

# Policy engagement

Connecting Lancaster University's world class research with political decision makers for a positive impact on society.

## Why engage with policy?

- To shape and change the policy agenda around issues you care about
- To contribute to demonstrable research impact
- To raise the profile of your research and broaden its dissemination
- To develop new research questions and projects shaped by 'real-world' questions
- To grow your network
- To be presented with new opportunities to demonstrate your expertise
- To promote and enhance Lancaster University's reputation and research profile

## Building skills and knowledge

- **Training.** Policy influencing is something every academic and researcher at every career stage could get involved in. *Introduction to Policy Influencing* training is available throughout the year along with training in areas like writing for policy, engaging with the House of Commons, and how to work with government areas of research interest. [Latest training dates.](#)
- **Bespoke advice sessions.** Through our partnership with the **Open Innovation Team**, a cross-government unit, we offer individual and group advice sessions with expert policy advisers. You will go away with a written plan of who to approach and how to present your research to policymakers. These can be individual sessions or group sessions. [Expression of interest form.](#)
- **Editing service.** If you are new to writing for a policy audience, our experience of what works well can help your research stand out. Send your drafts to [policy@lancaster.ac.uk](mailto:policy@lancaster.ac.uk) or get in touch for templates and examples.

## Connecting to opportunities

- **Policy newsletter.** A weekly roundup of current opportunities to connect with **parliament select committee inquiries** and **government consultations**. It also includes training and events news along with highlighted calls for your expert opinion. **Sign up:** [policy@lancaster.ac.uk](mailto:policy@lancaster.ac.uk)
- **Calls to contribute and collaborate.** Our connections with government and parliament mean that we are regularly asked for **expert opinion and research**. These requests are shared through faculty Associate Deans for Engagement or direct with researchers. An up-to-date University profile makes it easier to find you!
- **Research dissemination.** If you have research you want to get to decision makers, then we can help you. Our **Public Affairs team** [publicaffairs@lancaster.ac.uk](mailto:publicaffairs@lancaster.ac.uk) can also use their network to make connections with MPs and Lords.
- **Direct alerts and updates.** Help with setting up tailored alerts and updates from Westminster so you are first to hear about calls for contributions.