

Productivity Insights Network: Targeted Small Grant Guidance

The Productivity Insights Network is pleased to announce that a targeted call is open from **Wednesday 10th July until 4pm on Monday 30th September 2019** with funded projects planned to start on 4th November 2019. Funded projects will need to be completed within four months and be up to maximum cost of £10,000. This call builds on the [gap analyses](#) and complements [previously funded projects](#).

Targeted Small Grants are available to support new interdisciplinary directions in productivity research across the social sciences that engage partners and deliver impact. PIN is seeking insights within specific research areas of productivity and invites proposals investigating productivity in relation to:

- (i) UK business investment (including financialisation) behaviour;
- (ii) infrastructure and/or land use;
- (iii) sustainability.

All proposals must demonstrate how the Targeted Small Grant will support a clearly defined piece of interdisciplinary social science research which addresses one of the three priority areas and engages with non-academic audiences.

Funding and duration of award

Targeted Small Grants of up to £10,000 will be awarded over a maximum period of 4 months. Extensions will only be considered in exceptional circumstances.

Eligibility

Proposals are welcome from public, private and third sector organisations, and should involve a social science research partner based at a recognised UK research organisation¹. Postgraduate students are not eligible to apply. International partners are welcome to apply, providing the lead applicant is UK-based, although the Targeted Small Grants are not intended to support overseas travel (or support attendance at conferences organised by a third party).

Eligible costs

Productivity Project Funding is intended to cover the directly incurred costs (i.e. not time of directly allocated staff) 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
- 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 (non-international) and subsistence.

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

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.

Scoring System

Reviewers will select a score of 1-5 to indicate their assessment according to the six criteria (C1-C6) in the table below. Detailed comments in support of these scores will be made in the free text overall assessment section. Both the scores and the free text will be used during the selection process.

The Selection Process

Criteria description		Score 1-5	Comments	
C1	Fit to the thematic priority areas			
C2	Potential contribution to the productivity debate			
C3	Research design and methods			
C4	Strength of team & external partners			
C5	Value for money			
C6	Outputs, dissemination and impact			
Criteria Scale				
Poor	Fair/Some weaknesses	Good	Excellent	Outstanding
1	2	3	4	5

Proposals will be assessed in 2 stages;

Stage 1 – Proposal review

Based on the five criteria in the evaluation form the Targeted Small Grant proposals will be scored by a minimum of two reviewers.

Stage 2 – Award Panel

Following the initial review of proposals, the applications will be considered by an awards panel including a representative from the ESRC. The panel will meet, either virtually or in person, with the final decisions based on reviewing ranked scores by reviewers while also looking to build a portfolio of Productivity Project Funding projects across the thematic areas and in accordance with the priorities of PIN. Divergent scores will be reviewed by the Primary Investigator.

Stages 1 and 2 will be performed by a combination of the following PIN network members.

Member	Function
2 x PIN Co-Investigators (academic)	To assess the proposal in relation to the academic objectives of PIN
External independent academic reviewer	To provide an external perspective on the academic excellence of the proposal
ESRC representative	To ensure protocols adhered to in selection

Timetable

The Productivity Project Funding call will open on **10th July 2019** and be closed at **16:00 on Monday 30th September 2019**. All applications will be reviewed by the panel and notified of the outcomes by **October 31st 2019**.

- Call launch – July 2019
- Call closes - 16:00 on Monday 30th September.
- Final decision and summary feedback communicated by 31st October 2019
- Grant begins – 4th November 2019