

# Research Institute Thematic Awards (RITAs)

This University is launching a new research support fund explicitly linked to the work of the research institutes. This fund is designed to encourage the development of cross-department and faculty initiatives which generate high quality contributions to the REF, whether research outputs, impact case-studies or enhancing the research environment.

The proposals must be in at least one thematic area of the research institutes outlined below.

**PGMI**  
Postgraduate  
Medical Institute

**I4P**  
Institute for  
Public Policy and  
Professional Practice

**ICE**  
Institute for  
Creative Enterprise

## Generic theme for all institutes: Co-production of knowledge and implications for practice

- Improving patient care: evidence mapping, priority-setting partnerships, chronic conditions, IT innovation
- Improving service delivery: evaluating patient experience, measuring staff and user outcomes
- Improving professional practice through education and training: evaluating the evidence, measuring impact
- The relationship(s) between the austerity crisis of 2007 and the retreat by the state from the public sphere
- The contested nature of what is meant by 'civil society'
- Public participation in service design: new forms of democratic space or old forms of co-optation
- The ways in which 'professional practice' is being reconceptualised and imagined as a result of austerity
- The transformational effect of the digital technologies
- Promoting a greater understanding of the changing nature of communities
- Research with museums, galleries etc. to unlock archives and encourage public participation
- Austerity and cultural responses
- The role that urban initiatives have in shaping, and being shaped by, creative practices.
- New patterns of creative production away from the mainstream

For more information please contact the Research Office [research@edgehill.ac.uk](mailto:research@edgehill.ac.uk) or ext. 7925

There will be two types of project:

1. Multi-disciplinary research projects which bring together people from across the Institution with external partners (practitioners, community organisations, policy-makers etc.) to produce outputs that will contribute to the next REF
2. Impact events designed to bring academics into regular contact with research users and beneficiaries to facilitate the application of research findings and the identification of research needs and projects. These should help contribute to high quality impact case-studies.

The research projects should be significant with multiple staff from Edge Hill involved including, where possible, early career researchers alongside senior staff. It is expected that the value of these bids will be £20-25,000 and might include teaching relief, appointment of RAs, organisation of events, travel and subsistence. The format of the bids should follow that for RIF projects with budget clearly identified by year.

The impact events also need to include staff from at least two departments and need to be linked to excellent research, whether the application of existing work or the design of research projects that will directly engage with the needs of non-academic actors. It is expected that the budget for these proposals will be £5-10,000. For further details about any of the research themes please go to the institute websites or contact the relevant institute director.

All RITA projects should start between April 2016 and March 2017.

All applications should be emailed to [research@edgehill.ac.uk](mailto:research@edgehill.ac.uk) by **4pm on 11 December 2015** to be assessed by a panel after undergoing external peer review. The awards will be announced during the Festival of Ideas in February 2016.