EPSRC Impact Acceleration Account, University of Bath

UKRI-EPSRC Impact Acceleration Account (IAA) funding is available for projects which relate to a past EPSRC grant (ideally within a few years of completion), or within the EPSRC remit, to stimulate pathways to impact through collaborative research and knowledge exchange projects. This is a competitive award scheme.

The criteria favour projects that demonstrate a clear potential for impact and develop new – or build on existing – partnerships with non-university ('business') partners.

We would particularly encourage applications from (although not limited to) the following areas in the current call:

- Projects that support one of the University's priority research areas: Sustainability; Health and Wellbeing; Digital and big data; Bath Beacons.
- Departments which have relatively low take-up of IAA funding in relation to their EPSRC portfolio: includes Architecture and Civil Engineering, Computer Science, Mathematical Sciences and Physics.
- Under-represented groups, including female academics, ethnic minorities and early career researchers.
- Projects which are working towards strong impact case studies for future REF.
- Collaborative IAA projects involving the University of Bath, and at least one other GW4 university.
- Interdisciplinary projects that span the EPSRC combined with other UKRI Funding Council remits – note that any activity or project supported by the EPSRC IAA should be at least 50% within the EPSRC remit.
- Projects which address the COVID-19 pandemic, particularly those in one of the UKRI priority areas: https://www.ukri.org/files/research-questions-for-covid-19/

Projects must build on previous EPSRC-funded research and/or sit within the EPSRC remit, which includes chemistry, engineering, information and communications technologies, materials, mathematical sciences and physics.[1]

Timeline

Stage 1: Short Proposal	
Call opens	Tuesday 1 February 2022
Launch Event	Monday 7 February 2022
Short Proposal deadline	**Thursday 3 March 2022, 4pm**
IAG Proposal Assessment Meeting	Thursday 24 March 2022
Assessment panel decision will be announced. If your proposal has been shortlisted you will be invited to submit a detailed application.	Friday 25 March 2022
Stage 2: Detailed Application	
Meet with colleagues in RIS to refine your application and to complete your PAM costing	March-April 2022
Attend Responsible Innovation Workshops: 'Putting Responsible Innovation into Practice' and 'Developing Your Engagement Strategy'	Thursday, 17 March 2022 & Thursday 24 March 2022
Detailed Application deadline	**Thursday 28 April 2022, 4pm**
IAG Application Assessment Meeting	Thursday 26 May 2022
Assessment panel decision will be announced.	Friday 27 May 2022
Stage 3: Award	
Earliest start date for projects (dependent on Collaboration Agreement and recruitment requirements)	Thursday 1 October 2022
Funding ends (all project activities must be completed and funds spent)	31 March 2025

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[1] See the A-Z list of EPSRC research areas at https://epsrc.ukri.org/research/ourportfolio/researchareas/.

Stage 1: Short Proposal

Essential Requirements

The first stage is to complete your short proposal on the template provided in the Application Pack and submit by email to ke-applications@bath.ac.uk by the deadline: **Thursday 3 March 2022, 4pm.**

This is a competitive award scheme, proposals will be assessed against the criteria as well as each other. Proposals will be assessed anonymously, with names removed, to minimise the potential for unconscious bias.

Shortlisted proposals will be invited to submit a detailed application and project costing by Thursday, 28 April 2022.

Essential Requirements for Proposals

- **Impact built on previous EPSRC-funded research, or research within the EPSRC remit which has up-to-date information on Pure** – The project must have a high probability of generating impact (i.e., new health or social benefits, jobs created, cost savings made, new products launched, policies changed, etc.), which will be accelerated with IAA funding. There must be a direct, auditable link to the outputs of a past project or activity, which are up-to-date on Pure.
- **External collaborators** – projects would normally be expected to have one or more external collaborators, but should not be a partner-led project, i.e. 'contract research'. Note that, if your application is successful, a Collaboration Agreement will be required with each collaborating organisation.
- **Get in touch –** Contact Alice Hovanessian, the IAA Coordinator, in the first instance, to express your interest and discuss your project idea. You will be signposted to the right team in Research and Innovation Services (RIS) who can help you define your plans.

Criteria for Assessment

Criteria 1: Impact potential

The underpinning work will have a high probability of generating impact, which would be accelerated with IAA funding.

In line with the EPSRC guidance, impact could be achieved in some or all of the following ways:

- **Economic** – Wealth creation, inward investment, new companies, products and procedures.
  Examples: Licences awarded and product has direct route to market, jobs will be created or protected, wealth increase for company, etc.
- **Societal** – Policy, international development, health, quality of life.
  Examples: Contribute to changes in public policy; public health and well-being will be improved, etc.
- **Knowledge** – Scientific advances, techniques.
  Examples: Expected to make an exemplary contribution to knowledge in a particular field in the UK and/or internationally, benefit other researchers/practitioners, etc.
- **People** – Skills, people pipeline-related.
  Examples: The user experience is expected to be greatly improved; skills developed are expected to benefit individuals and/or organisations, etc.

Stage 2: Detailed Application

Applicants with shortlisted proposals (Stage 1) will be invited to complete a more detailed application and project costing (Stage 2). Note that an invitation to apply is not a guarantee of funding. The award remains competitive and those applications which best fit the criteria up to the amount available will be awarded. The final decision will be announced by the end of May 2022.

Essential Requirements for Applications

- **Impact built on previous EPSRC-funded research, or research within the EPSRC remit which has up-to-date information on Pure** – The project must have a high probability of generating impact in the longer term, which will be accelerated with IAA funding. There must be a direct, auditable link to the outputs of a past project or activity, which are up-to-date on Pure.
- **Letter of Endorsement –** projects would normally be expected to have one or more external collaborators, but should not be a partner-led project, i.e. 'contract research'. A Letter of Endorsement must be provided by each collaborating organisation. The letter must contain a strong endorsement for the project, outlining the benefits of the proposed research to the collaborating organisation, their cash and in-kind contribution to the project, along with approval in principle of the 'Heads of Terms' agreement (provided in the Application Pack). Note that, if your application is successful, a Collaboration Agreement will be required with each partner organisation.
- **PAM costing –** The PAM costing (including the ethics approval) must be fully authorised by Pre-Award and your Head of Department at the time of submission. You will need to submit the costing **at least 3 working days** before the deadline in order to allow enough time to review it.
- **Applications must be signed and submitted in full by the deadline, 4pm on Thursday 28 April 2022**. Late or incomplete applications which do not meet the essential requirements will not be considered in the current funding call.
- **Get in touch -** Applicants must meet with a member of the Technology Transfer, Knowledge Exchange or Impact Teams in Research and Innovation Services for guidance before submitting their application.

Eligible costs

- RA salary
- PI/Co-I salary contributions
- Materials and consumables
- Travel and subsistence (must be feasible within the latest COVID guidelines)
- Event delivery and follow up
- Access to equipment
- Consultants, e.g., for market research or business planning
- Other costs, where justified as necessary for the project.

Criteria and Process for Assessment

The following criteria will be used to assess all competing allocation for Open call funding:

Criteria 1: Impact potential

The underpinning work must have a high probability of generating impact, which would be accelerated with IAA funding. A clear pathway to impact must be outlined.

In line with the EPSRC guidance, impact could be achieved in all or some of the following ways:

- **Economic** – Wealth creation, inward investment, new companies, products and procedures.

Examples: Licences awarded and product has direct route to market, jobs will be created or protected, wealth increase for company, etc.

- **Societal** – Policy, international development, health, quality of life.
Examples: Contribute to changes in public policy; public health and well-being will be improved, etc.
- **Knowledge** – Scientific advances, techniques.
Examples: Expected to make an exemplary contribution to knowledge in a particular field in the UK and/or internationally, benefit other researchers/practitioners, etc.
- **People** – Skills, people pipeline-related.
Examples: The user experience is expected to be greatly improved; skills developed are expected to benefit individuals and/or organisations, etc.

Criteria 2: Investment risk

The project team are able to deliver the proposal on time and within budget, as well as identify potential project risk and what is required to manage such risk. The amount of funding requested is realistic and time-relevant for achieving the proposed timeframe. (Projects can start as soon as the collaboration agreements are in place and staff are recruited. We recommend that projects allow up to 4 months for collaboration agreement negotiations and an additional 3 months to recruit new staff members. In this case, the earliest start date will be 2 January 2023.

Where applications have identified a postdoctoral research assistant who will carry out the project activities, they should be named on the application and the position will not need to be recruited in the normal way. In this case, the earliest start date will be 1 October 2022.

Projects must end and funds fully spent by 31 March 2025 at the latest.

Note that there is no funding limit for IAA projects in the current open call; however, the entire open call budget is limited (currently £500k). Therefore, applicants must clearly articulate the reason for the requested funding level and how this demonstrates good value for money.

Criteria 3: Collaboration commitment (where applicable)

The collaborating (non-university) partners have clearly demonstrated the value of the project to their organisation through their Letter of Endorsement. The contribution from the partners is in proportion to what the expected return might be.

Note that IAA Open Call funds will NOT be used to subsidise industry partner-led research & development, i.e. 'contract research'.

Criteria 4: Responsible Innovation (RI) and Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI)

The research is aligned with the EPSRC principles of Responsible Innovation, creating value for society in an ethical and responsible way. Potential negative impacts / unintended consequences have been considered and there is a plan to identify them, e.g. by working with companies and other stakeholders, where appropriate.

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion considerations have been taken into account when developing the project.

Further guidance on the RI and EDI is included later in this document.

Award

Applicants will be informed of the decision directly after the assessment meetings (within 1 month of submission). Feedback on unsuccessful applications will be provided.

Please note, awards might be subject to stage gates, where funds are released in stages subject to satisfactory completion of the previous stage.

All projects with external partners will need a Collaboration Agreement before project activities can commence. The Research Contracts Team in Research and Innovation Services get in touch with the PI before starting negotiations with the partner organisations (note that this process might take 4 months or more).

Once the Collaboration Agreement is signed by both parties, Pre-Award will set up the award costing for PI approval and the budget code will be announced. The PI can then arrange the RA contracts and/or recruit new staff through Stonefish.

Successful projects will be announced on the University website. Catch-up meetings will be arranged periodically and updates will be requested during reporting periods and at the end of the project. On completion of your project, we will invite you to give a short presentation on the outcomes to the Impact Assessment Group (IAG).

Contact

For questions about your IAA application, or to request the information in a different format, please contact Alice Hovanessian: ae244@bath.ac.uk.

Guidance for Applicants: Responsible Innovation

> "*Responsible innovation means taking care of the future through collective stewardship of science and innovation in the present*."[2]

This document provides a brief introduction to responsible research and innovation - referred to as responsible innovation through the rest of the document. Its aim is to provide initial guidance on embedding responsible innovation considerations into Impact Acceleration Account applications, but is also relevant to embedding considerations into research proposals for other funding streams. Further guidance and training for academics are planned for 2022.

Responsible innovation has emerged out of growing concerns about the impact of scientific research, both good and bad, on society and the planet. It presents an opportunity to reflect on the potential consequences of research to ensure that innovations arising from it are socially desirable and undertaken in the public interest.

Research can be controversial, elicit strong public reactions, raise questions and dilemmas, and result in unforeseen outcomes and impacts - beneficial or otherwise. Adopting a responsible innovation approach ensures the potential societal and ethical implications of research are considered at the outset in collaboration with a range of stakeholders (e.g., citizens, policy makers, business, researchers, the third sector). It creates spaces and processes to explore these aspects of innovation in an open, inclusive and timely way.

Although understanding the ethical implications of research is an important part of responsible innovation, it is distinct from ethical approval. An activity can be ethically approved and supported by researchers and stakeholders, but it may not gain wider public acceptance or the full range of consequences may not be understood. Similarly, responsible innovation includes, but goes beyond, considerations of risk and regulation, important though these are.

There is no single protocol to be followed to ensure 'responsible' research and innovation. The approach will reflect the nature of the project being undertaken. To accommodate this diversity the

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[2] J. Stilgoe et al., Developing a framework for responsible innovation, *Research Policy* 42 (2013) 1568–1580

EPSRC promotes the use of the flexible anticipate, reflect, engage and act (AREA) [framework for responsible innovation](#).

Anticipate – describing and analysing the impacts, intended or otherwise, (for example economic, social, environmental) that might arise. This does not seek to predict but rather to support an exploration of possible impacts and implications that may otherwise remain uncovered and little discussed. Tools, such as [doteveryone](#)'s consequence scanning toolkit, are available to help explore the possible impacts.

Reflect – reflecting on the purposes of, motivations for and potential implications of the research, and the associated uncertainties, areas of ignorance, assumptions, framings, questions, dilemmas and social transformations these may bring.

Reflection often takes place as part of the engagement activities, for example, through a through a project advisory board or stakeholder engagement activities. The key is to ensure that there is space in the research activities to take a step back and look at the work from different perspectives.

Engage – opening up such research visions, impacts and questioning to broader deliberation, dialogue, engagement and debate in an inclusive way. Engagement can help influence the direction and trajectory of the research and innovation process for the better. The benefits of taking an appropriate approach to responsible research and innovation will often extend beyond the individual project and may help advance understanding of the relevant research topic as a whole.

Act – using these processes to influence the direction and trajectory of the research and innovation process itself.

Integrating responsible innovation into your proposal

In developing your project, you should consider how you will implement plans for responsible innovation throughout the project and outline any specific activities that you will undertake as part of your workplan. These will vary project by project, and may include, for example:

- Collaboration with social scientists to help consider the social and behavioural implications of your research
- Activities to facilitate dialogue with different key stakeholders
- Setting up an advisory group to facilitate stakeholder input
- Networking with groups working in similar areas to share best practice
- Engagement with regulators and policymakers

Activities such as stakeholder engagement are often valuable in themselves and can help to strengthen the impact of your project.

Case studies

Stilgoe and colleagues (2013) describe their approach to responsible innovation in their geoengineering 'SPICE' project, which elicited considerable public controversy. The project was designed "to investigate whether the purposeful injection of large quantities of particles into the stratosphere could mimic the cooling effects of volcanic eruptions and provide a possible means to mitigate global warming" (http://www.spice.ac.uk). Full details are provided in their [paper](#) on the development of the AREA framework and summarised in the [University of Glasgow's handbook](#).

The University of Cardiff provide some examples of projects conducted through their [Responsible Innovation Network.](#)

Further information

- [EPSRC framework for responsible innovation](#) and supporting information for researchers applying for funds.

Updated January 2022

- UKRI [Responsible research and innovation guidance](#) in their healthcare technologies impact toolkit.
- The [University of Glasgow](#) provides guidance on embedding responsible innovation into an IAA project, including a handbook on applying the AREA framework to your project.
- [Sciencewise](#) – UK's national centre for public dialogue in policymaking in science and technology.
- [RRI Tools](#) – EU website providing range of guidance and tools.
- [Orbit](#) – information and services to support responsible innovation in the ICT community.

Guidance for Applicants: Equality Diversity and Inclusion

The IAA at the University of Bath aims to ensure that the activities we support and the research we fund drives change in our community, and supports a system that is inclusive and accessible for everyone.

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) I is a shared responsibility, and we would encourage applicants to consider how consideration of EDI can be integrated into their project plan. IAA applicants have been asked to consider in their application:

- How will you ensure your project activities, outputs (journal articles, events, etc.) and decision-making processes are fair and do not present barriers to participation?
- What are the potential positive or negative impacts on [protected groups](#), and what plans will you put in place to amplify the positive and reduce the negative impact?

We have drawn from the University's Equality Impact Assessments guidance, to help grant holders ensure that their policies, practices, events and decision-making processes are fair, do not present barriers to participation and do not disadvantage any protected groups from participation.

Some examples of positive, negative and neutral impact can be found on the University's [Equality Impact Assessment](#) webpage, although you may think of other examples.

Useful Links

University of Bath
[EDI Protected Groups](#) – The 9 protected characteristics identified in the Equality Act 2010.
[EDI homepage and resources](#) – Resources for building an inclusive environment.
[Equality Impact Assessment](#) – For guidance on assessing whether a policy is likely to have a differential impact on any equality groups (can be applied to project activities).
[Equality Objectives](#) – The University's 5 priorities for action over 2019-2023.

Funders
[UKRI principles for promoting equality, diversity and inclusion](#)
[EPSRC guidance on Equality, Diversity and Inclusion](#)

Contact

For questions about EDI planning, or to request the information in a different format, please contact Alice Hovanessian: ae244@bath.ac.uk.