

ESRC Impact Acceleration Accounts (IAA)

Assessment Criteria Guidance

Quality and appropriateness of approach - To what extent the application:

- builds on an identified base of relevant high-quality research.
- enhances the impact of the discipline research portfolio.
- utilises a range of approaches that are sector appropriate.
- supports reasonable risk-taking, fast-failure and continuous improvement.

Use of existing resources, strengths and relationships - To what extent the application:

- relates to the impact strategy and practises of the organisation submitting the plan and is supported by institutional commitment to its aims.
- builds on established strengths and the outcomes of existing impact activities including previous IAA support if relevant to your institution.
- utilises approaches that are sector appropriate and support funder priorities as well as complementing and leveraging other sources of impact funding, e.g., other IAAs, HEIF and other forms of national/regional funding.

Engagement and stakeholder management - To what extent the application:

- involves real user engagement and builds on relationships with potential partners.
- enables two-way movement of people who are equipped with useful skills and knowledge.
- positions the institution in the regional and national innovation landscape.
- has an approach that seeks to ensure maximum engagement of the various research communities.

Effective governance and management - To what extent the application:

- has resourcing plans that reflect and will meet the stated objectives, including the UKRI and ESRC aims.
- actively encourages flexibility in the allocation of resources as appropriate, ensuring value for money.
- ensures the effective use of administrative effort and processes.
- has a governance and management structure, proportionate to size of awards, which is proactive in seeking external input and validation of its decisions and is accountable and transparent in the use of IAA resources.
- enables multidisciplinary KE and impact and details plans to maximise the value of multiple IAAs where appropriate.
- embeds a consideration of ED&I, Research Ethics and Responsible Innovation (including environmental sustainability) in the management of the award and the delivery of activities.

Delivering and demonstrating Impact - To what extent the application:

- describes clear and credible targets and success measures, including KPIs.
- allows monitoring of outputs, outcomes and impacts, including those of partners and/or users.
- will develop capability and capacity for impact.
- contributes to further strengthening an organisation's impact culture.
- provides a clear plan for capturing the evidence of the impacts achieved.