**iCASP FAQs**

***What are the aims of iCASP?***

iCASP aims to:

* Generate £50million+ of benefits to Yorkshire’s economy by influencing investments, identifying cost savings, and creating new products and jobs;
* Create a network of catchment management experts;
* Inform policies and strategies;
* Produce materials that help environmental science to be used by practitioners.

This will include:

1. Promoting the resilience of the region’s cities
2. Mitigating drought and flood risk
3. Supporting the delivery of flood forecasts
4. Developing approaches to improve the ecological and chemical status of surface and groundwaters, and water quality entering treatment works
5. Enhancing carbon sequestration in soils and woodlands
6. Supporting sustainable agriculture

Improving communications between those working on environmental science and the stakeholders engaged with catchment management problems and solutions, building a strong and sustainable regional network at the global forefront of integrated catchment management solutions, and rigorously measuring the economic and non-economic impacts of environmental science in this context, will be important components to achieving these aims.

***How much is available for research?***

iCASP is designed to support projects that apply existing environmental science so that it has impact related to catchment management. It is therefore not dissimilar in approach to University Impact Acceleration Accounts.

It does not have resources to support new research. New research ideas that are identified through iCASP activities will be recorded and communicated to those that can find resources to support such research.

iCASP has the following budget lines to support projects (totals):

* 4 years' worth of academic time,
* 25 years' worth of Impact Translation Fellow time,
* £75,000 contribution towards secondment overheads,
* £100,000 for travel and subsistence to attend meetings,
* £120,000 for running workshops/meetings/events,
* £140,000 for project outputs (documents, online tools, etc).

Co-designed project proposals (see below) can bid for a combination of these resources.

The above budget line totals need to be spread over the 5 year duration of iCASP. It is therefore unlikely that in the initial years of iCASP the Governance Group will approve co-designed project proposals that are long, resource intensive projects.

***Can iCASP cover the staff time of partners?***

iCASP does not have resources to cover the staff time of partners. The 16 iCASP Springboard Partners have committed in-kind to support the delivery of iCASP, however how this engagement is distributed across the iCASP projects developed is up to the individual Springboard Partner.

iCASP does have resources to cover the secondment overheads of partner staff spending time at an iCASP university partner or at another iCASP partner.

iCASP will be seeking to raise additional funding for the work of the Programme and this will include seeking funding that will cover iCASP partner staff time.

***What subjects can iCASP projects address?***

Subjects that relate to environmental sciences and catchment management, particularly in relation to managing flood and drought risk in the context of climate change, improving water quality, and enhancing the carbon storage, productivity and resilience of soils and woodlands.

***What can be done through iCASP projects?***

iCASP projects will use existing environment science to help address a catchment management need. They will do this by, for example:

* Translating existing data, models, knowledge and/or expertise into tools, solutions and approaches, and/or;
* Embedding new knowledge in ‘user organisations’ to enhance uptake and deliver improvements in process or service provision through people exchange, and/or;
* Advancing academic outputs into commercially-viable products and services.

***Is the existing research to be used by iCASP projects restricted to NERC-funded projects?***

iCASP projects should use existing research that has largely been NERC-funded (including NERC-funded PhD studentships), but can also include other non-NERC funded elements (including social sciences), which could help environmental sciences to be applied in integrated catchment management. The academic time budget line for iCASP projects could therefore be used to cover the time of non-environmental sciences academics but the main focus must be on how to get the environmental science used.

***Do iCASP projects have to stick to those example projects outlined in the original iCASP proposal?***

No. These were example projects included in the original proposal to demonstrate that co-design between academics and user organisations had already taken place (and could work). However, the iCASP team have spoken with the iCASP Springboard Partners to note their current priorities and in many cases the example projects remain highly relevant. These examples have therefore been used to inform the themes of the co-design workshops (see below) and their focus.

***What is the geographic scope of iCASP projects?***

iCASP projects should focus on delivering benefits to Yorkshire, more specifically within the River Ouse drainage basin made up of the catchments of the following rivers: Aire, Calder, Derwent, Don, Nidd, Ouse, Swale, Ure, Wharfe. Attempting influence at national and international levels is also encouraged.

***How will iCASP projects be developed?***

There are two approaches to iCASP project design:

1. Co-design workshops on different themes that bring together academics and user organisations (both iCASP Springboard Partners and other organisations important for the potential impact of iCASP projects on those themes).

The aim of these workshops will be to develop iCASP project proposals (using the proposal forms that have been developed by the iCASP team).

The workshops will also have the objectives of building connections and information exchange.

The themes of these workshops have been informed by the environment science that has taken place at the iCASP partner universities, the priorities of Springboard Partners (and a sample of the wider Yorkshire catchment management community through exercises at the iCASP launch event), and a review of opportunities to use research to inform policies relevant to catchment management.

1. Project ideas directly from academics and/or user organisations.

Send these ideas to iCASP@leeds.ac.uk or speak to the iCASP team.

iCASP can help set up meetings, introduce partners (academic and non) possibly interested in the ideas, and help in the completion of the iCASP proposal form.

Project proposals are divided into 2 stages. Stage 1 requires a short form to be filled out and submitted to the iCASP Executive Management Group. This Group will review the form and make recommendations on academic involvement in order to make the project support integrated catchment solutions, i.e. develop cross-cutting solutions rather than siloed approaches to addressing user challenges.

Stage 2 requires developing a slightly more detailed form together with iCASP’s Impact Evaluation Group which will make recommendations on how the proposal could be aligned more closely with iCASP’s Key Success Measures (which relate to value creation, information exchange, policy formation, and practical benefits). This Group will also forward a short evaluation of the proposal to the iCASP Governance Group which will make the decision on whether the proposal will receive resources from iCASP. The Governance Group is made up of representatives of the 16 iCASP Springboard Partners.

If resources required for a project are low, then there is a fast-track process for Governance Group approval.

***How do I get involved in the co-design workshops/meetings?***

If you are from a Springboard Partner then your iCASP organisation focal point will be consulted on who should be invited to each workshop. The iCASP team are also identifying individuals from Springboard Partners and wider partners who are interested in different topics.

Email iCASP@leeds.ac.uk if you are interested in a particular topic related to catchment management.

The periodic Yorkshire Catchment Solutions Forum is designed to bring together a wider group of organisations from across Yorkshire to hear about iCASP’s progress, highlight opportunities for iCASP engagement, and to share lessons learnt on catchment management. This Forum will also be an opportunity to hear about upcoming iCASP events and to register interest in attending these events.

***What is the role of the Impact Translation Fellow in iCASP projects?***

The iCASP Impact Translation Fellows are the ‘doers’ in iCASP projects. They will do the majority of the work involved in iCASP projects and will serve as project managers, guided by academics and partners. For example, they will work with both academics and user organisations involved in the project to adapt an existing dataset or model and to help user organisations to use them, or to collate evidence from across the science produced by the iCASP university partners to produce summaries, so that it can be used to inform catchment management.

Impact Translation Fellows will be of post-doctoral or equivalent status. They can either be hired to support a particular project or selected from the two Impact Translation Fellows that have already been recruited.

Impact Translation Fellows must be employed through any of the iCASP university partners but can spend time (up to 100%) on secondment at Springboard Partners. The recruitment process must be conducted by the iCASP team based at the University of Leeds. This process does not preclude staff from Springboard Partners, or existing staff at the university partners, being seconded into an Impact Translation Fellow position if deemed to be the most appropriate action.

***Can the impact translation work involve research from universities outside of the iCASP university partners?***

At the moment the research considered for iCASP projects can only derive from the iCASP partner universities – the Universities of Leeds, Sheffield and York, and the National Centre for Atmospheric Science.

For iCASP projects concerning peatlands, the peatland-related research from the Universities of Durham, Manchester and Newcastle can also be considered.

***Can iCASP projects involve partners beyond the iCASP Springboard Partners?***

The iCASP Springboard Partners are:

* Arup
* Bradford Metropolitan Borough Council
* City of York Council
* Dales to Vales River Network / Yorkshire Dales Rivers Trust
* Environment Agency
* IUCN UK Peatland Programme
* JBA Trust
* Leeds City Council
* Linking Environment and Farming
* Met Office
* Natural England
* NFU
* Pennine Prospects
* Yorkshire Water
* Yorkshire West Local Nature Partnership
* Yorkshire Wildlife Trust

iCASP projects can involve partners beyond this list in order to achieve the desired impact. iCASP projects must involve at least 1 iCASP university partner and 1 iCASP Springboard Partner.

Given that the Governance Group that selects iCASP projects is made up of Springboard Partner representatives, it is advisable to involve interested Springboard Partners in iCASP projects.

***Can iCASP work on public engagement activities?***

iCASP is not set up to deal directly with the public on environmental sciences related to catchment management. If a user organisation need involves helping them communicate environmental science to members of the public, then this will be addressed through iCASP projects if the necessary expertise is available, e.g. the iCASP Communications Officer can support the design of communication activities in iCASP projects.

***I want to be connected to academics to help me address a catchment management problem that I have – can I contact iCASP for support?***

iCASP’s focus has to be on the design, delivery and evaluation of iCASP projects. However, iCASP also has Key Success Measures on science-user engagement and therefore the iCASP team will do their best to connect those involved in catchment management across Yorkshire (and beyond) to relevant academics who may be able to help address particular catchment management problems through consultancy work, or through research programmes and projects (beyond iCASP) that they are already involved in.