

January 2017

Business Case to attend the 2017 Training Course on Research Impact Assessment: Participant Benefits

Rational

Increasingly, organizations are asked by governments, funding bodies, partners and the public to demonstrate the impact of research and innovation (R&I) investments. Currently, the demand to assess and optimize impact outstrips capacity, and this is a learning gap that needs to be addressed.

Alberta Innovates' (AI) Performance Management and Evaluation (PME) department is hosting its third Training Course on Research Impact Assessment. The course offers an intense, hands-on, practical curriculum on how to assess the impact of R&I that incorporates both performance management and evaluation teachings. Over the 3.5 day program, participants will be engaged in the following activities:

1. combination of plenary and panel presentations
2. learning exercises
3. discussions
4. breakout sessions, and
5. network opportunities

Expert academics and practitioners, who work in the field of performance measurement, evaluation and impact assessment, will teach and facilitate the course curriculum. An added bonus is that the course takes place in Alberta, increasing accessibility for you and minimizing the cost to attend relative to comparable training options.

Learning Goals

The training course on research impact assessment provides participants with these increased competencies – knowledge and skills on how to:

1. plan
2. assess
3. measure
4. communicate, and
5. optimise research impact

Participants will learn the why, what, who, and how of research impact assessment:

- **Why assess impact?**
Develop an understanding of the rationale for and value of planning, assessing, measuring, communicating and optimising impact.
- **What is meant by “impact”?**
Learn about existing impact frameworks, approaches, tools and terminology. Develop a critical appreciation of differing perspectives on impact.
- **Who needs to know about impact?**
Identify stakeholders of RIAs, explore their perspectives, and understand their information

needs. Develop critical thinking skills that better enable stakeholders' needs and differences to be addressed.

- **How** is a research impact assessment conducted?

Learn to plan, assess, measure and communicate impact using the six block approach of RIA.

Develop competence on the development and use of RIAs.

Participants will benefit from increased understanding of research impact assessment frameworks, tools and approaches to assessment.

What will participants take home?

All participants will be introduced to RIA theory as well as its practical applications. Through the course's breakout sessions participants will have opportunities to personalize their learning:

- In the *Develop Your Skills* sessions, participants develop a draft RIA Plan for their own project, program or organization, and
- In the *Critical Dialogues* sessions, participants are guided through facilitated discussions on advanced RIA theory and practice.

Register now < <http://www.aihealthsolutions.ca/news-and-events/upcoming-events/institute-of-health-research-impact-assessment/>>

Date

March 5 – 8, 2017

Location

Kinnear Centre for Creativity & Innovation
Banff Centre, 107 Tunnel Mountain Drive
Banff, Alberta