



## Productivity Project Funding - May 2018

**NOTE: PLEASE READ THESE THE CALL NOTES CAREFULLY AS INELIGIBLE APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED**

### Overview

In January 2018 Productivity Insights Network (PIN) was established with funding from the ESRC to develop new insights on the productivity puzzle facing the UK. The PIN is a social science wide network promoting multi-methodology and multi-disciplinary engagement with questions of productivity, with a view to challenge conventional thinking about productivity and develop new place-based insights on the productivity puzzle.

The PIN is working across 7 thematic areas, they are: Skills, education and labour markets; Work and employment; FDI, capital and investment markets; Health, well-being, ageing and demographic change; Technology, innovation, competitiveness and enterprise; Organisations, institutions and governance; and Land use, transport and infrastructure. Building on a series of thematic evidence reviews the Productivity Project Funding will support new directions in productivity research at the intersections of these themes to advance our understanding of UK productivity and the factors that underpin it.

As well as promoting interdisciplinary research, the funding aims to support collaboration between academics, businesses, policy makers, think tanks, professional bodies and civil society organisations. The PIN is looking to change the tone of the productivity debate in theory and practice, to deliver high-impact research to shape public policy and business practice. Unlocking the productivity puzzle is more than an academic exercise and requires new perspectives to address longstanding questions.

### Purpose and eligibility

Productivity Project Funding is available to support new interdisciplinary directions in productivity research across the social sciences that engage partners and deliver impact. All applications must demonstrate how the Productivity Project Funding will support a clearly defined piece of interdisciplinary research with an identifiable

outcome which makes a contribution to productivity research and engages with non-academic audiences. Funds are available to facilitate initial project planning and development; to support the direct costs of research; and to enable the advancement of research through workshops or visits by or to partners.

Proposals are welcome from public, private and third sector organisations and should involve a social science research partner based at a recognised UK research organisation<sup>1</sup>. Postgraduate students are not eligible to apply. International partners are welcome to apply, providing the lead applicant is UK-based, although the Productivity Project Funding is not intended to support overseas travel (or support attendance at conferences organised by a third party).

Applications will not be considered for less than £5,000, and the maximum small grant is £10,000 over 4 months and the maximum pioneer grant is £50,000 over 10 months. Applications must be both interdisciplinary and involve non-academic partners. Applications will be assessed on their merits, with no preference as to mode of enquiry, although priority will be given to proposals responding to the evidence reviews/gap analyses<sup>2</sup> and other innovative projects with the potential to stimulate new directions in productivity research.

Funding will not be considered for research that is already being funded and we reserve the right to reject applications which do not adequately demonstrate the need for PIN funding. Applicants who have already applied for funding and who have been successful in previous rounds must demonstrate how subsequent applications either adds value to previous research or have an alternative focus with distinct research objectives. We will only accept invited resubmissions of previously unsuccessful proposals.

The Productivity Project Fund is administered by the University of Sheffield on behalf of the ESRC funded Productivity Insights Network, and reserves the right to reject any bid that does not meet the eligibility criteria. In the event of any dispute the decision of the Primary Investigator is final.

## **Eligible costs**

Productivity Project Funding is intended to cover the direct expenses involved in planning, conducting, and developing the research and engagement activity, including:

- project planning and development costs (cost of travel for discussion in the UK; initial workshops with potential partners)
- travel and maintenance for UK scholars; including travel to disseminate results of the research through engagement and impact events
- research assistance and administrative support

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<sup>1</sup> see <https://www.ukri.org/files/legacy/documents/eligible-independent-research-organisations-pdf/>

<sup>2</sup> For more information on the evidence reviews/gap analyses see [www.productivityinsightsnetwork.co.uk](http://www.productivityinsightsnetwork.co.uk)

- workshops or events to advance the programme of research or engagement and impact associated with the project (i.e. the costs of travel and maintenance for key participants)
- consumables, travel and subsistence

**NOTE: FOR THE PIONEER FUNDING (i.e. PROJECTS UPTO £50k) DIRECTLY ALLOCATED TIME CAN BE CHARGED TO THE PROJECT AT 80% FEC ALTHOUGH THE EXPECTATION IS THAT THE INSTITUTION/COLLABORATOR AND/OR PARTNER WILL PROVIDE IN KIND CONTRIBUTIONS.**

The following items **are not** currently eligible for funding: institutional overheads, or any element that should properly be ascribed to institutional overheads; computer hardware including laptops, electronic notebooks, digital cameras, etc; books and other permanent resources; the preparation of camera-ready copy, copy-editing, proof-reading, indexing, nor any other editorial task; payment to the principal researcher(s) in lieu of salary, or for personal maintenance at home; or replacement teaching costs.

### **Application process and award**

The call will open on Tuesday May 22<sup>nd</sup> 2018 and be closed on **Friday July 6<sup>th</sup> 2018**. Once your application has been completed please send it to [productivity@sheffield.ac.uk](mailto:productivity@sheffield.ac.uk) and you will receive confirmation of submission within 12 working hours. All applications will be reviewed by the panel and notified of the outcomes by **31<sup>st</sup> July 2018** with project funding to begin on 1<sup>st</sup> August 2018.

### **Further information**

If you have any questions or would like further information about the call, please contact: [productivity@sheffield.ac.uk](mailto:productivity@sheffield.ac.uk)

Successful applicants will need to include the PIN logo and reference the network in their engagement activities and outputs.

Successful applicants will be required to complete a short evaluation of how their project has contributed to changing the tone of the productivity debate within 12 weeks of the completion of the funded project.