UKRI Impact Acceleration Accounts (IAA)

Application Guidance – MRC Specific Section

Institutional level leads can apply for IAA funding if your organisation is eligible for UKRI funding generally and meets the additional eligibility parameters as stated on the Funding Finder. Please see guidance on **institutional eligibility**

Where open competition applies, each research organisation will need to demonstrate a significant research base in the Research Councils' remit areas in order to be competitive.

Please complete a separate council application section for each Council IAA that you wish to apply for. The level of detail provided should be commensurate to the size of awards.

If applying to MRC, either individually or alongside other councils, please use page 3 of the application template and refer to the MRC specific guidance that follows below.

If applying to AHRC, BBSRC, EPSRC and/or STFC, please use page 2 of the application template and follow the separate guidance document.

MRC IAA Specific Guidance

In addition to the guidance for the institutional section of the application, please use this guidance document if your institution is applying for an MRC IAA. The MRC IAA application has a page limit of **8 pages** *(excluding data submission).*

MRC contribution

Institutions may apply for an award in the range of £400,000 to £2.4 million over three years. The size of the request should be commensurate with the institution's pipeline and track record in supporting translational research. We anticipate that only a small number of leading institutions that can show MRC IAA funding will deliver transformative benefits will be awarded funding at the upper limit. Institutions are encouraged to apply a proportionate approach when considering the size of the funding request.

Project partner contribution

Please capture the total contributions, both in cash and in-kind, from the institution and partners in delivering the activities outlined in the MRC IAA application. This can include, for example, project contribution, contribution towards indirect costs and core staff for supporting the delivery of IAA award.

Consortium application

Where there is scientific justification, an institution can apply as part of a focused collaborative application in addition to their individual institutional application.

Consortium or joint applications from groups of institutions are welcomed. Consortia must be able to demonstrate added values that individual institutions cannot. The request should be proportionate to the consortium's pipeline and track record in translational research, and must still be within the range of £400,000 to £2.4 million over three years. Consortia may be broad in scope or focused on a specific therapeutic area or intervention modality.

For consortium application, the lead institution should be named in the institutional section and lead the application submission process. All the collaborating institutions should be listed in the MRC IAA application section. If the consortium and its lead institution is only applying for an MRC IAA, they must also complete the institutional sections outlining the consortium's strategies.

Discipline/Departmental lead and/or operational contact

Please provide details of the academic/strategic lead of the MRC IAA, who will have oversight or responsibility of the relevant discipline, e.g. Dean, Head of College/Department or equivalent, and/or an operational contact, who will look after the day-to-day management of the award.

The discipline lead can be the same as the institutional lead, for example, in the case of IAA from a single research council.

Additional co-leads can be included if necessary.

Research Portfolio

The fundamental science at the institution provides the discoveries that offer opportunities for translation. The translational research environment ensures that these discoveries can be progressed effectively.

Please provide a brief overview of the biomedical research base and related translational activities at the institution. Describe the areas of untapped potential at the host institution, where a significant amount of high-quality fundamental science is undertaken but translational opportunities are under-exploited. Please include areas of strategic importance to the institution.

How could progress from discovery to translational research be accelerated? What success has been achieved in translational research so far?

Outline the institution's strategy for translational research. Please provide details of the translational environment and capabilities, including expertise and facilities available to scientists, partnerships and links with, for examples, BRC, NHS Trusts, and industry etc.

Aims and objectives

Briefly describe the direction of this application, including key aims and objectives, and plans to capitalise the MRC IAA award. For example, this can include new partnerships, linkage with other infrastructure, leverage of investments internally and externally, establishment or strengthening of institutional translational culture. Please also see *UKRI IAA Strategic Aims*.

If the institution has previous MRC Confidence in Concept (CiC) funding, briefly explain why the institution believes that the current strategy is working and should remain the same, or why an alternative strategy is needed to deliver impact with the funding.

What will the institution contribute to add value to the funding provided? Include any provision of expertise, resources or financial contribution.

Management, governance and reporting

Use this section to describe the governance structures and processes for managing and awarding the MRC IAA award, where applicable, including alignments with other IAAs or funding sources. The processes should ensure that fund can be used flexibly and responsively to institutional challenges or opportunities. Where applicable, you may also refer to the "Overall leadership, management and governance" section in institutional section to avoid duplication.

Please tell us about the membership, or expectations of membership, of a decision-making panel or governance committee. A mix of internal and external members with relevant expertise (e.g. industry) is expected. Briefly describe the roles and responsibilities of the committee, including any alignment with other funding streams and infrastructure (e.g. BRCs). To ensure transparency, MRC IAA holders are expected to publish panel membership and governance structures to their academic community.

How will the most appropriate projects be identified and selected by the institution? Who will be responsible for oversight of the funding? How will it be managed transparently? How will decisions be taken rapidly while maintaining high standards?

How will the institution encourage and support early career researchers to take part in MRC IAA? What relevant training, mentorship and other support mechanisms will be available to them?

How will projects be supported, in terms of monitoring and advice, after MRC IAA funding?

Approach and activities

Use this section to give a brief description of the approaches and activities that will be undertaken through the MRC IAA to deliver the aims and objectives.

How would the institution use the award to accelerate the transition between discovery and translational research? Describe the nature of the need and explain whether a broad or targeted (e.g. to a particular area) approach is intended to be used.

What are the institution's plans to promote and develop new academic-industry interactions? Will any types of industry be a particular focus of engagement?

Outputs, outcomes and measures of success

What impact will the MRC IAA award make on translational research at the institution? How will it add value, above and beyond existing funding sources? Briefly describe in this section the expected outputs, outcomes and impact of the IAA, and what the institution envisages success will look like.

If the institution has had previous MRC CiC awards, briefly explain how the institution has maximised the outputs from previous funding, how the awards have evolved over time and what further evolution is planned?

You must also include information on the likely demand/readiness for MRC IAA funding and **project case studies**:

- <u>For an institution that has no previous MRC CiC funding</u>, please provide short summaries (around 0.5 page each) of 5 current projects that might benefit from the MRC IAA award. Please include information on the context, why these projects are chosen as examples, how the funds might be used to bridge between the fundamental science and translational research or gaps in translational development, the additional work needed for each project to progress to the next stage and a clear description of the project endpoints or milestones. References should be included where appropriate.

- <u>For an institution that has previous MRC CiC funding</u>, these should be short summaries (around 0.5 page each) of 5 past projects that have benefited from MRC CiC award. Please include project lead, title, funding, scientific objectives, project outcome and outputs, any engagements with industry and follow-on funding or plans. You are strongly encouraged to include a range of projects, i.e. projects where CiC funding has had the most impact, projects where the outcome of the award has led the team to pursue a different approach, and terminated projects. You may use projects that had been reported in previous CiC applications, however, further progression must be clearly captured.

For an institution that has previous MRC CiC funding, you must also **submit the data** on previous awards, applications and awarded projects, outputs from projects and a list of all funded projects. These data should be in Microsoft Excel spreadsheet format and submitted separately to the DPFS mailbox (DPFSandDCS@mrc.ukri.org) by **22 October 2021**. Please see **Annex 1: Data submission guidance** on the format and requirements.

Financial information

Please give a high-level summary on how the MRC IAA award will be used to support the delivery of activities identified in the application, e.g. projects, academic-industry engagement, others, etc., and a breakdown of project partner contributions into in-kind and in-cash.

Individual projects funded from an institution's IAA award is anticipated to be in the order of £50-100k and approximately 6-12 months in duration, although this will be dictated by the needs of each project.

Institution may use up to 15% of the total MRC IAA award to support new academic-industry engagement, knowledge exchange activities and short-term people exchange less than 6 months in duration. Up to 5% of the award may also be used towards staff costs associated with the administration and management of the award. Please also refer to the *Permitted Activities & Costs* document for more information.

Annexes

Annex 1: Data submission guidance

UK Research and Innovation

Annex 1: Data submission guidance

For institutions that has previous MRC Confidence in Concept (CiC) awards, you must also submit data and outputs related to previous CiC awards as graphs and a list of all funded projects to support your MRC IAA application.
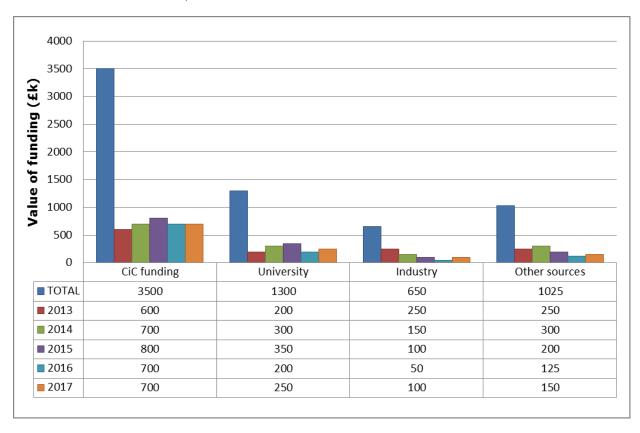
The information and outputs related to previous CiC awards must be submitted as graphs. To ensure consistency, please follow the guidance below and use a standard Microsoft Excel column graph template with **data table included** (refer to the example graphs below). Additional details can be included as footnotes to the graphs.

Please also include **a list of all funded projects to date**. This can be either as a separate tab in the Excel file together with the graphs and data, or as separate document. These must be submitted via email to the DPFS mailbox (DPFSandDCS@mrc.ukri.org) by 22 October 2021.

Section 1: Summary of previous awards

Use this section to summarise the funding that has been used to support your institutional CiC scheme each year. In a graph show the amount of funding (£) received from the MRC and matched funding from other sources to support CiC. Please include the amount of:
- funding received through MRC CiC
- funding from the University directly related to CiC. Please explain 'in-kind' contributions as a footnote to the graph
- funding from Industry, specifically contributed to CiC project work
- additional funding from other sources aligned to or administered with CiC (e.g. Wellcome Trust ISSF, IAA etc.)

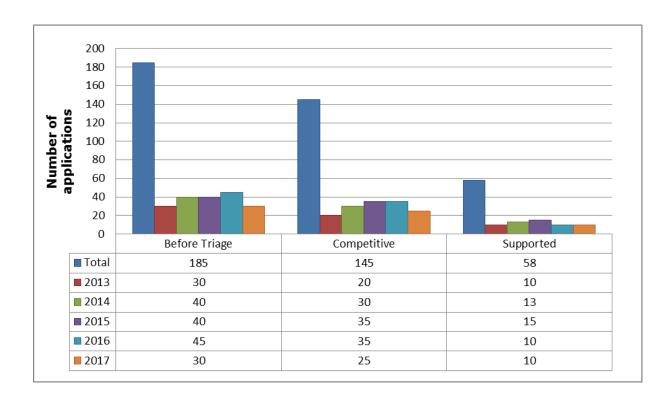|	CiC funding	University	Industry	Other sources
TOTAL	3500	1300	650	1025
2013	600	200	250	250
2014	700	300	150	300
2015	800	350	100	200
2016	700	200	50	125
2017	700	250	100	150

Section 2: Summary of applications and awarded projects

2.1 Summary of applications

Use this section to summarise the number of applications and supported projects for each year of CiC funding. Include the number of:

- applications received before any form of triage. This is to provide the MRC with an understanding of the total number of potential translational projects and can include informal enquiries on projects that required more work before being appropriate for CiC
- projects taken forward into a competitive process
- projects supported

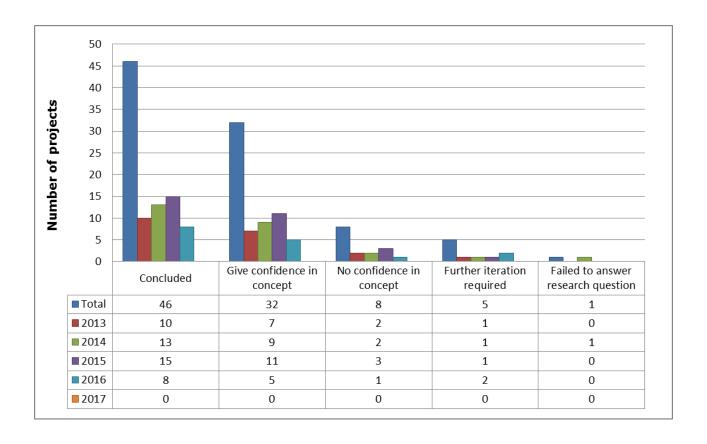|	Before Triage	Competitive	Supported
Total	185	145	58
2013	30	20	10
2014	40	30	13
2015	40	35	15
2016	45	35	10
2017	30	25	10

![UK Research and Innovation logo]

2.2 Project outcomes for supported projects

Use this section to summarise outcomes of the projects that reached the end of CiC funding. Include the number of:

- concluded projects
- projects that met their objectives and give 'confidence in concept' that could allow the approach to be taken forward
- projects that answered the research question but gave no 'confidence in concept'
- projects that required another round of iteration before taking the approach forward
- projects that failed to answer the research question or project conclusion

	Concluded	Give confidence in concept	No confidence in concept	Further iteration required	Failed to answer research question
■ Total	46	32	8	5	1
■ 2013	10	7	2	1	0
■ 2014	13	9	2	1	1
■ 2015	15	11	3	1	0
■ 2016	8	5	1	2	0
■ 2017	0	0	0	0	0

![UKRI UK Research and Innovation logo]

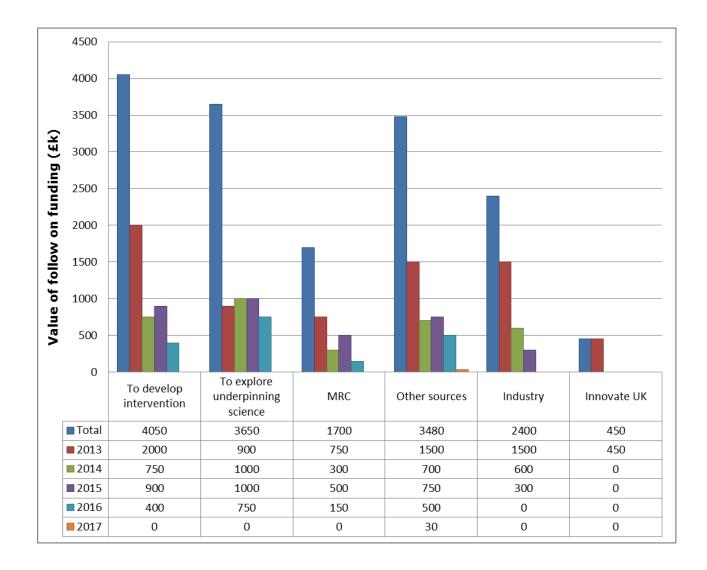## Section 3: Summary of outputs from awarded projects

3.1 Follow-on funding

Use this section to display the total amount of follow-on funding received by awarded projects from each CiC round including:

- amount received to further develop and/or evaluate an intervention
- amount received to further explore the underpinning science

Within this, please provide information on where this funding has come from. Include the amount of:

- follow on funding awarded by the MRC
- follow on funding from academic/government/charitable sources
- follow on funding awarded by Industry
- follow on funding awarded by Innovate UK to spin out companies

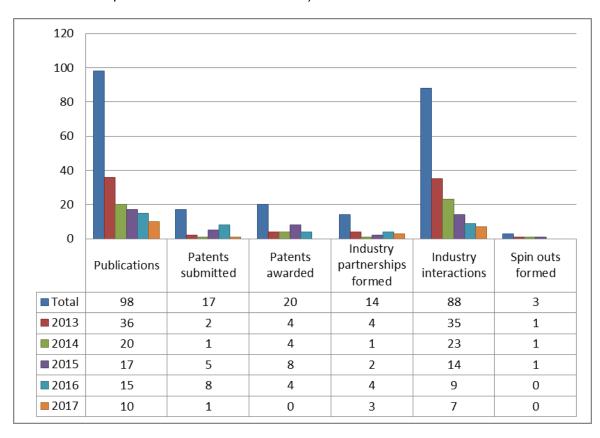|	To develop intervention	To explore underpinning science	MRC	Other sources	Industry	Innovate UK
Total	4050	3650	1700	3480	2400	450
2013	2000	900	750	1500	1500	450
2014	750	1000	300	700	600	0
2015	900	1000	500	750	300	0
2016	400	750	150	500	0	0
2017	0	0	0	30	0	0

3.2 Publications and commercialisation

Present as a graph the following information from each round of CiC funding:

- number of papers published or in press
- number of patent applications submitted
- number of patent applications awarded
- number of formal industry partnerships on projects funded through CiC
- number of industry interactions exploring the possibility of formal collaboration following CiC funding
- number of spin out companies created (please provide additional details of any spin out companies as an additional annex)

	Publications	Patents submitted	Patents awarded	Industry partnerships formed	Industry interactions	Spin outs formed
Total	98	17	20	14	88	3
2013	36	2	4	4	35	1
2014	20	1	4	1	23	1
2015	17	5	8	2	14	1
2016	15	8	4	4	9	0
2017	10	1	0	3	7	0

Section 4: List of all funded projects. Please list ALL projects funded through CiC to date (add additional rows as necessary). This can be either as a separate tab in the Excel file together with the graphs and data, or as separate document.

PI	Title	Award Amount (£) and Round awarded	Completion status. And if completed, did the project achieve its translational objectives?	Please provide <u>concise</u> detail of key outputs including patents, licencing, spin out companies, follow on funding, industry partnerships etc.
PI and/or Co-I names	*Title*	*£ xx,xxx* *CIC Round x*	*Complete – objectives met*	• *Patent filed or granted (e.g Patent application no. xxxxxxx)* • *Source and type of follow on funding (e.g. MRC DPFS grant to investigator £ xxx,xxx)* • *Name of spin out company and level of investment (if appropriate)* • *Licencing (e.g IP licenced to Company X)* • *Publication DOI*