**Funding Support for Public and Policy Engagement and Participatory Research**

**Policy Support Fund (PSF)**

The University of Essex has been awarded funding from Research England’s Policy Support Fund (PSF) to support research activity aimed at evidence-based policy making. The funding is for universities to undertake research with local, regional, national and international structures (including parliament, central government, devolved administrations, local government, health and education bodies, the justice system and other regulatory organisations) with a particular focus on local and regional challenges. Applications of up to **£10,000** per project will be considered. Proposals could include:

* New research activity working in partnership with policymakers, particularly to better understand local, regional or national challenges
* Extending existing policy-related research activity
* Facilitating the use of existing research and the exchange of knowledge between universities and policymakers
* Activity aimed at improving the dialogue between universities and policymakers
* Activity and training to better equip academics, including postgraduate researchers and early career researchers, to communicate effectively with policymakers
* Partnerships and collaborations aimed at supporting evidence-based policymaking
* The exchange of people e.g., staff secondments, contributing towards professional doctorates in policy, joint PhDs, etc

All funds must be spent by **31 March 2023**.

**Participatory Research Fund (PRF)**

The University of Essex has been awarded funding from Research England to support participatory research. Participatory research is broadly defined as public participation in research, with public participants contributing at any stage of the research lifecycle (e.g., co-production, co-creation, citizen science). Applications of up to **£15,000** per project will be considered. Participatory Research funding can be used to cover the costs of co-produced research and to run capacity-building activities such as:

* Pilot projects using innovative models and methodologies for participatory research
* The development of materials to support researchers interested in developing their skills in participatory research, and public engagement activities that are related to participatory and co-produced research
* Case studies and evidence of the impact of co-produced research, and evaluations of the effectiveness of co-production from different institutions/disciplines

All funds must be spent by **31 July 2023**.

**Centre for Public and Policy Engagement - Engagement Fund**

The Centre for Public and Policy Engagement (CPPE) Engagement Fund supports academic and research staff to explore opportunities to engage public and policy audiences with their research. Small grants of up to **£2000** will be available to support travel, engagement activities and events, which will target specific audiences from the public, policy and third sectors. The activity should:

* Show clear societal benefit
* Engage a clearly defined non-academic public or policy audience
* Demonstrate how two-way engagement provided mutual benefit
* Demonstrate a clear link to Essex research

For this call priority will be given to projects that:

* Contain activities that reach disengaged, hard to reach or under-served audiences
* Contain activities which explore issues relevant to coastal communities

All funds must be spent by **31 July 2023**.

**What costs are Eligible?**

Eligible costs for all three schemes include Research Assistant salaries, activities related to research and data collection, engagement with stakeholders, training and development events, workshops, travel and conference attendance. Buyout of teaching and costs associated with publishing a journal article, are not eligible.

**How to apply**

Please complete the application form, stating which fund you are applying for and return to policy-engagement@essex.ac.uk. Any queries and requests for indicative costs can also be directed to this email address. The deadline for applications is **14 November 2022**. Applications will be reviewed by a panel and outcomes are expected to be communicated w/c 21 November.

**Post award processes**

Successful applicants will be allocated a faculty code to spend against. PSF codes will close on **31 March 2023**. CPPE and PRF codes will close on **31 July 2023**. No spending is permitted after those dates (please note that there is no facility to rollover unspent funds into the next financial year). All recipients will be required to complete a short report at the end of the funding. Please note, if your project involves human participants, it may need ethical approval before a cost code can be issued. See [guidance on obtaining ethical approval](https://www.essex.ac.uk/staff/research-governance/ethical-approval-resources-for-applicants) for research involving human participants.