



Call for 'Research to Action' Projects Facilitator

Commonwealth Futures Climate Research Cohort

Introduction and purpose

The ACU and British Council have recently established the Commonwealth Futures Climate Research Cohort, a network of 26 outstanding rising star researchers in the area of climate and environment who are working towards solutions for climate-vulnerable regions across the Commonwealth. More information can be found on the selected cohort [here](#).

To support this work, the ACU is calling for a member(s) of staff at an ACU member institution to support the Commonwealth Futures Climate Research Cohort in developing 5 'Research to Action' projects.

In the lead up to COP26, the cohort will participate in leadership and knowledge exchange training which includes a specific focus on developing research to action capacities. A key component of this training is experiential learning; applying the skills the cohort have learnt and reflecting on their successes and challenges.

The Research to Action projects will provide the cohort with the opportunity to design and deliver interdisciplinary, internationally collaborative projects that aim to bridge the evidence to policy gap. These projects will take place between July and October 2021, after the cohort have attended a series of training workshops centred around research leadership, knowledge exchange and research to action.

The ACU are seeking to recruit a senior, climate focused academic to facilitate and support the cohort in the design and delivery of the research to action projects. There will be 5 project working groups, each consisting of 5 to 6 members of the Commonwealth Futures Climate Research Cohort and be composed of cohort members from different disciplinary backgrounds.

The role of the research to action projects facilitator

Your role as a facilitator will include:

- Design the framework of the research to action projects alongside the ACU, including the broad content and focus areas with which projects could engage, project requirements, and group selection.
- Providing high level guidance and support to supervise the groups in the design and delivery of their projects.

- Providing support and guidance in the identification of key stakeholders who the cohort can engage with during the design and delivery of their projects to enhance the potential impact to the climate and environment sector.
- With support from the ACU, lead on developing the monitoring, evaluation, and learning (MEL) framework for the research to action projects.

Skills and experience

The facilitator should display:

- a strong track record in supervising academics
- experience conducting, facilitating, and/or supervising evidence uptake/policy engagement/research to action projects
- strong research skills and academic track record (preferably related to climate change or policy research)
- experience in communicating research to non-academic audiences in the climate and environment sector

Opportunities for facilitators

As a research to action facilitator, you will receive a number of benefits and opportunities. These include:

- An opportunity to collaborate and connect with a global, interdisciplinary group of rising star climate researchers who will have a platform at COP26 to share their work
- An opportunity to develop and hone skills as a facilitator and leader in the climate and environment research to action field
- Access to ACU and British Council climate and environment partner webinars and events
- Profiling on the programme's webpage

Activities & timeline

Activity	Time Period	Details
Research to Action Projects: Conception	May – June 2021	<p>Throughout May and June, the facilitator will work with the ACU to design the framework of the research to action projects. This will involve:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Defining the focus, framework and the question title for each individual project - Setting the project requirements and expected outcomes - Leading the selection of project groups from the 26 cohort members - Developing a basic MEL framework to track progress, evaluate success, and embed learnings <p>It is envisaged there will be 5 research to action projects consisting of 5-6 members in for each project.</p>
Research to Action: Workshop	June 16-17	<p>Prior to the commencement of their research to action projects, the cohort will attend training in an interactive workshop focused on research to action. Please see here for further information on this workshop, including the desired learning outcomes. This workshop will be designed to prepare the cohort for their research to action projects.</p> <p>The facilitator will be invited to observe this workshop to introduce and familiarise themselves with the 26 cohort members.</p>
Research to Action Projects: Facilitation and support	July – October 2021	<p>From July to October, the facilitator will support and work with the cohort groups during the implementation of their research to action projects.</p> <p>The facilitator will support the groups via virtual meetings and/or email correspondence, providing advice, guidance and feedback.</p> <p>During this period, the facilitator will also correspond with the ACU, providing updates on the cohort's progress.</p>
Research to Action Projects: MEL	December 2021	<p>Based on the MEL framework designed during research to action project development, the facilitator will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - track and report to ACU on project progress - support project groups to develop reports on research to action project success - reflect and learn from the process <p>Utilising the above the facilitator will develop and present a final MEL report to the ACU.</p>

Important information & eligibility

Funding available

A total of GBP 5000 (incl. VAT) is available to the research to action projects facilitator.

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 cover letter that demonstrates how the applicant meets the skills and experience requirements outlined above, as well as their motivation for and commitment to facilitating this cohort in designing and delivering their research to action projects
- A 2 page overview of how you propose to support the cohort in the design and delivery of their research to action projects
- CV of the applicant

Please submit your documents to Mark Ashe at Mark.Ashe@acu.ac.uk. The deadline for applications is **Friday 30th April, 09:00 UTC**.