

**Policy Commissions Competition September 2015 Guidance Notes**

The overall goal of the Policy Commissions we are appointing is to undertake an independent analysis of issues relating to the EU referendum or the 17 new SDGs. Alternatively, applications to our open call allows researchers to set the agenda and raise the profile of their research in any policy focused area. The research area must demonstrate topicality and relevance and we encourage radical or blue skies thinking. We would welcome commission applications rigorously based on evidence but that are challenging and innovative in their contribution to policy debates. We want to produce exciting and engaging findings about problems backed by ideas for solutions, with some of the steps and milestones along the way that could reasonably be undertaken. Our aim is to build on the success of our earlier [policy commissions.](http://publicpolicy.southampton.ac.uk/policy-commissions/)

We see the commissions as a vehicle for a journey of intellectual discovery, combining the expertise of the university community with the many types of expertise that lie outside our world. We hope that all commissions will make thought provoking offerings to the expansive political debate, thereby providing policymakers with weighty and compelling arguments around widely challenged issues. 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 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 relevance and topicality of the issue under investigation**

**4. The ability of the research team to complete and prepare their findings for presentation before the end of 2015/16 academic year.**

**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 activities and commitments of [Public Policy@Southampton](http://publicpolicy.southampton.ac.uk/)

**Please register your interest in applying for commissions with** **Erin****Downey** **to allow for planning and preliminary enquiries about your research if necessary.**