

N8 PRP Small Grants 2021-22

Call Opens: 18 June 2021
Short Proposal Deadline: 19 August 2021
Total Fund: £100,000

Start Date: April 2022
Duration: 12 months
Award Announcement: 30 November 2021

Background

N8 Policing Research Partnership

The N8 Research Policing Partnership is an established research collaboration between the eight universities that comprise the N8 (Durham, Lancaster, Leeds, Liverpool, Manchester, Newcastle, Sheffield, York) and 12 policing forces and OPCCs across the north of England (Cheshire, Cleveland, Cumbria, Durham, Greater Manchester Police, Humberside, Lancashire, Merseyside, Northumbria, North Yorkshire Police, South Yorkshire Police, and West Yorkshire Police).

N8 PRP was established in 2013 and is currently co-funded by the partner HEIs and 12 Forces. The overall partnership aim is to build research co-production capacity, share knowledge between and across police organisations and the HE sector, develop and disseminate innovative solutions to contemporary policing problems and strengthen the evidence base on which police policy, practice, and training are developed.

Small Grant Awards

N8 PRP has released an annual call for small research grants since 2015. The Small Grants Awards open call provides pump-priming funds to support research into targeted and important areas of policing work and areas where the gaps in knowledge are most prominent and where research benefits are of greatest value. They provide the necessary flexibility to move swiftly to respond to emergent areas of policing, new challenges and pressing concerns.

The purpose of allocating funds is to facilitate and energise the development of proposals for collaborations – we expect this to take the form of short projects, delivering a proposal for larger scale collaborations. This funding is for the strategic development of research collaborations, as well as research itself.

Changes to 2021-22 Call

Aims

The sixth Small Grants award will take place under the new funding model for N8 PRP. This allows the partnership the flexibility to use a new application process, with the aim of achieving the following:

1. Increase collaboration between all parties, with co-production of research
2. Respond to police priorities
3. Increasing the reach and significance of change to policy and practice
4. Ensure a wide scope for critical academic work

To achieve this we have developed a process and police partnership model that offers a unique opportunity to develop truly collaborative research, with a high potential for impact on police practice.

New application process

A longlist of research priorities has been identified by police partners. Researchers at N8 universities are asked to respond to this list with a short proposal addressing one of the priorities, for review by N8 PRP central team. Selected researchers will then work with police partners to develop the study design, to be submitted to the N8 PRP Steering Group in November, who will make the final funding decision.

Police Partnership

The Small Grants are intended as short exploratory studies to build partnerships and stimulate further, externally-funded research. In previous calls this has typically led to researchers working with one police force, limiting the applicability and accessibility of the research, and putting the focus on competition for resources rather than collaboration.

Researchers are encouraged to develop projects that collaborate with more than one N8 PRP force. In situations where it is more appropriate for researchers to gather data from one police force, representatives from other N8 PRP forces will help develop the study design, and to discuss findings and development during the project. This will provide a broader range of police perspectives and aid applicability and accessibility of the research, broadening the possible impact of the work.

Eligibility and Academic Partnership

As a condition of the new funding model, only members of N8 universities are eligible to hold N8 PRP Small Grants. Projects that include researchers from more than one N8 universities are strongly encouraged.

Duration and funding

The aim is fund 4 projects. £25,000 remains an indicative maximum award, but we will consider applications up to £30,000 for projects with large collaborations, great potential for follow-on funding, or significant likely impact on policy and practice.

Only Directly Incurred costs are eligible – i.e. no overheads or academic staff time.

As with previous Small Grants, the expected duration of projects is 12 months. However, if a project is developed that would achieve significantly more over a longer period, this may be extended to 18 months and allocated further funding as appropriate. Short proposals should assume a 12 month duration.

How to Apply

1. Select a topic from the Police Priority Longlist and contact the named police force with an initial inquiry. The N8 PRP contact for each force can be found at the end of the longlist.
2. Complete the Short Proposal Template and submit to helengordonsmith@manchester.ac.uk by **19 August 2021**.
3. A review panel will select proposals for development, to be announced 10 September 2021.
4. The researchers and police will then work together to develop the research design.
5. The final proposal will be submitted to the November Steering Group, who will make the final funding decision. The deadline for submission is **11 November 2021**.
6. Award letters will be issued by 30 November 2021.

Requirements

Conditions of payment

Successful projects will be paid in three instalments, as follows:

1. Invoice One paid on signed acceptance of the award letter.
2. Invoice Two paid on month 6, on acceptance of an interim report by N8 PRP Central Team
3. Invoice Three paid on month 12, on acceptance of a final report by N8 PRP Central Team

Dissemination

Researchers will be expected to write a 4-page summary of their findings for publication on the N8 PRP website and to disseminate their findings through N8 PRP events, e.g. a webinar open to N8 PRP partners. These will be arranged with the researchers as appropriate.

Ethics

All projects must be approved according to Ethics Policy of the Principle Investigator's host University prior to acceptance of the award. Ethical governance of the project is the responsibility of the institution in receipt of the award funds.