writing sample produced for a non-academic audience (if available)

Send all materials to: o.stevenson@ucl.ac.uk and secretariat@upen.ac.uk

Deadline: **Wednesday 4 August, 23:59**

Top ranked candidates will be invited to an informal interview on **Wednesday 11 August**.