Putting evidence to work for better policies, programmes and practice
The What Works Global Summit 2016

Request for sessions, presentations, posters and workshops

The Event

The What Works Global Summit (WWGS) will be an international culture-shifting event, putting evidence at the heart of policy and practice. It will promote quality evidence and ways of producing and communicating evidence to maximize uptake into policy and practice.

The event will be innovative in several ways, in particular its focus on an interchange of ideas, rather than academic presentations: an interchange between the global north and south, and an interchange between researchers and practitioners. It will recognise and incorporate in sessions the role that civil society and media play in promoting evidence-informed decision making.

The organizers are committed to equity and diversity in selecting plenary speakers and putting together panels.

It is a five-day event comprising a two and half day high-level conference of sharing the best practice in producing, synthesizing, translating and using evidence for policy, programming and practice, preceded by two days of experience sharing and training workshops.

Organizations wanting to organize events in parallel to the main conference and preceding workshops should contact the conference secretariat regarding venues (wwgs@campbellcollaboration.org).

In addition to the four organizers – the Campbell Collaboration, International Initiative for Impact Evaluation (3ie), Sense about Science, and the Centre for Evidence and Social Innovation at Queen’s University Belfast – the following have confirmed their participation: Centre for Evidence and Implementation (Australia), Cochrane (UK), Collaboration for Environmental Evidence (UK), Joanna Briggs Institute (Australia), J-PAL South Asia (India), London International Development Centre (UK), LSHTM Centre for Evaluation (UK), Oxfam GB (UK), Pew Research Centre (USA), Pratham (India), Results for America (USA), Rural Education Action Project (China and USA), Save the Children UK (UK), and UCL Centre for Evidence in Development Policy (UK).
This is an open call for presentations.

What sort of presentations are we looking for?

The conference encourages active participation by policymakers, programme managers and practitioners who will share their experiences in using evidence, as well as from media on the use and portrayal of evidence. So a panel may deal with a particular study or body of evidence from these different perspectives, including that of researchers. Traditional research panels on methods and new evidence, particularly evidence synthesis, will also be considered. There are no sectoral or geographical restrictions as to the subject of submissions.

Five types of presentations may be submitted:

- **Panels**: Complete panels for a 90-minute session with up to three panelists using conventional presentations followed by Q&A.

- **Other session formats**: Organizers strongly encourage sessions that use non-panel formats, including chat show’ with up to six guests and a host or a ‘fishbowl’ format which includes participants from the audience.

- **Presentations**: Individual presentations of new evidence, methods, approaches and experiences of knowledge translation and brokering in any sector. The organizers will group accepted submissions into similar topic panels.

- **Posters**: Posters presenting new evidence, methods, approaches and experiences of knowledge translation and brokering in any sector.

- **Pre-conference workshops**: They will be held on September 24th-25th. We are looking for workshops on knowledge generation, translation and supporting use of evidence in policy, programme management and practice. Submissions may also cover critical evidence appraisal, media engagement and methods training. Workshops can range in duration from one to six blocks. Each block is 90 minutes. A workshop may take place over multiple sessions.

Conference themes

The conference has the following themes, each with a number of sub-themes that are shown in brackets:

- Measuring policy or programming impact (measuring research impact, measuring impact of policy advocacy)

- Experiences in the use of evidence (institutional approaches, case studies in the use of evidence)

- Promoting policy uptake (stakeholder engagement, guidelines, media engagement)

- Knowledge translation (evidence maps, policy briefs, evidence portals, reaching the public)
• Critical appraisal of evidence (approaches to teaching critical appraisal, critical appraisal tools for specific audiences)
• New evidence (primary studies, evidence synthesis)
• Methods (qualitative synthesis, quantitative synthesis, diversifying evidence products)

How to submit a proposal

Submission is by completing the online form.

The information to be provided is as follows:

• Name of person submitting the proposal
• Email of person submitting the proposal
• Proposal title (for presentation, panel, workshop or poster)
• Type of presentation (presentation, panel, workshop or poster)
• Brief outline of presentation panel, workshop or poster (max 250 words)
• Theme
• Sub-theme
• Sector
• Region
• Duration (workshops only)
• Name, title and affiliation of all presenters. We also ask for information for eligibility for conference prize categories.

Timeline and process

Submissions are due by Monday April 25th 2016. Earlier submission is welcome. Questions may be sent to WWGS@campbellcollaboration.org until Friday March 25th 2016, at which time a FAQ will be published answering all questions received. We will not enter into individual correspondence.

All proposals will be reviewed by a four-person panel of representatives from the four organizers. Successful applicants will be notified within four weeks of the submission date.

Successful applicants are responsible for registering for the conference on the conference website (www.wwgs.com) which will be live by mid-April, and paying the conference fee. The fee will be US$375 for the conference, US$275 for the pre-conference workshops and US$600 for the two events. Exception: workshop presenters are exempted from fees (one person is exempt for a workshop of up to three hours, and two presenters are exempt for workshops of more than three hours). Successful applicants to present a workshop should not register on the conference website.

Bursaries may be available for participants from low- and middle-income countries. Details will be available on the conference website. Bursary application is part of the conference registration process.