LES Fellowships Cohort Session 2
Pathways to Impact
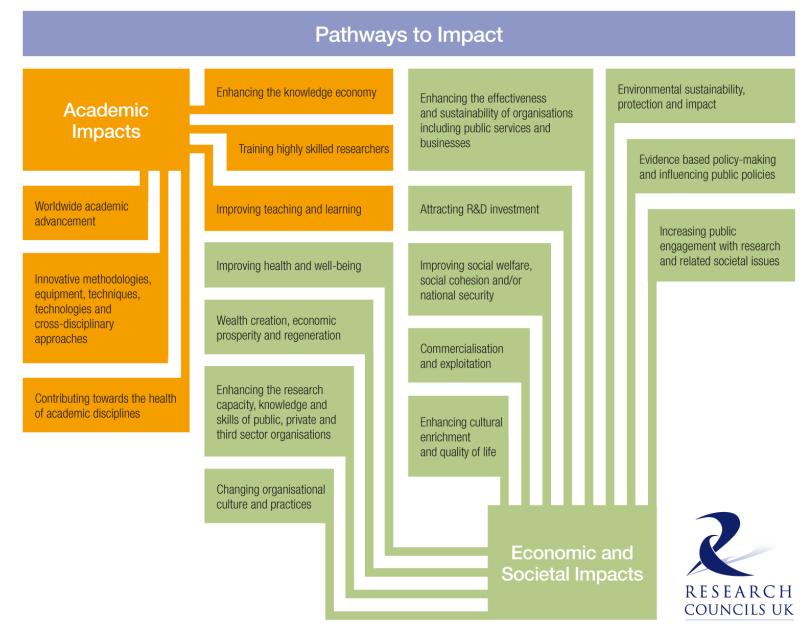
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The Impact Agenda

What is Impact?

Pathways to Impact

Academic Impacts

Enhancing the knowledge economy

Training highly skilled researchers

Improving teaching and learning

Worldwide academic advancement

Innovative methodologies, equipment, techniques, technologies and cross-disciplinary approaches

Contributing towards the health of academic disciplines

Improving health and well-being

Wealth creation, economic prosperity and regeneration

Enhancing the research capacity, knowledge and skills of public, private and third sector organisations

Changing organisational culture and practices

Enhancing the effectiveness and sustainability of organisations including public services and businesses

Attracting R&D investment

Improving social welfare, social cohesion and/or national security

Commercialisation and exploitation

Enhancing cultural enrichment and quality of life

Environmental sustainability, protection and impact

Evidence based policy-making and influencing public policies

Increasing public engagement with research and related societal issues

Economic and Societal Impacts

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Reviewers form

- You should comment specifically on the Pathways to Impact, giving consideration to the following:

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- Have the key areas where impact should be explored by the researchers during the course of the grant been clearly identified?
- Have clear, realistic and appropriate objectives been given?
- Are the proposed activities appropriate to the research, are both routine and novel ways of engaging end-users proposed and are the activities likely to generate very significant potential for impact.
- Has the management of the impact activities been well thought out?
- Has the ability to achieve the impact objectives clearly evident?

Where in the proposal is Impact covered?

Academic beneficiaries
- Should cover potential academic impact and pathways towards realising that.

Impact Summary
- Should cover potential economic and societal impact and seek to answer two questions:
  - Who might benefit from this research?
  - How might they benefit from this research?

Pathways to Impact
- What will be done to ensure that potential beneficiaries have the opportunity to engage with this research?

What is the difference...?

……between the summaries and the "pathways to impact?

The **summaries** may well appear in the public domain
- non-technical language
- focus on beneficiaries and how they will be impacted

The **"pathways to impact"** expands on the information in the summaries and describes mechanisms of engagement

Pathways to Impact

- 2 page (max) attachment
- Addresses:
  - o Who will benefit from this research?
  - o How will they benefit from this research?
  - o **What will be done to ensure that they have the opportunity to benefit from this research?**
- Need to consider:
  - o Track record.
  - o Costs & timescales (cross reference to JoR)
  - o Management (for larger projects, cross reference to management plan).

What activities?

- Secondments of research or user community staff .
- Events aimed at a target audience.
- Workshops to provide training or information dissemination.
- Steering or liaison committees/boards.
- Publications & publicity materials summarising main outcomes in a way that beneficiaries will be able to understand & use.
- Websites & interactive media.
- Public engagement activities – contact Caroline Gillet

What resources can be requested

- Investigator time allocated to impact activities for the project
- Specific training e.g. for RAs
- Employment of specialist staff
- Marketing assessments
- Workshops, seminars and networking events
- Publicity/dissemination
- **Exclusions:**
- Patent and other IP costs
- TTOs

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Characteristics of a poor Pathways to Impact

o Vagueness, lack of specificity and clear deliverables.

o Activities are not project specific.

o Too much focus on track record

o Lack of consideration of broader beneficiaries/impacts/mechanisms

o Activities narrowly focused, end focused, and purely for dissemination purposes

o Lack of consideration of resource requirements

Characteristics of a strong PtI

- Inclusion of specific details
- Good consideration of the relevant beneficiaries and user needs
- Clear mechanism and plan for engagement
- Involvement of "users" from the outset.
- Briefly note track record in the context of the specific research project.
- Demonstrate clear commitment for realising impacts.
- Fully resourced

People

- Who will gain new technical skills during the project?
  - RAs
  - PhDs
- To whom would these skills be useful?
  - Industry (which?)
  - Government/policy/NGOs (ditto)
  - Academia
- What evidence do you have that these skills are in short supply?
  - Government or industry body reports
  - Project partner statements of support
  - Conversations with end users

Collaboration

- **How will collaborations & partnerships within the proposed project or research be managed?**

- Roles & responsibilities of all parties in relation to impact.

- Nature of the relationships – e.g. established or newly formed.

- Nature, value & significance of any contributions to the proposed project.

- Details of any formal collaboration agreements or future plans for collaboration agreements.

Communication and Engagement

- How have beneficiaries been engaged to date, & how will they be engaged moving forward?

- How will the work build on existing or create new links?

- Outline plans to work with intermediary organisations or networks.

- What activities will be undertaken to ensure good engagement & communication?

Exploitation/application

- **Identify the mechanisms in place for potential exploitation, both commercially & non-commercially.**
  - Are there specific partnership, collaborative or exploitation agreements in place?
  - How will the potential impacts be identified?
  - What structure & mechanisms can you put in place to exploit & protect the outputs from the research, during & at the end of the grant lifecycle?

Capability

- Who is likely to be undertaking the impact activities?
  - PI or Co-I(s).
  - PhD students & post-doctoral researchers.
  - Specialised staff employed to undertake communication & exploitation activities.
  - Technical experts to write publications, web pages & user-friendly interfaces.
- What previous & relevant experience do they have in achieving successful knowledge exchange & impact?
- How will they acquire the skills?

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Sources of information

o RCUK: http://impacts.rcuk.ac.uk/content/guidance.htm

o BBSRC Guidance for Applicants: http://www.bbsrc.ac.uk/funding/apply/funding-impact-index.aspx

o NERC Guidance for Applicants: http://www.nerc.ac.uk/funding/application/pathwaystoimpact.asp

o EPSRC Guidance for Applicants: https://www.epsrc.ac.uk/funding/howtoapply/preparing/impactguidance/

Questions?