Critical sustainability research

The University of Cambridge Institute for Sustainability Leadership (CISL) is uniquely placed to partner with organisations to develop knowledge for private sector action on sustainability. Working with business, government and financial institutions, we focus on the following four themes:

- **Zero carbon**
- **Circular economy**
- **Protection of nature**
- **Inclusive and resilient societies**

We address problems in a rigorous and timely fashion, informed by robust analysis and evidence. Our clear problem focus delivers knowledge over a useful decision horizon:

1. **The Prince of Wales Global Sustainability Fellowship Programme**
   Programmes of research into business-relevant problems, co-designed with and for industry. The Programme aims to foster new transdisciplinary thinking on sustainability, leading to practical insights, tools and recommendations for decision-makers to carry into their organisations alongside important advances in fundamental knowledge.
   Duration: 3-5 Years
   Resourcing: £120 - £150k per annum

2. **Research sprints**
   In-depth explorations of specific challenges conducted by well-resourced multi-skilled teams of technical, scientific, business, finance and policy experts tasked with making substantial, potentially breakthrough, progress. The start-up period for a sprint is typically three- to six months, followed by a six-month delivery period.
   Duration: 9-18 months
   Resourcing: £300k - £1.5m

3. **Evaluation and case study research**
   Progress with sustainability is urgent, yet many challenges encountered by companies – and the stories of how they have responded – are untold. Evaluations and case studies reveal what worked, what did not, and why, informing future business practice, drawing issues to the attention of policymakers, and enriching education programmes.
   Duration: 1-2 years
   Resourcing: £50 - £300k

4. **Graduate research**
   Students on our Master's programme in sustainability leadership spend a year conducting research. The results offer important insights into business- and finance-relevant problems, and can form the basis of longer-term studies supported by successive cohorts of students, or contribute to deeper dives conducted by professional researchers.
   Duration: 1-2 years
   Resourcing: £27 - £40k

5. **Programmatic funding**
   Multi-year partnerships drawing on the full range of the University’s intellectual resources and CISL’s expertise in delivering high quality research, with potential for naming rights and other benefits.
   Duration: Multi-year
   Resourcing: > £1m

**Further information**

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