



# Call for Researcher Development Workshop Facilitators

## Commonwealth Futures Climate Research Cohort

### Introduction and purpose

The ACU and British Council are working in partnership to establish the Commonwealth Futures Climate Research Cohort, a network of 24-26 outstanding early career researchers in the area of climate and environment who are working towards solutions for climate-vulnerable regions across the Commonwealth.

In the lead up to COP26, the cohort will work together with experts from across the Commonwealth to identify opportunities to engage and influence on issues of climate and environment, demonstrating the essential contribution of researchers and Universities around the world to overcoming the global societal challenges arising from climate change.

A key component of the cohort is the delivery of three virtual training workshops, focusing on research leadership, knowledge exchange, and research-to-action. From the skills and knowledge developed from these workshops, the cohort of researchers will go on to design and deliver their own research-to-action project. The ACU would like to recruit facilitators from ACU member institutions to deliver and run these workshops. In the next section of this document, you will find further details on the proposed content and learning outcomes for each individual workshop, and information on how to apply.

### Overview of Workshops

#### Workshop 1: Research Leadership – 14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> April

Workshop 1 will focus on introducing the concept of research leadership, different leadership and management styles, and what this means in practice. The workshop will explore concepts related to stakeholder engagement, equitable partnerships, and research culture. The workshop will allow the participants to understand what research leadership means to them, what their current strengths and weaknesses are, and what skills they need to develop.

By the end of this workshop, participants should be able to:

- clearly articulate the concept of research leadership
- understand related concepts such as stakeholder engagement, equitable partnerships, and research culture and their importance to research leadership
- understand different leadership and management styles and how they can use these in practice
- understand the skills and competencies they require to be an effective research leader, within their context
- understand relevant tools and techniques to identify their current strengths and weaknesses, and what areas they need to develop
- have confidence in their ability to be a research leader and realise their goals

#### Workshop 2: Knowledge exchange – 12<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup> May

Workshop 2 will focus on knowledge exchange, defined here as an iterative and reciprocal process of exchange of expertise between academics and non-academics in pursuit of impact (Maythorne

2019: 66). This workshop will introduce the concepts of research impact and knowledge exchange and how best to approach them. The cohort will discuss participatory approaches to engaging a variety of stakeholders in the design and implementation of their research and research-to-action projects.

By the end of this workshop, participants should be able to:

- describe and understand the concepts of research impact and knowledge exchange in relation to their own context
- describe different participatory approaches to engaging with a multitude of stakeholders throughout their research design and implementation and how they can utilise these to enhance their potential impact
- articulate the skills needed to effectively engage and communicate with a variety of stakeholders throughout their project design, including end users such as policy makers, local communities, and businesses.

## **Workshop 3: Research-to-Action – 16 & 17<sup>th</sup> June**

Workshop 3 will focus on research-to-action: how the cohort can use their research evidence to inform and influence policy and practice. Participants will focus on the tools and skills needed to effectively manage and conduct a research-to-action project, to collaborate virtually with a variety of stakeholders, including their peers, and to effectively communicate their research findings with non-academic audiences to ensure uptake.

By the end of this workshop, participants should be able to:

- articulate the skills and knowledge needed to conduct a research-to-action project
- understand best practice and techniques for conducting effective virtual collaboration
- use various tools and resources to conduct a research-to-action project

## **Important information**

### **Funding available**

A total of GBP 2500 (plus VAT if applicable) is available to deliver each workshop. It is possible that one team could deliver one, two, or all three workshops. If you intend to apply to deliver more than one of the workshops, you must submit an individual application for each one.

### **Delivery requirements**

The Commonwealth Futures Climate Research Cohort will consist of a group of 24-26 global researchers, based in regions ranging from the Caribbean to the Pacific. It is imperative that you can deliver a workshop that ensures all members of the cohort are able to participate. Therefore, consider the diverse time zones of the Commonwealth when preparing your delivery plan. To ensure every member of the cohort can join and contribute, it may be that you will need to split the workshop into two sessions delivered over two days and run each session twice. Therefore, we have allocated two days to each workshop.

As part of your commitment to facilitating a workshop, you will be required to conduct a 'practice simulation' of your designed workshop with the ACU. This practice run will take place 1-2 weeks before the actual workshop. Further details will be confirmed with successful facilitators.

All workshops will be held virtually via an ACU virtual meeting platform.

## Eligibility

In order to be eligible to apply, applicants must be employed by an ACU member university (see [here](#) for a list of ACU member universities)

## How to apply

The following application documents are required:

- A workshop delivery plan designed to meet the learning outcomes outlined above
- A cover letter that includes details on the trainers, their experience in delivering virtual training workshops, and their motivation for delivering the workshop
- CVs of the proposed trainers
- A full budget that aligns to the stated delivery plan and team profile. The maximum budget available to host each workshop is £2,500 (plus VAT if applicable)

Please submit your documents to Mark Ashe: [mark.ashe@acu.ac.uk](mailto:mark.ashe@acu.ac.uk). The applications deadline for each workshop are as follows:

Workshop	Workshop Date	Application deadline
Workshop 1: Research Leadership	14-15 <sup>th</sup> April 2021 UTC	9am Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> March UTC
Workshop 2: Knowledge Exchange	12-13 <sup>th</sup> May 2021 UTC	9am Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> April UTC
Workshop 3: Research-to- action	16-17 <sup>th</sup> June 2021 UTC	9am Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> April UTC