



INVITATION TO TENDER:
THE TEACHING-RESEARCH NEXUS IN THE HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES:
COMPARATIVE STUDY OF POLICY APPROACHES

Introduction

The British Academy would like to commission research to deepen its understanding of policy approaches to the teaching-research nexus in higher education, focusing on international comparative examples.

Rationale

The relationship between teaching and research in higher education is coming under intensified scrutiny around the world. Multiple studies have failed to show that there is a beneficial relationship between the quality of teaching and the quality of research, but have also not demonstrated any negative effect. Universities regularly make choices about their priorities in pursuit of prestige and in the face of limited resources. Research outputs often overshadow teaching expertise in the criteria for academic promotion. In the UK, current policy issues, including the evolution of the Research Excellence Framework (REF), the introduction of the Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF), the new architecture of the Higher Education and Research Act (HERA), and ongoing debates about funding and student fees make this nexus a topic which continues to attract attention.

The British Academy is therefore undertaking a project which will seek to interrogate the relationship between teaching and research to identify whether this relationship is beneficial for either of these activities and to review comparatively the relationship in policy approaches in the UK and internationally to explore opportunities and challenges in current practice.

The objectives of this project are:

- To help stimulate a wide-ranging debate among the academic community about an important trend with growing national and international significance;
- To inform the broader policy context in view of the upcoming establishment of UK Research and Innovation and the Office for Students;
- To inform the practices of universities reacting to and accommodating this trend;
- To identify the risks a potential greater polarisation between teaching and research pose for the humanities and social sciences in particular.

Description of work

The Academy is seeking to appoint a researcher / research team to carry out the following:

- A comparative analysis of international higher education policy and funding structures that sustain or not a mutually supportive relationship between teaching and research

Research questions and methodology

Research questions for this commission include:

- What are international examples of policy structures that create a mutually supportive environment for teaching and research? How do these structures work? How does this compare with the UK model?
- What are international examples of funding models that support the interaction between teaching and research? How does this compare with the UK model?
- What role(s) do governments internationally have in promoting and supporting the integration of teaching and research?

We welcome proposals for how to approach this work, but we anticipate the approach will be desk-based. The Academy will assist, where possible, to ensure access to relevant data and contacts with key organisations and individuals.

Sample size:

The commission will need to analyse policy and funding structures in a **maximum number of twelve countries**. Countries will need to include a balance of types, including at least:

- A non-English-speaking country
- A Scandinavian country
- An EU country
- A BRIC country and
- A country where there has not been a tradition of integration of research and teaching.

The working group of the project listed the following countries to help guide the researchers:

- United States of America
- Australia
- Netherlands
- New Zealand
- Scandinavian countries
- Chile
- France
- Germany

Outputs

We expect outcomes from this project to include:

- A written report of up to 25 pages, suitable for publication on the British Academy's website

Governance

The successful bid will be managed by the Higher Education and Skills Policy team at the British Academy. The work will be overseen and informed by the project Working Group,

chaired by Professor April McMahon, which reports to the Academy's Research and Higher Education Policy Committee.

Key criterion for selection

- The ability of the researcher / research team to access relevant stakeholders
- The breadth and depth of the sample size to be achieved
- The experience of the researcher / research team in conducting studies using similar research methodologies
- Understanding of the existing literature on, and policy context for, the relationship between research and teaching in higher education

Time line and budget

The project should begin as soon as possible, with interim findings to be presented by 23 March 2018 and a final report by 15 May 2018. The budget for the research is up to £10,000, 50% payable on commission, 25% on acceptance of interim findings and 25% on completion. The Academy will cover all costs related to design and print of any outputs.

Response to this brief

Please submit your response to this brief by 5pm on 3 January 2018. We welcome tenders from a range of organisations and individuals. Your response should be no more than 4 sides of A4 (excluding CVs of the researcher / research team), and include:

- Your approach to undertaking this work
- Any risks or difficulties that you foresee with this project, and any steps that might be taken to mitigate them
- Relevant experience that you have to undertake this work
- Your proposed timescales to undertake this work, including proposed number of days allocated
- Break-down of estimated costs
- CVs of all individuals making a significant contribution to the commission

For further information, or to express an intention to apply, email Chinara Rustamova, Policy Adviser, c.rustamova@britac.ac.uk