

Call for Proposals for Interdisciplinary Research in the Food System.

About the Oxford Martin Programme on the Future of Food

The Oxford Martin School has funded an interdisciplinary Programme on the Future of Food. Its aim is to stimulate research at Oxford on the food system (defined here as including all aspects of the production, processing and consumption of food, as well as their social, economic, environmental and health consequences). The Programme aims to do three things. (i) Through a website currently under development to link all researchers at Oxford who work on the food system or whose work touches on this area, and provide a single portal for people outside Oxford to see what research in this field takes place here. (ii) Through workshops and other activities to link Oxford researchers with policy makers involved in the food system. (iii) Fund a small number of interdisciplinary projects to stimulate new research at Oxford on the food system.

Call for Expressions of Interest

This call requests expressions of interest for the interdisciplinary research projects. Proposals from throughout the University on any aspect of the food system are welcome. Final decisions will be made on the following criteria:

- i) Excellence of the research question;
- ii) The interdisciplinary nature of the project; it is unlikely that proposals from single Departments will be supported and we particularly encourage those that span two or more Divisions;
- iii) Lack of alternative funding sources; we are looking for new projects from people who have not worked together before with ideas that would be difficult to fund from current external sources;
- iv) Likelihood that the project will help to build capacity for food systems research that will lead to further research projects;
- v) Relevance to current major national and international policy issues.

The projects will last for up to three years and we are expecting them to involve a post doc (who would become a member of the Oxford Martin School community of fellows) and associated research expenses. We expect to fund three projects.

Ineligible Costs

The funds cannot be used to buy out PI time or support DPhil students, and cannot be used to support co-applicants at other institutions though less formal collaborations (for example the involvement of colleagues from other universities and institutions) are welcome. Finally, because the money for these projects comes from the University they do not carry overheads.

Decision-Making Process

Projects will be chosen in a two-stage process. We invite one-page expressions of interest by the end of May describing briefly the project, who will be involved, and how it meets the above five

criteria. Selected projects will be given feedback and asked to produce a full proposal (we will endeavour to minimise the work this will involve), probably by mid-July. Projects will be selected by the Programme Director assisted by a group of people with relevant expertise from within the University and outside. We expect projects to begin between October 2012 and the beginning of 2013.

Potential applicants are welcome to contact us at any time to ask questions about whether potential proposals match the Programme's criteria (email below). We are also happy to put people in touch with potential collaborators in other Departments.

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