**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 ground waters, and water quality entering treatment works
5. Enhancing carbon sequestration in soils and woodlands
6. Supporting sustainable agriculture

Key to achieving these aims are:

* 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,
* rigorously measuring the economic and non-economic impacts of environmental science

***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. How this engagement is distributed across the iCASP projects 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 partner organisation.

iCASP will be seeking to raise additional funding including funding to cover additional 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, and Wharfe. Influencing at national and international levels is also encouraged.

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

There are two approaches to iCASP project design:

1. Project ideas from academics and/or user organisations can be submitted directly to iCASP@leeds.ac.uk using the concept note form available from the [Project page on the iCASP website.](https://icasp.org.uk/projects/)
Or ideas can be discussed directly with a member of the iCASP team.
2. 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 initial iCASP project concept notes.

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

The themes of these workshops have been informed by the environmental 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), and a review of opportunities to use research to inform policies relevant to catchment management.

These initial short concept notes are looked at by the iCASP Executive Management Group. This Group recommends which academics should be involved to ensure that the project can support integrated catchment solutions, i.e. develop cross-cutting solutions rather than siloed approaches to addressing user challenges.

The iCASP team can help support turning the concept notes into a full proposal and outline project plan by setting up meetings, introducing new partners (academic and non-academic) and helping in the completion of the iCASP project proposal form.

A finished proposal is then reviewed by iCASP’s Impact Evaluation Group who help to align it to iCASP’s Key Success Measures (which relate to value creation, information exchange, policy formation, and practical benefits). This Group forwards a short evaluation of the proposal to the iCASP Governance Group which will decide 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 minimal, 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 organisation then your iCASP point of contact will be consulted on who should be invited to each workshop. The iCASP team also identify individuals from Springboard Partners and other organisations who are interested in different topics.

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

An annual Yorkshire Integrated Catchment Solutions Event will bring together a wider group of organisations from across Yorkshire to hear about iCASP’s progress, highlight opportunities for iCASP engagement, and share lessons learnt on catchment management. This Forum will also be an opportunity to suggest topics for new iCASP events and to register interest in attending planned 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 delivery work and project management, guided by academics and partners.

Impact Translation Fellows will be of post-doctoral or equivalent status. They are recruited to support a particular project or can be selected from the small cohort of Impact Translation Fellows already in post.

Impact Translation Fellows must be employed by one 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 this is more appropriate.

***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.

As the Governance Group which selects iCASP projects is made up of Springboard Partner representatives, it is advisable to involve interested Springboard Partners in developing 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 needs help to communicate environmental science to members of the public to meet a project aim, then this should be addressed by resourcing the project with the necessary expertise, either by outsourcing or, if available, from the iCASP Communications Officer.

***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 primary 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 to relevant academics who may be able to help address particular catchment management problems through consultancy work, or through other research programmes and projects that they are already involved in.