

Small grant funding for Secondary Analysis of the Longitudinal Small Business Survey waves 1-3

Call for proposals 2018

The Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy has made available £20,000 to fund four secondary analyses of the first three waves of the Longitudinal Small Business Survey. The Enterprise Research Centre (ERC) is administering this call on behalf of BEIS. Note that applications will not be accepted from anyone who is being supported through current ERC grant funding. Applications are welcome from those who received funding from the earlier LSBS secondary analysis calls.

Applications for funding should be submitted to ERC by **31st October 2018**. Successful bids will be announced by **16th November 2018**. Funded activity should take place between November 2018 and March 2019.

Background

The Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy supported by a number of other Departments and Agencies recently commissioned the third wave of the UK Longitudinal Small Business Survey or LSBS. The LSBS is intended to:

- Improve our understanding of what drives and constrains business performance and growth by addressing evidence gaps relating to the lags between many business activities and associated performance outcomes.
- Provide improved data on current business performance and the factors that affect this. The larger survey size will provide more reliable findings for key sub-groups of the business population and in relation to activities such as seeking finance which are only relevant to part of the sample.

Data from the first three waves of the LSBS is now available through the [UK Data Archive](#).

The Department is seeking to fund 4 focussed research projects costing £5,000 each which will explore aspects of the first three waves of the LSBS data. Applications which focus on the following areas will be prioritised:

- Productivity and place and how they interact with other aspects of business eco-systems – growth, finance etc.
- The long-term decline in key indicators (growth ambition, demand for finance, investment in training, demand for business support, etc).
- Comparisons between LSBS results and those of other surveys such as GEM and other OECD and UK surveys.

Projects may relate to specific sub-groups of the business population, regional or more local analyses or specific groups of firms distinguished, for example, by their use of external finance or exporting activity. Proposals using any aspect of the LSBS data will be considered for funding. Each funded project will be required to produce a research paper of publishable quality and a brief non-technical summary (2-3 pages) of the key results.

The application process

Decisions on funding will be made by the LSBS project manager supported by the ERC Directors. Note that applications will not be accepted from anyone who is being supported through current ERC grant funding. Applications are welcome, however, from those who received funding from the earlier LSBS secondary analysis calls. Proposals will be evaluated using the following criteria:

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| • Strength of the suggested programme of activity | 70% |
| • Strength of the project team | 30% |

Awards will each be of £5,000 and are expected to cover all research and reporting costs associated with each project.

Proposals will form the basis for a brief contractual agreement. Payment will be made at the end of the project subject to the completion of the proposed programme of activity and related reporting.

Preparing an application

Applications should be prepared as Word documents and excluding appendices should be no longer than 4 pages. These should take the following form:

- Project title and applicants including full affiliations and contact details. The lead applicant should be clearly identified.
- Overview of proposed research and potential contribution to understanding
- Overview of the project team

Annex - Brief two-page CVs for the lead applicant and other relevant team members should be included in an annex.

Applications for funding should be submitted to Jiao Liu at ERC
(CentreManager@enterpriseresearch.ac.uk) by 5pm on **31st October 2018**.