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P-ACE
Policing Academic Centres of Excellence

Updated October 2026

TYP-ACE Flexible Fund Guidance for applications

Introduction

The Yorkshire Policing-Academic Centre of Excellence (TYP-ACE) is one of nine Policing Academic Centres of Excellence (P-ACEs) launched by the National Police Chiefs' Council (NPCC) in partnership with UK Research and Innovation (UKRI). As part of this award, we hold a flexible fund to distribute to academics across both the Universities of Leeds and York.

The fund currently offers two types of award: (1) knowledge exchange and impact activities; and (2) co-produced research projects.

TYP-ACE runs from 1 October 2025 to 30 September 2028. Two funding calls have been completed so far, with awards made in March and July 2026 totalling £60k. For this third call, we are inviting applications for larger awards. Following discussions with faculties across both institutions, applicants may, for the first time, include staff time and overheads in their budgets.

Objectives

The aim of TYP-ACE is to improve connections between academic researchers and policing, and the flexible fund aims to offer funding to academics in 2 key ways to promote this:

- *make key insights, evidence and outputs accessible to policing through events, toolkits, guidance and resources.*
- *respond to needs and questions raised by policing and work collaboratively to develop new research and knowledge exchange activities.*

At TYP-ACE our focus is on four of the Policing Areas of Interest (ARI):

- ***Building and Maintaining Public Trust in Policing:***

Particularly in relation to minimum policing standards, public perceptions, organisational culture, and the experiences of marginalised and minoritised communities.

- ***Crime Prevention:***

Including, but not limited to, Violence Against Women and Girls and other forms of gender-based violence; youth crime and violence; modern slavery and other forms of criminal exploitation of children and vulnerable adults; and safer streets and public spaces.

- ***Climate Crisis:***

Including the impact of extreme weather and environmental change on emergency preparedness and response, vulnerability and community resilience, and sustainability and net-zero considerations.

- ***Data Analytics:***

Particularly multi-agency data linkage and analysis, spatio-temporal crime analysis and prediction, and the use of natural language processing and other AI-driven methods.

Project Alignment

We expect to fund a balanced portfolio that includes both innovative exploratory co-produced research and knowledge exchange activities, as well as projects that speak directly to established policing challenges. Applicants are encouraged to think creatively while demonstrating a clear understanding of how their proposed activity contributes to safer, fairer, and more effective policing.

All applicants are required to nominate alignment with one or more of the TYP-ACE Areas of Research Interest (ARIs). Alignment should be briefly but explicitly justified within the proposal

Additional areas to consider:

*The NPCC Policing Problem Book is a national document produced by the National Police Chiefs' Council. It identifies 13 major structural and operational challenges that policing faces in the coming years. **Applicants are not required to align to the Problem Book**, however, it may provide useful context for situating or framing proposed work, particularly where it relates to nationally recognised policing priorities.*

The Safer Street Mission Accelerator Challenges are delivered by UKRI in partnership with the Home Office, Ministry of Justice, and other government departments. Five Challenges have been launched, of which most align with TYP-ACE priorities, and are being back by £50m of funding as part of the government's Research and Development Missions Accelerator Programme (R&D MAP). Applicants may wish to consider if the flexible funding could be used as pump priming to be prepared for future calls through the MAP.

Eligibility

Area of Research

Project proposals must align with one or more of the priority areas identified by TYP-ACE, under the four ARIs

- *Building and Maintaining Public Trust*
- *Crime Prevention*
- *Data Analytics*
- *Climate Crisis*

Applications are invited from any member of staff who at the point of application, holds a current contract of employment at the University of Leeds or York University which will last the duration of the proposed activity for which the funding is applied for.

All applications should be approved and signed off by the applicant's Head of School to ensure that the applicant is able to apply for this funding in line with their employment contract. If you are a DI member of staff employed on a research project, please also provide approval from your line manager/project PI confirming your time can be reallocated as you cannot receive funding for more than 100% of your time.

Applications must be led by a named Principal Investigator (PI) within the University of Leeds or York, and projects are expected to identify external partner(s)/stakeholders and provide letters of support as part of the application.

Eligible Costs

Please note that awards will be made at 80% of the requested budget in line with our award from the ESRC/NPCC. Please ensure you have approval from your school or department who will need to fund the additional 20%.

Applicants can request both directly allocated (Investigator time), Estates and Indirect Costs (DACs) and directly incurred costs.

Awards can cover directly incurred costs associated with the award at 80% as per usual UKRI rules (i.e., awards do not cover Full Economic Costs), which may include the following:

- *Reasonable travel, accommodation and subsistence costs - in accordance with the University expenses policy and ESRC terms and conditions. (Leeds policy; York policy UKRI T&Cs)*
- *Consumables directly related to the project including (but not limited to) professional printed materials, publicity material, room bookings, catering, data storage and access.*
- *Salaries - to recruit new members of staff (on a fixed-term basis) or fund existing DI members of staff to complete part of the work.**

**For any recruitment there is expected to be a demonstration that this staffing is necessary to meet the skills requirement of the role, and that recruitment can be achieved in an appropriate timescale for the implementation of the project. Projects can be carried out on a full-time or part-time basis. Please ensure that you follow the recruitment guidance issued by your university.*

Please note if you are already funded 100% by external funding, please ensure you have approval from your line manager that you can be released for the appropriate time.

- *Applicants should provide costings in their application (in consultation with your faculty or department research support team) and justification for the budget.*

The following costs are not eligible:

- *Building and refurbishment costs.*
- *Patent filing or similar costs associated directly to registering intellectual property rights.*
- *Infrastructure and Capital Expenditure, i.e., no single items of equipment above the £10k threshold are permitted.*
- *Cost incurred or for activities that fall outside of the dates of the grant.*

Types of awards:

Knowledge Exchange and Impact

This funding is designed to support Knowledge Exchange and Impact events and or Knowledge Translation activity, enabling dissemination of outputs to a new audience or creating tools for use by policing or in the community based on existing research.

Funding of up to £3k is available (in exceptional circumstances up to £5k but please discuss prior to applying as a special case will need to be made to apply for this)

Examples of activities under this heading could include (but not restricted to) workshops, events, training, webpages, toolkits, animations, and materials.

Co-Produced Research

This funding is available for small scale projects which involve working with an external partner – either in policing, a local authority, relevant public sector or third sector organisation, a data provider or a community group.

Funding of up to ***£30k*** *(100% value) is available. Projects will be supported for a period of* ***6-9 months.*** *We expect projects to be co-designed and co-produced with partners, to provide evidence about effective preventative approaches, evaluate innovative existing policing practices, or identify new opportunities.*

Rapid Action / Responsive Activities (outside regular calls):

In addition to the scheduled open-call rounds, TYP-ACE will support 'rapid-action' or 'responsive' projects. These awards are intended for (i) activities that are demonstrably time-sensitive or (ii) that respond directly to requests circulated to the 'expert network' by TYP-ACE (to join please complete the form here). Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis and must include a project partner, together with clear alignment to at least one TYP-ACE ARI. We will only fund activities that require rapid funding due to the time sensitive nature of the work and could not fit in the usual call schedule. Please contact us if there is a project you wish to apply for that fits in this category.

Responsive activity calls will be circulated to the TYP-ACE expert network as and when opportunities arise and guidance will be circulated with details of the opportunity.

Application and Award Process

There will be at least three funding rounds for Co-Produced Research and Knowledge Exchange awards. Rapid Action applications are reviewed on a rolling basis. Details of each specific call will be available on the TYP-ACE webpages and will be circulated via the mailing list and research networks at Leeds and York.

Applicants must ensure they use the correct and the latest version of the application form and guidance which will be available on the website.

Completed forms should be submitted electronically to the TYP-ACE teams at policing@leeds.ac.uk. Any queries not answered in the published guidance can also be sent to this address.

Departmental/Faculty Approval

For all applications we request that you consult with your faculty or departmental research support team prior to submission; applications must be approved by a Head of School or other authorised approver. Please ensure that sign off and costings are done in a timely manner and that you share details on your application for who should be informed of award outcomes.

Contracts and HR

If your proposal includes recruitment/secondment of staff or the arrangement of IP and contractual agreements, please have these discussions with HR and commercial teams early in the process to safeguard against any delays should you be awarded funding.

If your project is funded and your partner is new to the University and will be receiving payment from the University of Leeds or York; please contact your local finance teams as soon as possible so they can be set up on our systems, to reduce the risk of payment delays.

Ethics and Data Management

Applicants are responsible for ensuring that they consider ethical issues and obtain appropriate ethical approval before proceeding with the work. If your project is likely to require ethical approval, please highlight this in the application under project plan and build time for obtaining approval into the plan for proposed start date.

Leeds Ethics information - https://leeds365.sharepoint.com/sites/GovernanceandCompliance/SitePages/Research-ethics.aspx

York Ethics - https://www.york.ac.uk/staff/research/governance/research-integrity-and-ethics/professional-services-research-ethics-committee/

We also expect all project where appropriate to follow institutional data management practices.

Leeds Research Data Management - https://leeds365.sharepoint.com/sites/ResearchOperations/SitePages/Data-Management.aspx

York Research Data Management - https://www.york.ac.uk/it-services/tools/research/research-it/data/

Funding Call Timetable

Please note that the dates may be subject to change.

Round	*Opening*	*Deadline*	*Panel*	*Commencing (earliest)*	*Max Completion*
1	*Dec 2025*	*2nd March 2026*	*16th March 2026*	*Apr 2026*	*Apr 2027*
2	*Apr 2026*	*2nd July 2026*	*End July 2026*	*Sept 2026*	*Oct 2027*
3	*Oct 2026*	*14th January 2027*	*Early February 2027*	*April 2027*	*April 2028*
4	*tbc*	*TBC June 2027*			*Jul 2028*

The panel will meet approximately 2 weeks after the deadline to assess the applications. All applications will be reviewed against the assessment criteria below by a panel including representatives of the TYP-ACE leadership team and up to two independent reviewers.

You will be notified of the outcome of your application within 2 weeks of the panel meeting.

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Terms and conditions of funding

By accepting an award, successful applicants are agreeing to the following terms and conditions:

- *Successful projects will be listed on the TYP-ACE website, the P-ACE Hub and the College of Policing research map*
- *Award holders' information and application may be shared with other award holders and prospective applicants.*
- *The PI will engage with TYP-ACE to monitor project progress both during the life of the project and post project to allow the reporting of outcomes and capture of impact and 'good practice'. This will include making nonconfidential aspects available to assist with the development of promotional materials.*
- *Recipients of funding must ensure that TYP-ACE is credited as providing support for the activity in any outputs.*
- *The PI and appropriate research support team are responsible for ensuring all related contracts and agreements are signed by all parties. Contracts and agreements must be in place before any funds will be released.*
- *Award-holders will be expected to participate in future capacity building events to share their experience and develop wider learning.*
- *The TYP-ACE Project Manager may request information from a PI on their approved project at any given time.*
- *The award is non-transferable.*
- *Any changes to the project in terms of timelines, expenditure or the work plan must be approved by TYP-ACE by contacting the Project Manager at policing@leeds.ac.uk as soon as possible.*
- *All expenditure must comply with the University's and ESRC financial regulations and PIs must ensure appropriate probity in managing the finance and expenditure of awards. The faculty are responsible for all procurement and payments. (Leeds policy; York policy UKRI T&Cs)*
- *The PI is responsible for managing and reporting on the budget of their award. The project timescales should be adhered to with any dev iation reported to policing@leeds.ac.uk.*
- *If the PI of the award leaves the University, a new PI will need to be appointed at Leeds or York in order for the project to continue.*
- *Award-holders will be required to fully follow the reporting requirement as detailed below.*
- *PIs are expected to provide outcomes and impacts in Researchfish against TYP-ACE (ES/C001356/1).*

Reporting Requirements

The reports required for all awards will be agreed at the beginning of the project according to the type of activity being completed but may include:

- ***Interim Report** to capture the progress and to inform of any changes to the original application timeline.*
- ***End of project report** to be submitted within 1 month of the project completion date, this will include a full expenditure report*
- ***An accessible research/activity summary** to be submitted within 3 months of the project completion date (or as agreed).*
- ***Follow on report** where appropriate will be requested 8-12 months following completion of the project to inform of any follow-on activity, outputs and impact arising from the project.*

All report templates will be provided to successful applicants prior to the end of their award.

We ask that award holders continue to proactively alert the team of any arising impact or activity beyond this date.

Assessment criteria:

Applications will be assessed against the following key criteria:

- ***Strategic fit***

Applicants should outline how the project aligns with at least one of the TYP-ACE priority ARIs (Crime Prevention, Building Public Trust, Climate Crisis, Data Analytics).

- ***Collaboration***

Projects need to demonstrate some level of external collaboration. This could include (but not be limited to) co-production of the research project, commitment of time and/or resources to the project, engagement or planned engagement with the outputs or results, providing case studies or testing tools.

- ***Realistic and Rigorous project plan***

Projects must have a clear plan and timeline demonstrating how the work will be achieved within the timescale and budget proposed in the application.

- ***Potential of outputs and value***

Applicants should identify opportunities for dissemination especially beyond academia and outline the potential impact and value to policing and the public of the outputs which will be generated by the project.

- ***Value for money***

Applicants should include a justification of resources to demonstrate the need for the level of funding requested. Applicants must also include details of other support for the project including the cost of any additional staff time, partner contributions and any other additional funding sourced for the project.