



## EPSRC Impact Acceleration Account (IAA) Open Call Funding Criteria

The University of Bath's UKRI-EPSRC IAA Open Call provides funding for projects that either build on a previous EPSRC grant, or align with the EPSRC remit<sup>1</sup>. The aim is to support collaborative research and knowledge exchange initiatives that enhance pathways to impact.

This competitive award is targeted at projects that demonstrably support any of the following:

- One of the University's 3 [priority research themes](#): Sustainability; Health and Wellbeing; Digital
- One of the [Bath Beacons](#)
- Projects which are working towards strong impact case studies for future REF

Projects must demonstrate clear potential for impact that is built on research in the [EPSRC remit](#), and have a clear plan for how that impact will be [achieved](#) and [evidenced](#).

Two tiers of funding are available:

**Tier 1:** Projects up to £25,000

**Tier 2:** Projects between £25,001 to £50,000

A total of **£175,000** is available for the call, which is expected to fund between 4-8 projects.

Applications are particularly encouraged from, although not limited to, the following areas in the current call (note that excellence will be prioritised):

- Projects that have a multi-disciplinary approach to greater societal, public and policy impacts from engineering and physical sciences research.
- Departments which have relatively low take-up of IAA funding in relation to their EPSRC portfolio – currently Chemical Engineering and Mathematical Sciences.
- Under-represented groups, including early career researchers, women academics and minoritised ethnicities, or projects that can demonstrate excellence in Equality, Diversity and Inclusion.
- Collaborative projects involving the University of Bath and at least one other GW4 university.

Activities could include, but are not restricted to, knowledge exchange projects with non-academic stakeholders, prototyping, industry secondments, informing policy or engaging policymakers, market research and commercialisation activities.<sup>2</sup>

### Eligible costs

- RA salary
- PI/Co-I salary contributions
- Materials and consumables
- Travel and subsistence
- Event delivery and follow up
- Access to equipment
- Subcontractors, e.g., specialist support for market research or business planning
- Other costs, where justified as necessary for the project.

<sup>1</sup> [Remit, programmes and priorities – EPSRC – UKRI](#)

<sup>2</sup> [Examples of past EPSRC IAA projects.](#)

### Non-permitted activities and costs<sup>3</sup>

The following activities and costs are not eligible for IAA funding:

- New fundamental research.
- Projects which subsidise industry partner-led research and development, i.e. ‘contract research’.
- Any costs relating to Intellectual Property protection including but not limited to registering, maintaining or supporting patents or property rights.
- Equipment with a value of £10,000 or more.
- Indirect costs or estate costs.
- Costs related to purchasing off-the-shelf commercial data.

### Essential Requirements

- **Get in touch** - Applicants must meet with a member of the IAA team to discuss their idea and ensure it meets the call criteria, before submitting their application. Contact the team at [impact-acceleration@bath.ac.uk](mailto:impact-acceleration@bath.ac.uk).
- **Underpinning research** – The application must demonstrate how it builds on underpinning research funded by the EPSRC or within the [EPSRC remit](#) – includes chemistry, engineering, information and communications technologies, materials, mathematical sciences and physics.<sup>4</sup>
- **Impactful and deliverable** – The proposed activities are highly likely to lead to non-academic impact over time and provide a clear rationale of impactful outcomes. Work packages must be deliverable on time and within budget.
- **Letter(s) of Support** – projects are normally expected to have one or more external collaborators, but should not be a partner-led project, i.e. ‘contract research’. A Letter of Support must be provided by each collaborating organisation, with approval in principle of the Heads of Terms provided (see application pack for Heads of Terms and letter template). NB: if your application is successful, a Collaboration Agreement with each collaborating partner is required (can take 4+ months).
- **PAM costing** – The [PAM costing](#) (and the ethics process linked in the automated system) must be fully approved at the time of submission. To align with the mandatory [University timelines](#), please Complete the [Intention to Submit form](#) by **13 October (4 weeks before deadline)**.
- **Applications must be signed and submitted in full by the deadline, Monday 10 November 2025, 5pm.** Late or incomplete applications which do not meet the essential requirements will not be considered in the current funding call.
- **Anonymised assessment** – to help us ensure applications are assessed anonymously (names removed) and reduce the chance of unconscious bias, please **do not** include names or links to named information in the main body of the application or impact plan.

### Criteria and Process for Assessment

This is a competitive award scheme. Applications will be assessed anonymously against the criteria, with names removed, to minimise the potential for unconscious bias. Feedback will be provided to unsuccessful applicants.

The assessment panel will be a subgroup of the EPSRC IAA Programme Board and comprise a combination of academics, members of Professional Services and external experts (where available). Panel members are required to have completed unconscious bias training in advance.

<sup>3</sup> Additional UKRI eligible and non-eligible costs can be found in the Terms and Conditions at the end of the application form.

<sup>4</sup> [List of EPSRC research areas](#)

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

**Criteria 1: Quality of proposal and planned impact (scored 0-5) [weighting 30%]**

- The overall quality of the proposal is high.
- The application sets out clear aims and objectives and a strong rationale for the project, including the problem it addresses and the impact that it is designed to generate.
- The project outcomes are likely to help contribute to positive social or economic benefits.
- The proposed activities build on underpinning research that falls in the EPSRC remit.
- Evidence of the underpinning research is provided either through EPSRC-funded research grants or research in the EPSRC remit.
- The anticipated impact is relevant and proportionate to the underpinning research.

**Criteria 2: Impact potential (scored 0-5) [weighting 30%]**

- The project has strong potential to lead to impact, which will be accelerated with IAA funding and has been clearly and logically articulated.
- The proposed activities are appropriate to the project goals and likely to lead to the expected outcomes and impact.
- The application outlines how the project fits with a longer term plan for developing impact and how this might be achieved.
- There are well-designed plans in place to evaluate or evidence project outputs, outcomes and impact.
- Where appropriate, the application has identified external partners, stakeholders or intended beneficiaries and set out effective means by which to engage with them to mutual benefit and maximum impact.

**Criteria 3: Good value (scored 0-5) [weighting 15%]**

- The amount of funding requested is realistic.
- The application provides a clear justification for the costs and how they demonstrate good value for money.
- The amount of funding requested is commensurate with the proposed activities.
- Where there are collaborating partners, their contribution is in proportion to what the expected return might be.

**Criteria 4: Investment risk (scored 0-5) [weighting 15%]**

While projects that take risks are welcome, applicants must demonstrate:

- The project team has anticipated risks to project delivery.
- The team has a plan in place to manage and mitigate these risks.
- The project is likely to be delivered on time and within budget.

**Criteria 5: Responsible Innovation (RI) and Equality, Diversity & Inclusion (EDI) (scored 0-5) [weighting 10%]**

- 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 taken into consideration and there is a plan to identify them, for example by working with companies and other stakeholders, where appropriate.
- Applicants have considered EDI in relation to the project.
- The project does not present barriers to under-represented groups and champions an inclusive culture.

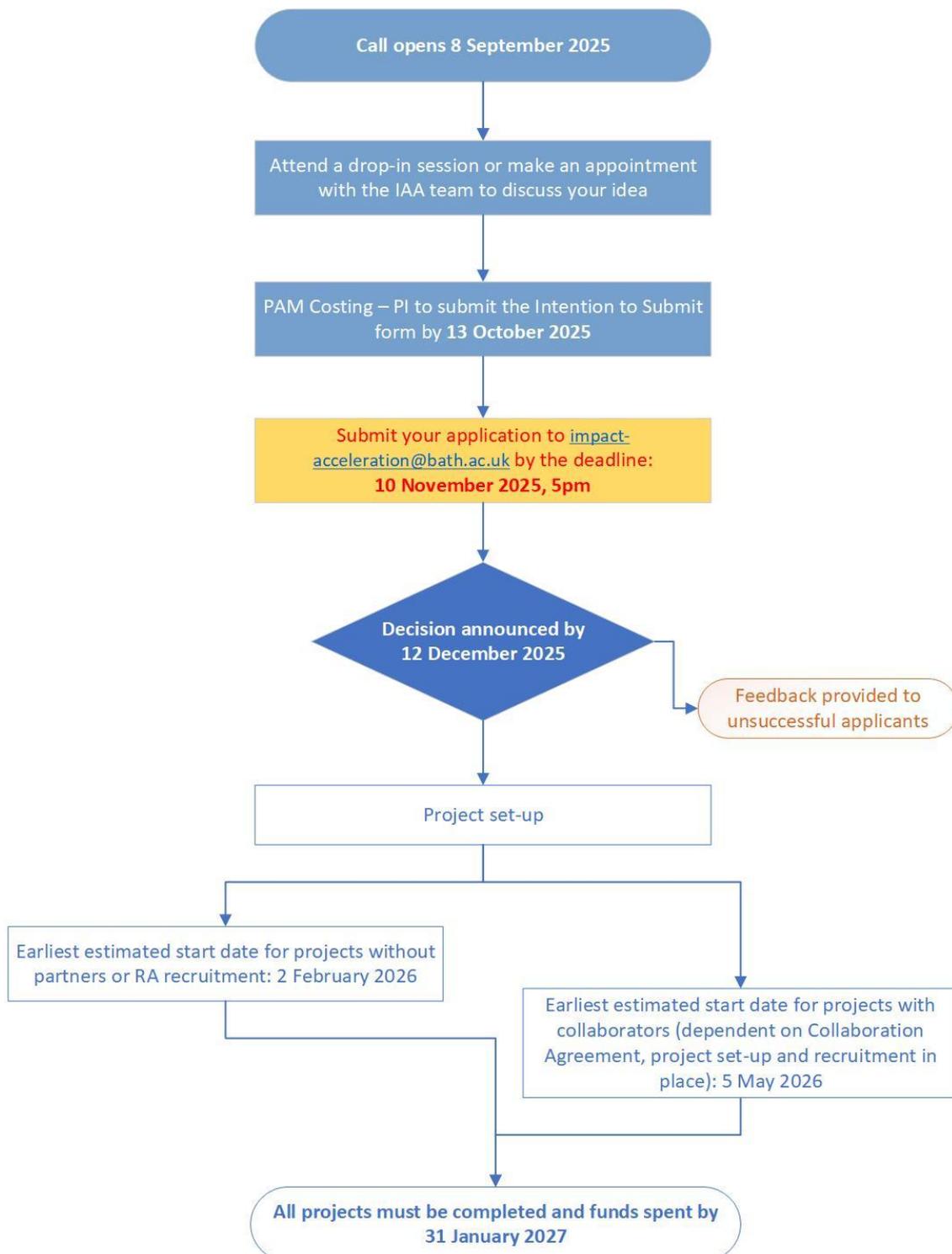
NB: Further guidance on Impact, RI and EDI is included in the appendix.

## To Apply

1. [Download the application pack](#)
2. Sign up to attend one of the [drop-in sessions in September](#), or contact the IAA team to discuss your idea if you can't make those times: [impact-acceleration@bath.ac.uk](mailto:impact-acceleration@bath.ac.uk)
3. Submit your application by the deadline of **Monday 10 November 2025, 5pm** to the IAA mailbox: [impact-acceleration@bath.ac.uk](mailto:impact-acceleration@bath.ac.uk)

Please get in touch with Alice Hovanessian if you have any questions or require the materials in a different format: [impact-acceleration@bath.ac.uk](mailto:impact-acceleration@bath.ac.uk) / 01225 384583.

## Timeline



## APPENDIX: Further Guidance for Applicants

### Impact

Please complete the Impact Planning Template which is designed to help you write your Impact Summary and Pathways to Impact.

Guidance on generating impact can be found in UKRI's [Health Technologies Impact and Translation Toolkit](#) [Impact toolkit for economic and social sciences](#) and the University's [Supporting your Research Impact](#) guide.

Examples of the kind of impact your project may contribute to are outlined below. These are not exhaustive and projects are not expected to generate impact across all these categories.

- **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.

### Responsible Innovation

Guidance on [Integrating responsible research and innovation considerations into a proposal](#) is available on the website.

A short self-study [training course in Responsible Innovation](#) is also available to staff and students at the University.

### 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 is inclusive and accessible for everyone.

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) is a shared responsibility and we would encourage applicants to consider EDI in relation to their project. You might consider how you will ensure the policies, practices, events and decision-making processes are fair, do not present barriers to participation and do not disadvantage any protected groups from participation.

#### Useful Links

[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](#) – Guidance on ensuring policies, procedures, practices, etc. at the University do what they are intended to do and are inclusive for staff, students, and visitors (can also be adapted to projects).

[Statement of Equality Objectives 2023-25](#) – The University's EDI priorities.

[UKRI Guidance for equality, diversity and inclusion](#)