

Policy Expo – Top Tips

This initiative is worth up to £15,000 (c.\$19,000; c. €16,800) to successful teams aiming to connect their work and wider communities to societal questions and policy needs. The RSA seeks to support 3 Policy Expos:

- 1. Pandemics: Regional Resilience and Regional Policy Responses**
- 2. Social Innovation, Foundational Sectors and the Regional Economy**
- 3. The Future of Work, the Gig Economy, and Inclusive Growth**

As with this grant scheme, the RSA is addressing issues that are important, current and having impacts for society. Expo teams will investigate how the communities of regional studies, regional science, urban studies and related fields can respond to new societal challenges and opportunities. Please note that the bid is not in the form of a conventional research application but rather is overtly policy facing.

APPLICATION

What do we expect from the Policy Expo application?

- To provide the current state of play in the field; to acknowledge what other studies have published on the subject. How do you plan to connect with these studies?
- To know what the key distinction of your proposal is.
- Provide a helicopter view on this subject with the clear political perspective; try to concentrate on the big picture. Establish the extend and barriers of the research.
- To state the current effectiveness of existing policy responses and the state of play and influencing factors.
- To name emerging issues and changes within the field; and to propose some innovative solutions and policy practices
- Enlist sources of quantitative and qualitative data.
- Specify the policy expo research questions, such as: what the key lessons for policy makers are; how to build a community of practice around the research; what the role of governments and communities in the field is.
- Plan how to enhance, enriching and informing policy and practice. Provide a link with communities of interest, environments and organisations.
- Clear deliverables, outcomes, publications within the timeframe. What will be done to achieve this?
- Nominate the authors of chapters if any.
- Specify the main contact person for project management. Please include experiences of your team regarding the policy-oriented research.
- Timeframe including the proposed date of chapter submission deadline, book launch event. Please include the RSA events and initiatives.

CHECKLIST

Make sure that:

- Your proposal is a policy challenge timely and relevant
- Your research objectives are presented clear, ambitious and pertinent to tackle the policy challenge

- Your proposal introduces innovative approaches to the policy challenge
- Your work plan is coherent, realistic and appropriate to ensure the achievement of the research objectives
- Your proposal clearly identifies relevant, and realistic short- and long-term policy impacts
- Your proposal outlines a strategy for engaging with relevant stakeholders during the life of the Award (e.g. *RSA members, policymakers/practitioners*)
- Your plan outlines policy dissemination and/or exploitation of the research results
- Your proposal provides the justification for the requested resources (i.e. *budget plan, costs*), appropriate

BUDGET

What the grant can be used for?

- Please outline your justification for resources in details (for example):
 - Research assistance
 - Attendance support at RSA Conferences for Early Career Researcher (to participate in focus groups/workshops)
 - Book launch event
 - Travel expenses
 - To organise an event with the policy makers
 - Team-networking event

USEFUL LINKS

- Regional Studies Association's Policy Impact Books - <https://rsa.tandfonline.com/toc/rpim20/current>
This book series form a series of punchy, policy facing books addressing issues of contemporary concern. There is a consistent focus on the impact of policy research both in terms of its reach to policy, academic and practitioner communities and also in its significance, to show how evidence can inform policy change within regional and urban studies.
- *Regional Studies, Regional Science* (RSRS) - <https://rsa.tandfonline.com/toc/rsrs20/current> High impact multi-disciplinary research on regional issues in geography, economics, planning and political science. RSRS has rigorous and rapid peer-review and publishes several article types including research articles, policy briefings, early career papers and innovative 'regional graphics'.