The Policy Development Fund

The Policy Development Fund is to support the promotion of Brunel research to policy makers, legislators and regulators via events designed to foster engagement between research and policy.

Policy Development can include presentations and promotional activities to raise awareness of the policy relevance of Brunel research to relevant policy, legislative and regulatory audiences.

It can also be a meeting/series of meetings to allow for academics, policy professionals, and policy practitioners to come together to discuss current priorities and proposals for future work.

These activities are wider than the Brunel community, and are not just meant for knowledge transfer but to build communities to share best practice, and built on a current policy need and support by a policy partner.

If your proposal is not linked to policy development or has a broader remit which also includes public engagement, you should apply to the Public Engagement Fund. If your proposed activity is a combination of building a research team/ collaboration to apply for research funding and engaging public policy, you should consider whether the Research Development Fund is more suitable for this activity.

What is the funding for?

- Convening internal or external meetings, preparing expert comment or policy briefings on emerging policy issues.
- Expenses to enable meetings with policy professionals, expert facilitation to support dialogues, attend or organise roundtable meetings, networking etc.
- Any opportunity to engage in community building with policy professionals where the ability to do so would otherwise be limited.

Prohibited Costs / Activities

The following costs / activities cannot be covered:

- Research activity
- Teaching or administrative relief
- Equipment - unless there is a clear and specific contribution to policy development arising.
- Conference attendance (unless exceptionally the project has developed a strategic, targeted intervention to take place during the event aimed at establishing or strengthening a non-academic relationship).
- Indirect, estates and generic administrative costs.
- Costs associated with the protection of intellectual property
- Sponsorship of an external event (note that the fund can be used towards the costs of events on external sites that are co-hosted by Brunel, but not to sponsor events that are entirely owned by the physical hosts)

Who can apply?

Any member of staff or postgraduate research student who is eligible to apply for an external research grant in their own name.

Application Process

The Policy Development Fund is an open call with a rolling deadline. The Policy Development Application Form must be submitted electronically to bpp@brunel.ac.uk – Brunel Public Policy. The panel will assess the application and come back to applicants within two weeks of submission.

Grants should start within one month of being awarded.

If you would like to discuss your application prior to submission please contact Justin Fisher and Rosanna Smith (Director and Manager, respectively, of Brunel Public Policy) on bpp@brunel.ac.uk

Selection Process

A panel made up of the PVC Research, Director, Brunel Public Policy and Director Research Support and Development Office will consider all applications.

The panel will consider:

- Whether the project fits the strategic aim of the fund
- Whether the project can realistically be delivered within cost and time constraints
- The potential impact of the project on informing and enhancing public life
- What level of funding it is appropriate for the fund to provide (note that for activities with partners, we will expect the partner to contribute to costs, whether in kind or direct payments)

Policy Development Fund Project Report Form

If your application is successful, the completion of a project report form, which includes a short summary of the activity suitable for a website news article, at the end of the project is compulsory and is a requirement of accepting the grant. Project outcomes are to be also added to the RSDO Impact Tracker.