**Call for Proposals**

**Policy Data Grant**

At Overton, we’re committed to supporting evidence-based policymaking across the world. We want to:

* Improve decision making by enhancing the links between research and policy
* Help researchers discover and understand policy, and especially how evidence is used to influence and shape the world around us
* Create pathways to streamline the dissemination of academic knowledge into policy
* Explore how policy data might be useful in academic impact assessment

With this new funding programme, we aim to support and recognise researchers who are using policy data to expand our understanding of policy citation networks, new ways of assessing the outcomes of policy engagement by academics and knowledge brokers, and who are developing best practices for the responsible use of policy citation data.

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**Project Scope**

The Overton Policy Data Micro Grant 2024 is focused on short, tightly scoped, original research proposals that have a concrete output.

We welcome applications from scholars whose proposals have the potential to expand our understanding of the policy landscape.

We are particularly keen to support researchers in the early stage of their career, and professional staff who don’t perform research full time.

The scope of your proposal should match the available time (12 weeks) and budget (a maximum of £5,000 GBP). Your proposal can be quantitative or qualitative, can involve interdisciplinary research or target a specific discipline, demographic or group.

Your proposal can be exploratory or explanatory. It might collect key information, reveal underlying patterns, design new frameworks etc.

The most important thing is that its primary focus remains on academic - policy engagement, impact assessment or evidence use in policy.

We will offer free access to Overton’s data as well as training and support where required.

**Project Criteria**

* Projects must answer a compelling, well-defined research question with measurable outcome(s)
* There must be a concrete deliverable: e.g. a blog post, report, poster, dataset, paper
* Projects must be completed within 12 weeks maximum
* Projects must start no later than 2 months after receipt of the grant

**[How much funding is available?](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1w1CxAPE7NA_lI1srWH3lhHlK4V0eCUQfNQ7g-ONwDkg/edit?usp=sharing)**

If selected, each project will receive a maximum funding of £5,000 from a total amount of £13,000.

Each proposal should specify the requested amount of funding, broken down into individual costs. The accepted proposals will then be ranked, and the funding allocated according to each project’s position in the list.

We can only award the full requested amount for a project. So, if your bid exceeds the amount remaining in the fund then we regret that we will not be able to allocate any money and will move on to the next ranked project.

*For this reason, we recommend moderate requests for funding as these are more likely to succeed, regardless of your position in the ranking.*

**What will we fund?**

We can cover costs related to staff, accommodation, premises hire, training, contracts, subscriptions and licences, other miscellaneous costs within reason (please specify).

Unfortunately, we cannot cover conference expenses (including travel related to conferences) or journal publication fees. We reserve the right to decline funding for any additional elements of the bid not specified in this document.

**Who can apply?**

The Overton grant is designed for individuals or small teams who want to make significant positive contributions in behaviours, practice or policy. We would particularly like to support those in the earlier stage of their career and professional academic staff, as well as those looking to establish themselves better in the fields of scientometrics, bibliometrics, and research evaluation.

All submitted applications will need to be written in English, although it doesn’t need to be candidates’ native language.

**How to apply?**

Candidates will need to fill in the application form in the appendix, detailing their research project including the background, research question, methodologies, goals and expected outputs.

Successful candidates will also be required to follow good practices in open science and share their findings and project outcomes on the Overton blog.

Completed applications should be emailed to [grants@overton.io](mailto:grants@overton.io) or alternatively may be printed out and mailed to:

Overton

210 Euston Road

London

NW1 2DA

**Timeline**

The application deadline is 6 December 2024. A panel will review the proposals and assess them against the following criteria:

* significance of the research proposal
* novelty
* scope
* topical relevance

We expect the funding decision will be communicated by 10 January 2025.

**Dissemination**

In keeping with principles of Open Science, we require candidates to actively disseminate their findings either in blog posts, posters, infographics, videos or whatever format that can be shared easily across a wider audience.

Successful candidates will also be expected to share their insights on the Overton blog.

**Equality and diversity**

Overton welcomes applications from all sections of the community regardless of gender, ethnicity, sexual orientation, disability or parental status.

We look forward to receiving your proposal and the opportunity to see your work.

Any queries on the application process, or eligibility should be sent to [grants@overton.io](mailto:grants@overton.io)

**Appendix – Grant Application Form**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **About the project** | |
| Project Title |  |
| Estimated total cost of the project |  |
| Amount requested from grant |  |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **About the lead applicant** | |
| Lead applicant’s full name |  |
| Lead applicant’s organisation |  |
| Email address |  |

1. **Purpose of the Grant**

Indicate the background to your project and what you hope to achieve with the grant. What research questions are you hoping to answer, what are your goals for the proposal?

1. **Methodologies**

What methods or techniques will you use to accomplish your proposal’s goals?

1. **Outputs**

What will the outcome of your proposal be and what form will it take? *e.g. we will upload the dataset to Zenodo and write a short report*

1. **Management Arrangements**

For team projects please explain the roles and responsibilities of the key project personnel involved in the project.

1. **Budget\***

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Budget Lines** | **Unit** | **Unit cost** | **Number of units** | **Total Cost** | **Grant’s contribution** | **Applicant’s own contribution** |
|  | Personnel |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Premises |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Training etc. |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Contracts/subscriptions/licences |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Other [Specify] |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | **TOTAL** |  |  |  |  |  |  |

***\**** *Please note that all budget lines are for costs related only to grant Activities.*

***\*\**** *Add or delete as many budget categories and sub-budget lines as necessary.*

1. **Information on the applicant(s)**

Explain why the applicant or organisation is uniquely suited to deliver on the objectives.

Tell us briefly how you heard about the 2024 micro grant.

We recommend that completed application forms are emailed to [grants@overton.io](mailto:grants@overton.io), but you can also print it out to be sent by post to:

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London

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