

Research Impact Leave Scheme

The University Research Impact Leave Scheme is part of the University's commitment to "investing in impact"

The scheme enables staff to devote a period of no more than 6 months to take advantage of potential impact opportunities arising from research, on full salary, a teaching substitute being paid out of the fund. As acknowledged by REF, there can often be a lag between research outcomes and impact arising and, in recognition of this, we encourage applications from staff who have finished a period of research leave in the past 18 months, or who have completed a piece of research within the past 18 months for which impact opportunities are possible.

Time spent on Research Impact Leave counts towards University Research Leave accrual i.e. as part of the continuous period of service over eight semesters.

It is not meant to be in place of University Research Leave, but could actually complement it. For example, it could be used to 'top up' a period of accrued Departmental leave or time bought out by research grants, to further develop any arising impact.

The purpose of this leave from University duties would be to enable the researcher to devote an extended period of time to developing impact arising from a piece of research. This can include, but is not limited to, activities that support engagement, knowledge exchange activities, collaboration, etc. This scheme is not designed to provide staff with time for writing up impact case studies for REF and such conversations should take place with the appropriate line manager to be included within their WAMM.

There will be five annual awards made through internal competition. Awards will only be given to applications that show potential to produce very considerable impacts in terms of reach and significance e.g. contributing to at least a 3* impact case study for the University's REF submission.

The process for applicants is as follows:

- A pre-application conversation from academic members of staff should be held with Professor Helen Roberts, Director of Research Excellence & Impact (hmr@aber.ac.uk). An additional conversation with a Research Impact Officer is also recommended.
- Applicants should use the specific Research Impact Leave Application and Report Form, accompanied by a letter that outlines the applicant's case for eligibility, and a [FEC form](#) for teaching replacement costs at 0.7 FTE, Grade 6 for 6 months (or equivalent cost at higher grade and reduced hours).
- Applications should be addressed to the Director of Research Excellence & Impact in the first instance, for report to the Research Committee Task Group. Please e-mail via research@aber.ac.uk.
- A Concluding Report addressed to the Director of Research Excellence & Impact must be submitted at the termination of the period of research leave. Please e-mail via research@aber.ac.uk.

Applications must be submitted for consideration by the Research Committee Task Group at least 3 months in advance of the start of the semester for which leave is being requested to be taken. Therefore, applications for semester 1 leave should be received by the end of May for consideration at the June Research Committee Task Group, and semester 2 leave applications should be received by the end of September for consideration at the Research Committee Task Group held in October.