

Policy Commissions Competition April 2013 Guidance Notes

[Policy commissions](#) aim to draw on the scholarly expertise of Southampton academics as well as practitioners and policy makers to address issues of cultural, social and economic importance. We see the commissions as a vehicle for a journey of intellectual discovery which combine the expertise of the university community with the many types of expertise that lie outside our world.

The overall goal of the commission is to undertake an independent analysis of an issue which has topicality and relevance in the wider world but crucially to come up with realistic and down-to-earth recommendations about how to move it forward. This stipulation is not to discourage radical or blue skies thinking (far from it) but to suggest that where a commission pushes in that direction we are given an idea of some of the steps and milestones along the way that could reasonably be undertaken.

We hope that all commissions will make thought provoking offerings to the debate, thereby assisting policymakers to find solutions to difficult problems. The activities of the commission and its published work will inform public policy through rigorous academic and analytical thinking but it will also be grounded in an understanding of the practice.

We will work with the commission to ensure that its findings are widely shared and have maximum impact. We will also provide some basic administrative support in setting up the commission and in running its meetings.

We will judge the successful bids along four criteria:

- 1. The clarity and focus of the topic identified for investigation**
- 2. The quality and diversity of the Commission panel members that they appear to be able to attract; supported where possible by letters demonstrating commitment. A commission chair of prominence in the field is also likely to ensure that a commission is an attractive proposition.**
- 3. The depth and detail of the plan of activities in terms of deliverability in the context of a tight budget and limited time frame**
- 4. The relevance and topicality of the issue under investigation**

We would welcome of course any additional funding to that which we are able to provide, although additional funding is not a requirement of any bid. Even if a bid is unsuccessful we will provide helpful feedback and may propose working with you in other ways as part of the on-going commitments of [Public Policy@Southampton](mailto:Public.Policy@Southampton.ac.uk)

Please register your interest in applying for commissions with lisa.then@southampton.ac.uk to allow for planning and preliminary enquiries about your research if necessary.