

Partnering with the Open Innovation Team: benefits update

The Cabinet Office's Open Innovation Team is inviting universities to partner with it between 2019 and 2021. More detail on the team, progress to date and process for selecting partners can be found [here](#).

On 7 September, we hosted an event for interested universities to explain our approach and listen to feedback. This note summarises the conversation around proposed partner benefits.

Updated partner benefits and deliverables

It was suggested that we distinguish between the benefits that partners receive and the deliverables we are committing to. Taking account of this feedback, we are now proposing that our university partners receive the benefits and deliverables described below. Partnership proposals should be made on this basis. As with the pilot phase, we expect to continue to experiment with our partners about how we can deliver value and we expect the deliverables to change to reflect this.

Benefits

- **Increased engagement** - we will visit partner universities regularly, offer to meet with their academics when they are visiting London and arrange for them to give presentations or have meetings with colleagues where appropriate.
- **Greater collaboration and research impact** - we will continue to use engagement as a stepping stone to deeper collaboration on topics that departments are working on. The majority of our collaborations are with our partner universities and we expect this to remain the case. Collaborations generate analysis and advice for colleagues in Whitehall and help increase the policy impact of academic work.
- **Mapping priorities and aligning research** - our engagement with partner university academics will help them understand the policy landscape and align their research as needed.
- **Improved understanding of policy making** - our work with partner university academics will help them understand more about the policy making process and how they can shape their outputs to maximise policy relevance.
- **Higher profile and stronger networks** - we will continue to help our partners increase their profile by organising Whitehall events with them and carrying their branding on our written outputs. We will also help their academics build their Whitehall networks by inviting them to meetings and connecting them directly with colleagues where appropriate.
- **Increasing the appetite for academic collaboration** - our work will open up more opportunities for collaboration between academics and officials and we expect it to increase the appetite for collaboration too, benefiting our partners and other universities.

Deliverables

- **At least two good quality collaborations per year between partner university academics and Whitehall officials** - the types of collaborations we set up vary a lot and some are more successful than others. We will stick to the spirit of our agreement with partners by agreeing with them which collaborations count towards what we have agreed to deliver. We will aim to over deliver on this benefit in phase two, just as we are aiming to over deliver for our current partners.
- **Two one day visits per year to partner universities** - we experiment with different types of visits, with an increasing emphasis on priority themes to increase their appeal to colleagues. We will aim to over deliver on this commitment in phase two, and we will continue to complement it by organising themed events in Whitehall where academics can explain their work and discuss its implications with colleagues.
- **One Whitehall policy workshop per year for partner universities' students** - a one day workshop will give students a taster of the policy making process by inviting them to work up and present ideas on a live policy challenge.
- **One policy masterclass presentation and workshop per year delivered at universities** - a senior member of the Open Innovation Team will visit the partner university to share insights on the policy making process and offer advice on how academics might increase the impact of their work.
- **Placements for PhD students** - we are happy to take PhD students on placements of 3-6 months provided that there is funding in place to cover costs. We make the same offer to non-partners, but pick up is normally greater among partners.
- **One place on an advisory partnership board** - this will meet every three months to discuss progress and shape plans for collaboration.
- **One report at the end of the three year period** - this will explain the benefits delivered during the partnership.

Next steps and timeline

- w/c 30 July: invite interested universities to an event in London to explain our approach, answer questions and get feedback on partner benefits. *Complete*.
- 7 September 2018: event held at 1 Horse Guards Road, London, SW1A 2HQ to explain our approach to interested parties and listen to feedback, including on assessment criteria, scoring and phase II partner benefits. *Complete*.
- 28 September 2018: deadline for partnership proposals based on approach discussed at our September event. [Proposals](mailto:openinnovation@cabinetoffice.gov.uk) should be submitted to openinnovation@cabinetoffice.gov.uk by midnight 28 September 2018.
- October 2018: we will shortlist partnership proposals and create a reserve list. We will then work with prospective partners to equalise financial contributions and agree a final deal where all university partners are contributing the same amount of funding and receiving the same set of core benefits and deliverables.
- December 2018: university partners announced.
- January 2019: new partnership agreement comes into effect.

Please email openinnovation@cabinetoffice.gov.uk with any questions.