



Course Code & Title	LISS2130 Engaging Parliament as a Researcher		
Convenor(s)	Dr Leslie-Anne Duvic-Paoli		
Academic Year	2025-26	Term	Summer
Number of sessions	3	Length of session(s)	2 hours
Type of training	Research in Practice		
Day, Date	Start – End	Location: KCL Strand Campus, Bush House South East Wing	
Friday 17 th April Friday 24 th April Friday 8 th May	10:00 – 12:00	Bush House (SE) 1.02 Bush House (SE) 1.02 Bush House (SE) 1.01	
Enrolment Links:	Available to book on SkillsForge from February 2026 . Click to log in and register. Questions? Visit our Training FAQ		

Course Description:

This course explores how academic research can inform scrutiny, legislation, and debate in the UK Parliament. It introduces how Parliament works, how research is used, and how to identify opportunities for sharing your work. It focuses on practical advice to build your confidence and your profile as a contributor to parliamentary activity.

The UK Parliament is a particularly important site for research engagement because, as a politically plural body, it offers multiple routes into policy debate; its activities cover the full breadth of public policy; its scrutiny processes provide regular and transparent opportunities to contribute expertise; and research submitted to Parliament can shape future debates and legislative work. Researchers who understand how Parliament uses evidence are better positioned to increase the relevance, visibility and societal value of their work, and identify where they can make a difference. Skills developed during this course will also support researchers engage with other policy officials across the UK and beyond.

Session 1: Introduction to the UK Parliament and how research is used

This session gives an overview of the UK Parliament and examines how research feeds into its activities. It outlines ways to work with the institution as a researcher, including select committees, the House of Commons and House of Lords Libraries, and the Parliamentary Office of Science and Technology. It discusses the range of reasons why researchers engage with Parliament and the benefits of doing so.



Session 2: How to write for a parliamentary audience

This session examines how to prepare and write a research briefing for a parliamentary audience. It explains what a Select Committee inquiry is, what makes good written and oral evidence, and what form of outcome and 'impact' researchers can reasonably expect from their contribution.

Session 3: Submitting effective evidence to a Select Committee inquiry

This session is practice-oriented. Participants identify an inquiry, current or past, that relates to their expertise and develop a draft submission for a select committee. They receive feedback, reflect on common challenges, and refine their approach.

Learning Outcomes:

After this training, participants should be able to:

- Understand how Parliament works and how it uses research
- Assess how their own research connects to policy needs
- Communicate their work in accessible ways to policymakers
- Understand knowledge exchange and research impact within the academic environment

Reading list:

Farley-Ripple, EN, Oliver, K & Boaz, A, '[Mapping the Community: Use of Research Evidence in Policy and Practice](#)' (2020) *Humanities and Social Sciences Communications* 7, 83

Kenny, C, Rose, DC, Hobbs, A, Tyler, C & Blackstock, J, '[The Role of Research in the UK Parliament](#) Volume One. London, UK, Houses of Parliament (2017)

Beswick D, Geddes M, '[Evaluating Academic Engagement with UK Legislatures. Exchanging Knowledge on Knowledge Exchange](#)' (2020)

Jopson J, Haddon C and Thorpe K, 'Why Having Empathy for MPs May Help your Policy Engagement' (08 October 2024), [UPEN Blog](#)

UK Parliament, 'Give Evidence to a Select Committee', available [here](#).

Pre-course preparation:

- Subscribe to UK Parliament's Knowledge Exchange Unit weekly newsletter to start identifying opportunities for engagement: <https://post.parliament.uk/subscribe/>



London Interdisciplinary Social Science Doctoral Training Partnership

Number of students:

Minimum number required to run: 5

Maximum number of places available: 40