

Training commission:

Advanced methods of evaluation

Background

The National Centre for Research Methods (NCRM) is funded by the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) to deliver comprehensive training in social sciences research methods. We work with a range of experts of various research methods that help to up-skill and develop competencies for people carrying out research in society.

As part of our strategic plan, we aim to engage with an increased number of Voluntary, Community, Faith and Social Enterprise (VCFSE) sector organisations and researchers from Governments and Local Authorities.

Following our scoping work with relevant stakeholders, we have identified additional support needs, leading to the co-creation of this training programme specification; focussed on *advanced methods of evaluation*.

Scope

NCRM is looking to commission an experienced trainer to deliver a programme in advanced methods of evaluation training with the target audience of **VCFSE organisations, Government or Local Authority professionals** who are mid to senior level in their research role or career.

Four elements of focus have been identified to prioritise during the training. These are:

- A. Evaluating systems change; core principles and applied examples of methods used to evaluate systems change, and a discussion of useful approaches.
- B. Practical application of pragmatic research and evaluations; up-to-date literature (academic and grey) regarding pragmatic research, appropriateness in different contexts and for different projects.
- C. Creating good evaluation questions; pitching at the right level, flexibility for audiences and funders, purpose and possibilities for impact from evaluation questions.
- D. Communications of evaluation outcomes and outputs to different stakeholders; including, but not limited to, communicating upwards to managers, funders and other decision-makers who may not have research expertise.

We are therefore looking for an experienced trainer who has knowledge and competencies across the above aspects and methods, as well as experience in creating and delivering bespoke training.

Feedback from engagement with our stakeholders indicated that delivery over several weeks/months would be beneficial, to allow for the trial and application of new competencies. Action learning sets was one method discussed as a possible mode of collaborative learning. We are keen to receive applications from trainers who value learning and take a considered approach to equipping participants with skills and tools which they will enjoy using regularly in practice.

The commission

NCRM will commission a trainer to plan, deliver and evaluate a minimum of six hours' direct delivery. The structure of delivery may be split over several sessions, in order to fit the brief. An evaluation and report template will be provided by NCRM for completion within six months of the final session being delivered. The fee for this training commission is £1,500.

Timescales

Launch of call	Mid December 2023
Deadline for applications	31 January 2024
Decision	End of February 2024
Development and preparation	March 2024
Delivery period	April-June 2024
Evaluation and report complete	End of July 2024

Further information and to apply

If you have any questions about this training commission, please email NCRM's Senior Engagement Manager, Dr Ali Hanbury at ali.hanbury@manchester.ac.uk.

To submit an application, please complete and return the application form on page 3 of this document and send this to Dr Ali Hanbury at ali.hanbury@manchester.ac.uk by 17:00 on 31 January 2024.

Application form

Name	
Current role	
Organisation/Institution	
Email address	

Please tell us about your training, experience or qualifications related to delivering training to professionals. (max 200 words)

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Please indicate your knowledge and expertise based on the four elements of the training we'd like to commission. (max 800 words)

- A. Evaluating Systems Change approaches

- B. Practical application of pragmatic research and evaluations

- C. Creating good evaluation questions

- D. Communications of evaluation outcomes/outputs to diverse stakeholders

How do you propose delivering this training in a way that encourages learning and engagement to be embedded? Please specify approximate timings/structure/frequency e.g., two hours each week for three weeks. You could use examples from previous training you have delivered where appropriate. (max 200 words)

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Please share any feedback, evaluations, or testimonials you have received for your training from the past twelve months. (max 200 words)

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