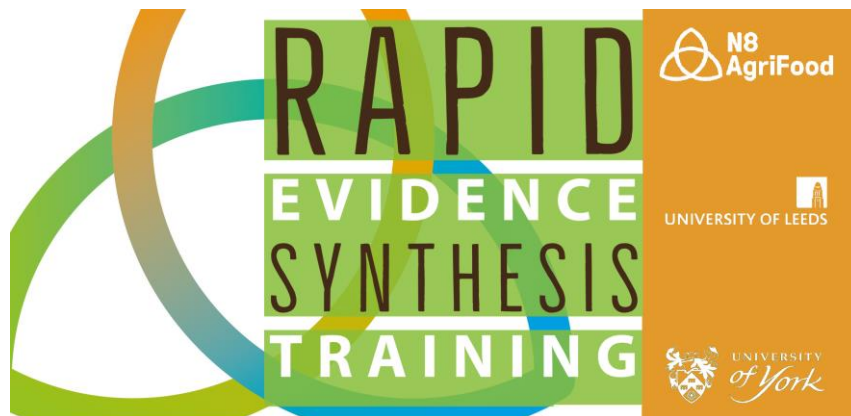


Call for ECRs: training to publish a Rapid Evidence Synthesis paper that informs policy

The N8 AgriFood Programme and the Universities of Leeds and York are offering a unique opportunity to be trained in Rapid Evidence Synthesis by world leading evidence synthesis expert, Dr Gav Stewart, who will then supervise you to submit your synthesis for peer-reviewed publication and guide you on the development of a policy brief for policymakers. The opportunity includes one day training in Leeds, followed by a two-day residential workshop off campus, and subsequent individual feedback and support from Dr Stewart to publish your synthesis. Topics have been proposed by policy teams across Defra and FSA, who will use the resulting briefings directly in policy development. This unique opportunity for training, publication and impact is limited to 15 places for the University of Leeds and a further 15 places split across the remaining N8 Universities.

Indicative topic areas:

- Trade-offs between bioenergy and food
- Reducing GHG emissions from agriculture
- Land use change and biodiversity
- Peatland management
- Flood management
- International trade and land use
- Gene editing in agriculture and food
- Household food insecurity
- Consumer behaviour change around diets and waste
- Biodiversity net gain



To be eligible to apply, you must:

- Be a PhD student, post-doctoral researcher or early career academic at an N8 University.
- Have an interest in one or more of the indicative topic areas below.
- Be available for the initial training day in Leeds on 26th February.
- Based on this training, be prepared to develop a draft protocol for feedback from Dr Stewart by 4th March.
- Be available on the following dates to attend a two-day residential workshop - 12-13th March or 16-17th March. If your application is successful you will only attend one of these workshops.
- Be prepared to complete a draft manuscript and policy brief started during the workshop for submission to Dr Stewart between 20-25th March (depending on the workshop you attend).
- Receive feedback on manuscript by 31st March and be prepared to make revisions and submit to a peer-reviewed journal for publication at any point after this.

Application process:

- To apply, send a short statement (approx 100-200 words) identifying the topic area(s) you would be interested in (see indicative topic list below left), outlining why you are interested in the opportunity (e.g. likely benefits to your career) by 10th February at 5pm. If you have a strong preference for which of the residential workshops you would like to attend in March please indicate this, however, we cannot guarantee you will receive that preference and you must be available for both workshops.
- You will be notified if your application is successful by 12th February.
- If your application is accepted we will send you specific questions developed with policy-makers linked to your topic choice(s), and ask you to provide a first and second choice research question by 17th February at 5pm. You will then be streamed to one of the residential workshops based on the agreed topic. If there are no existing questions that interest you sufficiently, you may propose a new topic and we will discuss this with members of the policy community (only topics that have a direct policy application will be accepted).
- *Please send all applications or any questions to Prof Mark Reed, Newcastle University (mark.reed@newcastle.ac.uk)*

Costs:

This training is offered free of charge. Refreshments and lunch will be provided for you at the initial training day and the residential days. Your accommodation will be covered and you will be provided with dinner at the hotel. Attendees will be expected to cover their own travel costs to the residential component, except those from the University of Leeds whose reasonable travel costs will be covered.