Training & Skills for Societal Impact
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Doctoral impact statements:
why we should consider impact from the start

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• Large research-intensive comprehensive institution
  • 8000 research students
  • 3500 research staff
• Cross-disciplinarity
• Strong focus on impact and knowledge exchange activity
The statement should describe, in no more than 500 words, how the expertise, knowledge, analysis, discovery or insight presented in your thesis could be put to a beneficial use.

Consider benefits both inside and outside academia and the ways in which these benefits could be brought about.

The benefits inside academia could be to the discipline and future scholarship, research methods or methodology, the curriculum; they might be within your research area and potentially within other research areas.

The benefits outside academia could occur to commercial activity, social enterprise, professional practice, clinical use, public health, public policy design, public service delivery, laws, public discourse, culture, the quality of the environment or quality of life.
Excerpts from UCL doctoral theses

This research has been conducted during a time of significant change and disruption to the higher education sector, with universities in the UK operating in a globalised and highly competitive marketplace. Institutions are under increased pressure to be more efficient while reducing workload pressure on staff, which makes it imperative they find ways in which staff can work together more effectively if they are to be able to meet current and future demand. Through a review of the perception of a historic binary staff divide, this research has the potential to create significant impact on the working dynamics of institutions, and on the scholarly research of institutions.

More broadly, the work in this thesis adds to the molecular understanding of PD, PDD and DLB. While there is a long way to go, it is hoped that the data and findings generated from the research in this thesis will, in the longer term, enable the development of effective therapies, which will improve patient quality of life.

Additionally, our developed fabrication approach of water soluble micromoulds is more environmentally friendly than fabricating via photolithography, which has been the main go to fabrication approach for microstructured capacitive pressure sensors.

Our developed device, the pressure sensing ring, will be further enhanced by adding wireless readout capabilities to it. So that it can be worn by doctors and surgeons.

Future work that can be built up from this work includes significant benefit for the medical, microelectronics and microfluidics sector.
Impact of doctoral impact:
Is impact really that important at this stage?

- Careers
- Positive impact on society
- Motivation and wellbeing
- Critical and creative thinking skills
- Justification of funding
Challenges & Potential Solutions
Challenge 1: Poor training

- Lack of understanding of what impact is
- Lack of understanding of what knowledge exchange is
- New vocabulary demystifying the impact agenda
- ‘What can we learn from others?’; active listening; co-creation and working in partnership, e.g. “New Power” and mass participation
Challenge 2: Poor integration

- Retrofitting / last minute creation
- “BS statements” / how much impact really?

- Pre-emptive impact: process rather than outcome focused
- Project to catalogue and map our doctoral impact statements
Challenge 3: Poor support

- Conflict with supervisors more interested in academic impact
- Lack of institutional support to link up with potential impact opportunities
- Top-down institutional messaging
- Ready made links to local communities

Community Research Initiative for Students

The Community Research Initiative (CRIS) is a way for you to do something exciting with your master's dissertation. We connect you with London's voluntary sector to share knowledge and ideas. This collaboration will help shape your research project. Your work will be directly informed by a current community need in our capital.
Acknowledgements

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Other ideas? Questions?
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Including societal impact in research & projects
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PhD in gender just energy transition in the EU

20 years in EU funding
12 years as policy advisor
6 years as academic
Nehem – Part of the PNO Group

PNO Group

Every innovation starts with one good idea and a lot of passion. Those are traits we recognise – because we started out the same way. From our start-up roots, we have grown to become market leader in innovation and funding services in Europe, with offices in 8 European countries. Our company is connected to a global network of national and regional creative partners: multinationals, start-ups, RTOs and universities, sector and public organisations. From this unique network, we work on fostering connections and stimulating, realising and financing innovation in an ever faster and more complex innovation landscape – changing the world for the better.

Key facts

30+ Years of activity
8 Countries
6000+ Funding applications filed per year
4000+ Research clients and partners
€ 1 Bn Total annual funding won

PNO Group (440 grant & innovation consultants) consists of specialist organizations that are populated by domain experts.

Nehem supports educational- and research institutions across Europe and beyond to solve societal challenges. 25+ experts are advising our clients regarding project development, funding opportunities, administrative support and compliance, and project management of innovative educational and research projects.
WHY
Impact by knowledge
SDG’s: global commitment – local action
Co-creation

• Collaboration in triple – quadruple helix
• Serving each other’s interests
• Implementing each other’s agenda
• Accelerate change
• Create impact
WHAT
Impact sections

- Scientific impact
- Societal impact
- Economic/technological impact
Three types of impact

HORIZON EUROPE LEGISLATION defines three types of impact, tracked with Key Impact Pathways:

1. Creating high-quality new knowledge
2. Strengthening human capital in R&I
3. Fostering diffusion of knowledge and Open Science
4. Addressing EU policy priorities & global challenges through R&I
5. Delivering benefits & impact via R&I missions
6. Strengthening the uptake of R&I in society
7. Generating innovation-based growth
8. Creating more and better jobs
9. Leveraging investments in R&I

Article 50 & Annex V: "Time-bound indicators to report on an annual basis on progress of the Programme towards the achievement of the objectives referred to in Article 3 and set in Annex V along impact pathways"
Project expected results
HOW Impact Pathways

Inputs – Activities – Outputs – Outcomes - Impact
Impact pathways

- Project expected impacts:
  - Short term
  - Middle term
  - Long term
Research Impact Pathway

Inputs
- What you need
  - e.g. funding, equipment

Activities
- What you do
  - e.g. projects

Outputs
- What you deliver / produce
  - e.g. publications

Outcomes
- Awareness and use of your outputs

Impact
- Consequences of using your outputs

Adapted from CSIRO (Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation) by Cancer Research UK

Inputs
- Time and material resources e.g. research income, staff, infrastructure

Activities
- Research work, facility use, community and stakeholders engagement

Outputs
- Deliverables from the research project e.g. publications, IP, patents, media, policy briefings, presentations

Outcomes
- Changes that happen e.g. change in policy, new companies, improved training, commercial changes

Impact
- Measurable change that occurs e.g. lower unemployment, increased quality of life, reduced accidents

Impact Pathway © CQUi
adapted from Kellogg Foundation Model & ARC Policy Impact Pathway Table
Theory of Change ~ Impact pathways

A Theory of Change adds external factors (context), assumptions, and risks to a results chain.
Thank you and good luck with making impact by knowledge!

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Recommendation

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“Start developing insights and attitudes of researchers and then support by helping them articulate”