

## ESRC Impact Acceleration Accounts (IAA)

### Application Guidance

#### Introduction

IAAs are institutional funding to unlock the impact of the research base. They support a breadth of impact activities that allow funding to be used in flexible, responsive, and creative ways. IAAs provide research organisations with agility to make decisions about how to invest in ways that best suit institutional strategies and opportunities. The awards add value to existing funding and take advantage of new or unforeseen opportunities to facilitate the realisation of impact.

Applicants should also refer to the call specification details provided on the Funding Finder. These address the UKRI and ESRC strategic aims, the Permitted Activities and Costs, and the Assessment Criteria.

In their application:

- Applicants are required to provide details of the institutional level approach to managing the ESRC IAA award, including any other IAA awards held by the research organisation.
- Applicants must detail how they will manage the ESRC award to meet ESRC requirements and the needs of their individual communities

#### Formatting:

Please complete applications using Arial, font size 11.

There is a limit of 11 pages for the whole application. This is approximately 3 pages for the Institutional questions and 8 pages for the Council specific ones.

#### **Institutional Lead Applicant**

- The application must be led by a senior member of the institution, e.g. Pro-VC, institute director, or equivalent. Applications should clearly provide the details of the institutional lead.
- Organisations that are 1) eligible for UKRI funding generally, and 2) meet the additional eligibility parameters as stated on the Funding Finder are eligible to apply. Please see the [institutional eligibility guidance](#).
- Each research organisation will need to demonstrate a significant research base in the ESRC's remit areas in order to be competitive.

#### **Discipline/Department lead and/or operational contact**

- Provide details of the academic/strategic lead of the ESRC IAA and an operational contact who will look after the day-to-day management of the award.
- It is expected that the delivery of a successful ESRC IAA will be led by a Discipline Lead: a senior member of the institution who has oversight or responsibility of the relevant discipline, e.g. Dean, Head of College/Department or equivalent.
- Your Discipline Lead may be the same as the institutional IAA lead, for example if they have the appropriate disciplinary background or you will only have one IAA, if successful.

- Your Discipline Lead may be different from the institutional IAA lead if the Research Organisation will have multiple IAAs, or the appropriate institutional lead does not have the relevant disciplinary background.

### Research Organisation Strategy

- Provide an overview description of the institutional strategy for research impact, knowledge exchange and innovation.
- Describe how the plans for your ESRC IAA(s) align to your institutional strategy.
  - Any benefits that the ESRC IAA will bring, or where appropriate has brought, to the institution and plans to capitalise on an institutional IAA award.
  - How the ESRC IAA will contribute to/complement the institutional translational research culture and appetite for translation.
  - Strategies and plans to enable multidisciplinary Knowledge Exchange (KE) and maximise impacts across multiple IAAs where appropriate, including ongoing ESRC IAAs.
- Describe how the ESRC IAA complements or aligns to wider innovation support, such as HEIF, institutional co-investment and other relevant external funding streams.

### Overall Leadership, Management and Governance

- Provide an overview description of the institutional leadership and strategic oversight of all IAAs.
  - Describe your principles or approaches for managing multiple IAA awards.
  - Include use of any steering committees, independent advice, or external expertise, appropriate to the scale of the award.
- Outline the institutional approach to **equality, diversity and inclusion** in the management of the award and the delivery of activities.
  - Detail how this links to the broader institutional strategies and processes for equality, diversity and inclusion.
  - For additional information, please see: <https://www.ukri.org/about-us/policies-standards-and-data/good-research-resource-hub/equality-diversity-and-inclusion/>
- Outline the institutional approach to **research ethics and responsible innovation** in the management of the award and the delivery of activities.
  - Detail how you will develop the approach to promoting a culture of responsible innovation, including considerations on environmental sustainability.
  - For additional information, please see: <https://www.ukri.org/about-us/policies-standards-and-data/good-research-resource-hub/responsible-innovation/>

### Research portfolio

- Provide an overview of the research context and specifics in relation to accelerating impact relevant to ESRC's remit.
- Describe how the ESRC IAA will build upon the identified base of high-quality research in ESRC's remit.
- Describe the areas of untapped potential at the host institution, for example:
  - where translational opportunities are under-exploited;
  - where focused investment will add most value to existing mechanisms.

### Aims and objectives

- Provide a description of your aims and objectives for the ESRC IAA, including leverage and partnerships (local, regional national, international),
- Please show how these align to the UKRI and ESRC strategic aims for IAAs:
  - UKRI Strategic Aims:
    - To strengthen engagement with users in order to accelerate the translation of research outputs into impacts.
    - To support, develop and foster strategic partnerships for knowledge exchange and impact, including across disciplines and sectors.
    - To build and maintain an environment and culture which enables effective and ambitious knowledge exchange and impact, including development of skills, capacity, and capability within research organisations.
    - To provide early-stage support for progressing research outputs towards the next stages in the impact pipeline, for example proof of concept projects, commercialisation, market validation, or activities targeting policy, business and the third sectors.
    - To drive continuous improvement in impact by supporting innovation, enabling “fast failure”, and capturing learning through appropriate mechanisms
    - To empower institutions with flexible and adaptive approaches to knowledge exchange and impact, including the ability to respond quickly to emerging opportunities.
  - Additional ESRC strategic aims:
    - To develop institutional capacity and capability in commercialisation of social sciences
    - To strengthen connections between the research organisation and local public policy stakeholders in the public, third and private sector to address local public policy challenges.
    - To work with the Doctoral Training Partnerships to support the development of knowledge exchange and impact skills, including to identify and develop opportunities for high-quality student placements and collaborative studentships
    - Demonstrate how longer-term support for and sustainability of KE/impact support would be maintained.

### **Management, governance and reporting**

- Describe the governance structures and processes for managing and internally awarding the ESRC IAA funding, including alignments with other IAAs or internal/external funding.
- Describe the membership or expectations of membership of any decision-making panel or governance committee, including key roles and responsibilities where appropriate.

### **Approach and activities**

- Describe the planned approach and activities that will be undertaken through the ESRC IAA to deliver the aims and objectives, and include an indicative allocation of funds against each.

### **Outputs, outcomes and measures of success**

- Describe the likely outputs, outcomes and impacts of the ESRC IAA, and what it is envisaged that success will look like.
  - Include detail of the qualitative and quantitative indicators that will be used to monitor the progress and success of planned activities against the objectives.

- Where appropriate any targets or trajectories should be defined.

### **Financial information**

- Provide an indicative funding breakdown against the planned activities described in the 'Approach and activities' section.
  - Outline planned resources required to deliver the key activities and objectives previously described.
  - ESRC recognises that this needs to be flexible in order to accommodate opportunities that arise during the duration of the ESRC IAA.
  - Refer to the Permitted Activities and Costs document for full details of activities and costs supported.
- We expect that all applicants will allocate £10k per year to events and activities for the ESRC annual [Festival of Social Science](#)