

Place Based Impact Acceleration Account (PBIAA) round 2 webinar Q&A

Question	Answer
Activities	
Can you give examples of the type of public engagement activity that might be included and if/how you would expect these to align with the civic/business engagement activities delivered by the PBIAA?	Public engagement activities should be aligned to the thematic research base and cluster activity. This will depend on what is appropriate for the cluster and the place. E.g. skills development, outreach/knowledge exchange, engagement with specific publics (trade bodies etc.).
Is there a link to allow people to access the TFS questions / boxes without registering to submit an application?	All the sections you need to complete are detailed in the 'How to apply' section on the Funding Finder https://www.ukri.org/opportunity/place-based-impact-acceleration-account-round-2/
What will be the start time of successful projects from Round 2?	Round 1 projects are starting between October and March and we would expect a similar timeline for round 2.
Does the final decision go to a minister?	No, funding decisions are made by EPSRC following the recommendations of the peer review process.
Funding decisions	
Is a "levelling-up" lens applied to the assessment?	Applications will be assessed solely against the assessment criteria outlined on the funding finder page. We will take a portfolio approach to ensure a balance of geographies, sectors, and streams.
Will there be any place-based portfolio tensioning between round 1 and round 2?	We will balance the portfolio across round 1 and 2 with regards to geography, sector, and stream.
Can you clarify the 'portfolio' balance of domains and streams, and how these balance with (e.g.) the four impact challenges in your strategy, or three priorities for ideas, or seven innovation families etc?	We will balance similar quality proposals across stream and domains - domain balance will include balance across EPSRC priority areas.
Is the funding for each stream ringfenced?	There is no allocated amount of money per stream, we hope to fund similar numbers in each stream, but this will be dependent on sufficient strength of applications and the numbers we receive.
Will you fund bids in the same sectors and/or places as funded in round 1?	We will take a balanced approach across the rounds for places and sectors. A proposal for a different sector in a previously-funded place or the same sector in a different place may be funded if it is of sufficient strength.

Is there a funding allocation assigned for each region/nation?	No, there is no ringfencing per place, it is a national competition and we have no allocation to certain places.
Will you accept bids focused on the Greater South East and London?	Yes, it is a national competition open to all eligible institutions and if a case is made for clusters in the South East these could be funded. We funded a PBIAA in London in round 1.
Cluster definitions	
Is there a specific definition as to what qualifies as an emerging vs established cluster?	We do not have a list of groupings that we consider to be a cluster, nor do we have a definition of what we consider to be “established”. It is for the consortium to make the case for the cluster that they are working with, and its level of maturity. Thinking about the number of businesses, the size of the contributions to the economy, and the absorptive capacity. We would encourage you to read the Evidence of What Works report cited in the opportunity information and reflect on the characteristics of the “scenario places” as this may support or inform your thinking. We would also encourage consortia to consider how much impact activity can realistically be absorbed by the cluster in the 4-year time period, this may also provide an indication of what stream is most appropriate.
Can a cluster be purely defined by the geography? Or do you want to see industry specific clusters? When he was Science Minister, George Freeman referenced R&D clusters in regions - but not specifically linked to a sector/industry.	No, a cluster should be focussed around a place and an associated, identified EPS theme/industry sector.
What is the definition of place? Is this town/city, local authority boundary, county, region or x mile radius from lead institution?	It is down to you to define the characteristics of your cluster including the boundaries, as you can see from those funded it could be a business park, city region, or indeed across counties. Please see round 1 funded proposals for examples of the scales of geography identified.

Collaboration fund	
Is there a minimum and maximum for the collaboration fund?	No, it's down to you to decide on the balance of activities as appropriate for your cluster. If the collaboration fund is planned to be large you could consider whether those who would be applying to the collaboration fund might be more appropriate to be consortium members.
If we are to draw in universities across the UK whose research impact might be delivered in our region, should they be collaborative partners in the consortium or is it preferred that their impact should be funded just through the collaborative fund?	This would be a judgement call for you, if they are strongly aligned to your place's ambition then it could be appropriate to include them within your consortium, however you do not need to include all relevant universities within your consortium. There is no requirement that any/all consortium members need to be within the defined geography.
Eligibility	
It is stated that the leading university can not apply for this again on the website. Could I ask whether it means both universities can not apply again or only the leading university can not apply for this again?	Only the lead organisation of a funded PBIAA cannot lead a bid this round (but can partner on this round). This is to ensure a balanced portfolio of lead institutions across rounds 1 and 2.
Does the University consortium need to hold EPSRC funding of a particular minimum value?	No, we expect to see expertise and capacity in engineering and physical sciences university research aligned to the cluster, but this does not have to be EPSRC funded.
Do you expect the project lead to have an EPSRC track record? Or would someone with strong sector/place expertise be appropriate?	The lead doesn't need to have an EPSRC track record, but should have a track record of engineering and physical sciences research/impact aligned to the cluster.
With regards to resubmissions, are there any restrictions on previously unsuccessful institution or domain experts leading on a new application with a different theme?	There are no restrictions on new teams and themes being submitted by previously unsuccessful institutions.
Are research technical professionals eligible as project leads or co-leads?	EPSRC standard eligibility applies, investigators (project lead and co-leads) must be academic employees – lecturer or equivalent. New UKRI grant roles apply to this funding opportunity and research technical professionals can be team members. https://www.ukri.org/publications/roles-in-funding-applications/roles-in-funding-applications-eligibility-responsibilities-and-costings-guidance/

Would the application team need to reflect the diversity of the consortium or just the domain experts from academia?	The management team should be those with the most relevant expertise to lead and deliver the PBIAA, including a domain expert as PI and is likely to include a representative from consortium members. The applicant team can only comprise individuals from eligible research organisations and can include non-academic staff. The project partners may bring complementary expertise and could be involved in the advisory board. A civic partner representative will be expected to attend the interview stage. The wider consortium team will draw on the experience of a wider team through work packages, but not everyone will necessarily be part of the management team.
Are there any specific rules around resubmissions for applicants who engaged with round 1?	Round 1 applicants will have received feedback and been advised whether a resubmission will be accepted.
Can the Cluster topic area be outside EPSRC areas (e.g. NERC) if at least 50% of PBIAA activity requires engineering and physical science input?	The focus of the PBIAA and activities should be at least 50% within EPSRC remit, but other disciplines can be involved.
Each institution can only lead one submission. Is it possible for them to partner on additional bids?	Yes, they can lead on one and partner as many others as desired.
Can a University submit one bid as lead to each stream?	No, an institution can only submit one bid across the streams i.e. one to stream 1 or one to stream 2.
Funding	
Do management costs cover any PI/CoI time as well as the IAA programme management activity?	Yes, management costs include PI/Co-I management time, plus project management and admin staff time. Note these roles are now project lead and co-lead.
Are 'DA staff' costs seen as 100% funded project costs, or 80% fec?	All costs associated with consortium or collaboration projects can be funded at 100% directly incurred costs including academic time (salary only no overheads).
Can the project fund be spent to cover the time of colleagues working in civic organisation or businesses?	Project funding can be used for secondments. It cannot be directly used for civic partner or business salaries unless in the context of delivering a project.

Can funds go to companies or civic partners?	No, funds can only go to UKRI eligible research organisations; businesses and civic partners can collaborate on these projects and make their own contributions. If companies or civic partners are running a specific piece of work there could be a case for subcontracting the work. Businesses and civic partners will benefit through money coming into their cluster, knowledge exchange, and academic expertise, lowering the risk of projects they are interested in.
Partnership	
The application form is brief. Can you give some examples how we demonstrate/ evidence civic body co-development?	We would expect to see some description of how you have worked together to co-create the application and its alignment to civic strategic priorities. Further detail can also be provided in the letter of support.
In terms of letter of support is it preferable to seek support from representative bodies such as networks, cluster organisations rather than individual companies?	Letters of support could be from both or either networks, organisations or specific companies, whatever is appropriate to the cluster. Project partner letters should be specific about their interest in the PBIAA and what they are contributing. We expect business engagement to evolve and increase throughout the lifetime of the PBIAA, so detail of examples of companies involved would provide an evidence base and specific knowledge of the cluster.
Can museums be treated as civic bodies?	For the museum to be considered as a civic partner they would need to have a demonstrable interest/responsibility in the development of the place. Some museums are eligible for UKRI funding if they have a research function so could be part of the project team, or they could be a project partner and demonstrate their interest and contributions to the PBIAA.
Can external partners be from outside the UK?	Project partners could be from outside the UK but need to demonstrate a connection to the place and how their involvement will contribute to the growth of the cluster.
Can the collaborative fund be spent to fund collaborations with international organisations?	The consortium and collaboration funds can only go to research organisations eligible for UKRI funding. An international partner could contribute to a collaborative fund project but needs to demonstrate value to the cluster.
Can there be involvement from global industry partners as part of a defined cluster, who are looking to enhance further existing relations with the "Place"? especially if potential investment can be incentivised?	As long as they can demonstrate their relevance to the cluster and how they will support cluster growth, global companies could be involved as partners.

What kind of contributions from project partners such as Civic bodies, NHS trusts and businesses would be seen favourably for this PBIAA?	Examples (non-exhaustive) of possible support from civic bodies could include: involvement in PBIAA governance, access to innovation or knowledge exchange activity, secondments to or from PBIAA activities or projects, supporting or facilitating networking and engagement beyond the consortium, supporting policy development and delivery, direct adoption of research outputs, market assessments, provision of infrastructure.
Do we need to have partnership with the universities in the same region?	It is up to you to decide who the most appropriate consortium members are, they could be from within the same region or outside. The cluster and consortium does not have to be confined to one region.
Do the industrial partners need to make cash contribution? What is the expected in-kind contribution (in terms of percentage of overall funding) from companies?	Project partners should demonstrate their interest in the PBIAA and contribute cash or in-kind e.g. staff time. The amount of cash and in-kind will vary depending on the partner and involvement. Contributions will be assessed on their contextual merit by the panel.
Can you please give an example on how companies can receive funding from the collaborative fund?	Companies cannot directly receive funding. Funds can only go to eligible research organisations; businesses and civic partners can collaborate on these projects and make their own contributions. If companies or civic partners are running a specific piece of work there could be a case for subcontracting the work. Businesses and civic partners will benefit through money coming into their cluster, knowledge exchange and academic expertise, thereby lowering the risk of projects they are interested in.
Does the company need to be regional ?	Project partners could be from outside the cluster but need to demonstrate a connection to the place and how their involvement will contribute to the growth of the cluster.
Would an NHS Trust be considered a Research Organisation or another HEI is required?	They may be an eligible organisation to be part of the consortium, but at least 2 universities are required who have the appropriate research base.
Can an industry body or club act as the civic body?	Yes, if the organisation has a focus on a specific place, they could be included.
Other	
How many bids were submitted in Round 1?	38
Can you offer any advice to unsuccessful applicants from Round 1?	Please contact the PBIAA mailbox or your local Head of Regional Engagement if you would like to discuss a previous application.

<p>Should we be pushing impact from our portfolio or doing what is required by the place?</p>	<p>Both - you need to drive impact from the consortium portfolio, but you also need to be connecting with the civic partner to align with their ambitions and plans. Key to this though is doing both of these and contributing to the development and growth of the cluster.</p>
<p>As there's scope for the projects to be university spin outs, how does that translate into IP ownership between the universities? Are there examples of this happening in the past?</p>	<p>Any IP positions should be a discussed and agreed between the consortium partners and project partners. We expect to see collaboration on projects, but the level of collaboration will vary on the different projects within a PBIAA.</p>
<p>Will it be the same panel that invites to interview and does the actual interviewing? Or are you just envisaging some consistency of panel members between the two stages?</p>	<p>It may not be exactly the same, including that a smaller panel may be needed for the interviews than the invite stage, but we would be seeking for strong consistency, including of chairs/co-chairs.</p>