 

**DEVOLUTION AND GOVERNANCE IN THE UK: RESEARCH FUNDING CALL**

Rebuilding Macroeconomics (RM), is funded by the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) and hosted at the Institute for Global Prosperity at University College London. We have recently obtained funding to support three specifically policy related areas of research. In this call we invite research proposals under the Government’s devolution and governance agenda.

Our long-term aim is to transform macroeconomics back into a policy-relevant social science. Towards achieving this objective, we are particularly interested in interdisciplinary proposals and the introduction of new methods to macroeconomics. We will consider proposals which are genuinely innovative; which are oriented towards policy-relevant problems; and which are rigorous but may be overlooked by traditional funding sources.

## Research Funding Call

Governance within the UK has changed profoundly over the past twenty-four years. Citizens of Northern Ireland, Scotland, and Wales have voted by referendum for their own national legislatures. Regional Development Authorities in England were abolished in 2010, and replaced with Local Enterprise Partnership and a greater number of City-Regional devolution deals. The socio-economic rationale and organising principles for the emerging UK governance structure are unclear, appearing to be the consequence of a number of incremental steps and political expedience.

The classic justification for devolving economic power is that local decision making is best where local preferences are sufficiently different, where there are no cost savings from centralisation and where spillovers can be reasonably minimised. Subsidiarity implies that public services should be provided by the most local level of governance if these conditions are met. This framework rests on the assumption of fully rational individuals with given preferences. We wish to invite research proposals to explore alternative multi-level governance structures where individual choice is extened to include concepts of identity and even cooperation similar to the ideas of Elinor Ostrom. Is there a polycentric structure of governance for the UK that can foster greater agency, better decision making and solidarity from communities up to central government? Is there any empirical evidence of whether this can be created from our existing circumstances? How might this be a positive force for social cohesion? We are looking for suggested blueprints for how that this might work in the UK.

## Application process

This is a directed call, meaning that it follows from earlier discussions or research that have been submitted to RM. This Call involves a single stage application process. Depending on the number of applications we receive, we hope to have a workshop where applicants may present their ideas in a collaborative workshop before the end of October 2021. We will then make a final decision.

The maximum available for the research project is £60,000 which will be funded at 80% Full Economic Cost (fEC). The Development Group stresses that they put high weight on proposals that are interdisciplinary, introduce new methods and insights and enhance our understanding of macroeconomics. Above all, the project proposals should be new and ambitious, and should have direct policy relevance.

Applicants to this Call should complete the application form at the end of this proposal, and the associated budget spreadsheet. Completed applications should be submitted as e-mail attachments to Richard Arnold, at richard.arnold@ucl.ac.uk by 11.59 GMT on **12 November 2021** (extended from 29 October 2021).

 **DEVOLUTION AND GOVERNANCE IN THE UK: RESEARCH FUNDING CALL**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Name of Main Applicant** |  |
| **Host Institution** |  |
| **Contact address** |  |
| **Telephone number** |  |
| **e-mail address** |  |
| **Title of Project Proposal** |  |
| **Names of other Group members(if known or applicable)** |  |
| **Details of Project Proposal: please provide a clear, non-expert summary of the issue, challenge or opportunity to be explored. (Maximum 2000 words, excluding references: see below)** |  |
| **Description of the project activities, including proposed methodology and deliverables**. **(Maximum 500 words)** |  |
| **Description of the interdisciplinary nature of the project, including the different academic disciplines involved, and other knowledge partners (if any) from outside academia who will be brought together as part of this proposed project.** (**Maximum 500 words)** |  |
| **Please list references here, if cited in the above texts** |  |
| **Please provide a short justification for the financial resources requested in the budget.** **(Maximum 500 words)** |  |
| **Please provide an outline timetable for the proposed project** |  |
| **Please provide an outline plan for Communications and Impact in relation to this project. (Maximum 500 words)** |  |
| **Please supply brief research “track records” for the individuals named on this application.** |  |
| **Costing at 100% fEC** | Please complete the separate costing spreadsheet (to include indexation) and attach this spreadsheet when submitting application. |

Any questions about the call should be referred initially to Richard Arnold at richard.arnold@ucl.ac.uk, tel: 07880 981743. Completed applications should be sent as e-mail attachments to richard.arnold@ucl.ac.uk by 23.59 on **12 November 2021** (extended 29 October).