

UKRI Impact Acceleration Accounts (IAA)

MRC Assessment Criteria

The assessment criteria below apply to MRC applications. Please refer to the separate document for AHRC, BBSRC, EPSRC and STFC assessment criteria.

MRC IAA applications will be assessed using the following criteria:

Background scientific environment

- Does the institution have a significant amount of relevant high-quality discovery research where translation could be accelerated?
- Does the institution's science offer opportunities in distinct areas not supported elsewhere?

Translational environment and expertise

- Does the institution provide a suitable environment to enable and support translational projects?
- Will they provide resources and expertise, including core administrative support and links with industry, to help projects to develop appropriately?
- Do they have a convincing translational strategy?
- Has the institution a demonstratable track record in translation?

Use and impact

- Are the proposed use of funds and approaches likely to make a significant difference beyond what the institution already achieves?
- If the institution is proposing a targeted approach to its IAA, for example, focussing on a particular scientific area, is the plan to accelerate translational activities in this area appropriate?
- Is the allocation of resources justified?
- Will the institution contribute additional funding (cash or in kind) or specialist advice/expertise?
- Is there additional leverage of funds and resources to add value or compliment the MRC IAA?

Governance and management

- Are the governance and management structures appropriate to the scale and scope of the institution's MRC IAA activities? For example, is there a balance of internal and external representation, together with consideration of appropriate industry and academic expertise?
- Does the proposed governance give confidence that the funding will be competitively allocated and managed to best effect?
- Are the internal decision-making mechanisms transparent and timely?
- Are appropriate mechanisms in place to support early career researchers to take part in MRC IAA activities?



- Does the governance embed a consideration of Equality, Diversity and Inclusion, Research Ethics and Responsible Innovation (including environmental sustainability) in the management of the award and the delivery of activities?

Project pipeline and case studies

- Is there, or will there be, sufficient demand for translational project support to justify the level of IAA funding being requested?
- Are the case studies well thought through? Is it clear what additional work is needed to progress each project? Are the endpoints clearly described?
- What is the institution's risk-appetite? Has the institution maximised opportunities in innovative but risky projects?
- For institutions that have had previous MRC Confidence in Concept funding, do the outcomes and impacts of previously supported projects reflect a diverse and exciting translational pipeline?

Plans for academic-industry engagement and knowledge exchange activities, if relevant

- What activities will be carried out? Are they appropriate?
- Do the people exchange proposed enable effective development of skills and knowledge between the academic and industry sectors?