

**CALL FOR PROPOSALS:  
DOES HUMAN SPACEFLIGHT AFFECT THE  
PERCEPTION AND UPTAKE OF STEM SUBJECTS?**

The UK Space Agency seeks to fund social research into the effects of human spaceflight programmes. It is often claimed that astronaut programmes increase interest in and uptake of science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM) among children. The forthcoming mission of Tim Peake, the first ever UK government-backed astronaut, who will become the first ever British astronaut to visit the International Space Station in November 2015, presents an excellent opportunity to test this claim.

Seeking to subject the claim to rigorous and reliable social research methods, the UK Space Agency welcomes proposals for studies which will assess the following in response to Tim Peake's mission:

Primarily:

- Levels of engagement with STEM subjects in schools, especially at key stages 2 and 3

Secondarily:

- Social mobility – i.e. increased engagement in STEM from disadvantaged students and schools in underprivileged areas
- Knowledge of societal usefulness of space

It is anticipated that funding in the region of £300-350k will be available, spanning three years (before, during and after the mission). This may cover research time, research assistants and other resources relevant and necessary to the proposed research. Please note that funding for studentships cannot be considered under this call.

**ASSESSMENT**

Proposals will be assessed by a panel of experts, including experts in social science research and in space research, according to the following criteria:

- Fit to the aims of the call
- Applicability of the methodologies
- Research and management plan
- Track record of the applicant in relevant social research

## **HOW TO APPLY**

Applications should be submitted by email to [andrew.kuh@ukspaceagency.bis.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:andrew.kuh@ukspaceagency.bis.gsi.gov.uk), no later than **17.00 on 13 October 2014**, with successful grants expected to start in January 2014. Successful grants will be administered by the ESRC via the JeS system. See Annex 1 for full details of what to submit.

## **ELIGIBILITY**

This call is open to researchers at Research Organisations eligible for ESRC funding – see [www.rcuk.ac.uk/funding/eligibilityforrcs](http://www.rcuk.ac.uk/funding/eligibilityforrcs) for further information.

Grants will be awarded in accordance with standard ESRC terms and conditions.

## **FURTHER INFORMATION**

If you wish to discuss this or require further information about the terms of the call, please contact Andrew Kuh, Human Spaceflight and Microgravity Programme Manager at the UK Space Agency:  
01793 41 8081  
[Andrew.Kuh@ukspaceagency.bis.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Andrew.Kuh@ukspaceagency.bis.gsi.gov.uk).

## **Annex 1.**

### **DOES HUMAN SPACEFLIGHT AFFECT THE PERCEPTION AND UPTAKE OF STEM SUBJECTS?**

#### **HOW TO APPLY**

Applications should be a single pdf, submitted by email to [andrew.kuh@ukspaceagency.bis.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:andrew.kuh@ukspaceagency.bis.gsi.gov.uk) and must include the following:

#### **1. COVER SHEET**

This must include the following information:

- Principal Investigator (name, organisation, department and email address)
- Co-Investigators (name, organisation, department)
- Title of proposal
- Proposed start date and duration
- Total funding being requested
- Project summary: maximum 200 words summarising the project

#### **2. SUMMARY OF COSTS**

Please summarise the costs on the spreadsheet template (available to [download](#)).

Costings should be calculated on an FEC basis. If successful, UK Space Agency will meet 80 per cent of the full economic costs and the host institution is expected to support the remaining 20 per cent.

You should note that proposals in the range of £300-350k are expected. Funding may be sought for research time, research assistants and other resources necessary and relevant to the project.

Funding for studentships is not permissible under this scheme.

#### **3. JUSTIFICATION OF RESOURCES**

Please justify the resources requested, explaining how they will enable delivery of the proposed research.

This should be no more than two sides in 11pt text on A4 paper, with minimum 2cm margins (excluding references).

#### **4. CASE FOR SUPPORT**

Explain the proposed research and how it meets the aims of the call. Please include the following sections:

##### **a) Description of the Project**

**b) Management Plan** Proposed management of the project and resources, breakdown of responsibilities of those working on the project. This should also explain any monitoring process that will be used

**c) Research Environment and context** Provide some contextual information of the research environment, including related work undertaken by the applicant(s).

This should be no more than six sides in 11pt text on A4 paper, with minimum 2cm margins (excluding references).

## **5. CVs**

Please include a Curriculum Vitae for each named staff member.

This should be no more than two sides in 11pt text on A4 paper, with minimum 2cm margins.