ESRC Impact Acceleration Account (IAA)
2019-2023
Introduction

The LSSI are pleased to announce that following a competitive process, we have recently been successful in securing funding from the ESRC to deliver a 4 year Impact Acceleration Account (IAA) from April 2019 – 2023.

The ESRC IAA will allow us to build on the successful University funded IAA that the LSSI has coordinated since 2015.

The IAA will support a comprehensive portfolio of activities and resources across the social science community which will maximise the potential for impact of social science research and contribute to economic and societal development regionally, nationally and internationally.
LSSI’s IAA was established in October 2015 to support social scientists at the University of Leeds to engage with external partners and maximise the influence of their research on society and the economy. Over the past three years the IAA has been incredibly successful, demonstrating a variety of impacts that wouldn’t have been possible without the IAA.

- **£505k** allocated by the University of Leeds to deliver the IAA 2015-2018
- **15** calls for applications have been circulated so far that are open to social scientists in **5 faculties**
- A total of **56 projects** have been awarded and **120 applications submitted**
- The current applicant success rate across the three funding streams is **47%**
- In the past year the IAA has enabled academics to foster the development of new relationships with **25 external partners** and secured working relations with **68 non academic partners** (five with international partner- four of which are GCRF facing)
- The IAA has leveraged **£500k** external funding (£241k cash contributions and 266k in kind support)
- The University has match funded IAA awards to a total of **£175k**
Leeds IAA Objectives

1. To embed training and development opportunities and build capacity in impact-related skills

2. To coordinate and maximise support for social science impact activity to provide responsive, flexible funding for innovative social science impact projects

3. To allow researchers at all stages of career development to connect to external partners through KE and secondment opportunities

4. To build new and enhanced relations with partners in the industrial and business sectors and to diversify and strengthen relations with organisations in the third sector at regional, national and international levels.

5. To embed the social science IAA within wider interdisciplinary institutional impact activities and programmes, including those aligned to EPSRC/NERC, the University Themes/Platforms and NEXUS Building.
The ESRC requires that the IAA funds are to be used flexibly and rapidly to support knowledge exchange and impact for example:

- Building relationships and networks with potential users of research to facilitate co-production of research and maximise impact.
- Movement and secondment of people between external organisations and user stakeholders.
- Support for researchers to build networks with potential users of the products of their research, and further work to establish proof of concept for their innovations.
- Improve engagement with the public sector, policy sector, civil society, industry (including SMEs and local business) and the public.

The ESRC IAA is not restricted to applications from individuals whose research is funded by the ESRC or other research councils.
Impact Acceleration Account Funded Activities

The IAA will continue to fund the three funding streams it has operated since 2015:

- Responsive Mode Impact Fund
- Knowledge Exchange Fellowships
- PGR Research Placement Scheme

The injection of new ESRC funding will now enable us to deliver additional strands of activity and promote new relationships, including:

- Rapid Action Fund
- Public Engagement Fund
- Social Science Internships
- Public Policy Engagement
- International Partnerships
Providing flexible funding of up to £15k

Projects will be supported for a maximum of 12 months

The purpose is to provide flexible funding for cross disciplinary projects that demonstrate strong user engagement with potential to impact on policy and/or practice in the private, public and third sectors.

The fund will support activities such as building relationships and networks with non-academic partners; the development of activities designed to apply previously completed research to policy and practice issues; the co-production of knowledge; or, policy or evidence seminars/workshops.

Examples of Responsive Mode Impact Projects

Runneymede Trust & Stop Hate UK – Brexit and its impact on Diversity and Community Relations in Northern Towns

Fairtrade International – Embedding a learning culture and facilitating Fairtrade – academic links

Leeds College of Building & CITU - Equipping Construction workers to deliver sustainable, zero carbon buildings
Providing flexible funding of up to £10k

The aim of the Knowledge Exchange Fellowship scheme is to facilitate interactions between external organisations and the University which build and strengthen relationships and facilitate knowledge exchange.

The scheme will provide academic staff with an opportunity to work with a non-academic partner at their site, or for a non-academic partner to work on a project at the university for up to 12 months.

Collaborations may be either early stage interactions or well-established partnerships.

**Examples of Knowledge Exchange Fellowships**

- International Mixed Ability Sports – Increasing the impacts of Mixed Ability Sport: redefinition, resources and impact planning
- Houses of Parliament – The Petitions Committee: Developing a new style of public engagement
Successful applicants will receive a scholarship of up to £1,950 based on a 130 hour research placement.

Working in a research capacity with an external partner, the PGR student will have an opportunity to engage with the needs of the external organisation and to build the knowledge gained from the placement into their future research plans.

The time commitment for the PGR researcher is estimated at about 130 hours in total, with weekly hours to be agreed with the organisation. Usually phased over a 13 week period at ten hours per week. Projects must be completed within a 6 month period.

Examples of PGR Research Placements

Inclusive growth in the Leeds City Region: Developing collaboration between universities and local government – West Yorkshire Combined Authority

Organisational culture and charity mergers. Research exploring the merger of Gipsil and Renew

Basis Yorkshire – An evaluation of the first ‘Housing First’ project for sex workers – Basis Yorkshire
Rapid Action Fund

*New Fund*

- Providing flexible funding of up to £2k

- The rapid action fund will allow social scientists to react quickly to influence governmental, national and international debate, or respond to tactical, urgent and pressing opportunities in short timescales.

This funding could be used for but not limited to:

- The creation of short term impact projects

- Workshops

- Events, conferences or meetings that may inform impact

- Travel to meet with national policy departments (not for conferences)

- Developing and pitching ideas for broadcast media

There will be no official deadline for rapid action fund calls, these will be assessed on a rolling basis by the IAA Coordinator, Award Panel members and LSSI Director. However, applicants are encouraged, where possible, to submit in response to the quarterly Calls for Application each year.
Public Engagement Fund

*New Fund*

- Providing flexible funding of up to £5k
- To stimulate a broad range of suitable approaches to impact, the public engagement fund will seek to support public engagement within the social sciences and promote the public understanding of social science and the impacts of research on cultural life.

This fund will aim to promote accessible forms of dissemination and knowledge exchange both face-to-face and through social media.

- This funding could be used for but not limited to:
  - Deliberative public forums
  - Consensus conferences
  - Participatory performance art/theatre and exhibitions
  - Workshops
  - Online content for a public audience
  - Short documentaries and animations

Two funding calls will be released per year for the public engagement fund.
The internships programme will be incorporated into the existing Leeds Institute of Data Analytics (LIDA) Internship Programme.

The programme will provide recent social science masters students (or equivalent) with the opportunity to collaborate with an academic supervisor and an external organisation to complete a specific research task.

The academic supervisor will work with businesses or other organisations to devise a research question and project and then provide guidance and mentorship to the intern.

The projects will vary dependent on the organisation and academic, but this might include the analysis or visualisation of data (e.g. archival, qualitative or ‘big data’) or the formulation of engagement projects.

The internships will be advertised via the University of Leeds jobs pages as training post, interns will be recruited in cohorts once a year (to start in October 2019) interns will be hosted by LIDA.
How to apply – Social Science Internships

The internship programme will be coordinated in conjunction with LIDA.

A open call to academics for project proposals will be circulated in April 2019 by LIDA

Proposals will be assessed by the LIDA Review Panel with additional representatives from the LSSI

Once projects have been confirmed, the recruitment for suitable interns will begin, these will be advertised as training posts via the University of Leeds Jobs pages

Interns will begin in October 2019, interns are recruited in a cohort to work on 6 month projects. All interns will sit within LIDA and be assigned an academic supervisor.
IAA Eligibility

1. Project proposals must align to the ESRC’s disciplinary remit

2. Must be research active in the social sciences and hold a current contract of employment at UoL, this includes ECRs

3. Applications must be led by the University, and are expected to have external partners as co-applicants, in kind or cash contributions are expected from the external partner.

4. Awards are not for the continuation of research. Applications should focus on the development of impact activities and outputs not research.

5. Current ESRC grant holders are able to apply to the IAA however it is not anticipated that the fund will support project specific activities which would normally be included in Pathways to Impact.

6. Projects should have the potential to deliver economic and /or societal benefit to UK organisations or citizens outside academia.

IAA applications can be considered in conjunction with other IAA finding schemes such as the EPSRC and STFC IAA’s if the application is deemed to be eligible for both schemes. If you wish for your application to be considered for cofounding with other IAA schemes, please detail this on your application.

Please look on the website for the full details of the eligibility criteria.
https://lssi.leeds.ac.uk/
How to Apply

PGR Placements
Responsive Mode Impact Fund
Knowledge Exchange Fellowships

Rapid Action Fund
The IAA Coordinator will review all applications, any who do not meet any of the IAA criteria set out in the guideline will be sent back to the applicant with justification and will not be reviewed by the Panel

Public Engagement (PE) Fund
A PE fund call will be circulated twice a year, as indicated on the funding call timetable and reviewed by the IAA Award Panel.

There will be no official deadline for rapid action fund calls, these will be assessed on a rolling basis by the IAA Coordinator, Award Panel members and LSSI Director.

However, applicants are encouraged, where possible, to submit in response to the quarterly Calls for Application each year.

All applications deemed acceptable will be assessed by the IAA Award Panel, the IAA Coordinator will notify applicants of the decision within a two weeks of the Panel review.

There will be up to four calls for proposals during each academic session.

Details of the call will be available on the LSSI website and will also be circulated via the email research networks and LSSI.

Prior to submitting an application, please refer to the specific eligibility and assessment criteria via the LSSI website.

All application forms are available on the LSSI website https://lssi.leeds.ac.uk/
All application forms should be sent to IAA Manager Hannah Crow h.e.crow@leeds.ac.uk
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<th>Call Deadline</th>
<th>Panel Date</th>
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Awards process

Submit IAA Application by deadline indicated on call (except Rapid Action Fund)

Applications to be screened by the IAA Coordinator for eligibility

IAA Award Panel meets within two weeks of the call deadline

IAA Coordinator notifies applicants of the funding decision and Panel feedback within two weeks of the Panel meeting

Successful applicants will be provided with full terms and conditions of the award and a account code to charge to

Award-holders will be required to fully follow the reporting requirement as detailed in the terms and conditions of the specific award

PI/RIDM/FRIO are responsible for ensuring all related contracts and agreements are signed by all parties If applicable

For any questions regarding eligibility prior to submitting your application please email h.e.crow@leeds.ac.uk
The injection of new ESRC funding will now enable us to deliver additional initiatives and activities in order to promote new relationships, regionally, nationally and internationally.

One of these initiatives is to further engage with public policy.

Our aim is to connect high quality social science research taking place inside the University, with the individuals and groups who can utilise the research to create real-world impact.

In order to facilitate this the LSSI has launched a new seminar series with the Department of Work and Pensions, that will run until September 2019.

A national policy engagement event has been organised for 16th May 2019.

Similar targeted initiatives are planned with other regional and national policy groups and communities. Further details will be circulated across the University as they transpire and details will be available on https://lssi.leeds.ac.uk/
Researcher Engagement

An aim of the ESRC IAA is to accelerate a change in research culture and ensure impact planning and engagement is an embedded expectation across all social sciences at the University.

1. Collaboration Basecamps

The aim of the Basecamps is to create interdisciplinary teams.

The goal of creating long-term shifts in attitude towards collaboration and the development of new cross-disciplinary research collaborations.

It aims to develop the competencies required to initiate and develop interdisciplinary working, KE, entrepreneurial activity and creative thinking, as well as new challenge-led project ideas and research proposals.

The programme will consist of a series of three intensive full-day residential workshops, with 10 – 20 participants.

The first two workshops will be held off campus and will be on consecutive days including an overnight stay. The third workshop can be held on or off campus, and can include external partners if applicable.

The Basecamps will be centred around a particular theme or topic, if you have a suggestion please contact Alison Lundbeck (A.Lundbeck@leeds.ac.uk)

**Tents not required!!!**
2. Innovation Forums

These forums will bring together professionals and policy-makers in collaboration with researchers to identify and develop research questions, challenges and innovations.

The Innovation Forum will facilitate this multidisciplinary structure by fostering synergy between academia, industry and the public/third sector to coproduce innovative research and to accelerate the speed of impact for the benefit of the wider society.

Each forum will be centred around a particular theme or topic.

Please contact Hannah Crow at H.E.Crow@leeds.ac.uk if you have an idea for a suggestion for a Innovation Forum topic.
Internationalisation

A key objective of the LSSI is to foster international research links and build collaborative partnerships with a view to enhancing research impact.

The IAA will be utilised to further enhance this goal by supporting the development of strategic relations with partners around the globe.

Notably the Institute for Social Science Research at the University of Queensland and with the Instituto de Investigaciones Gino Germani at the University of Buenos Aires in Argentina.

Relations have also began with these two institutes and areas for ideas exchange and, particularly in regards to strategic initiatives to support social science research impact where identified.

The IAA will be utilised to fund:

- Incoming and outgoing visiting fellows with partner institutions.
- The establishment of a International Advisory board
- To organise a collaborative international conference
Contact Details

All details of the application process and full guidance is available on the LSSI website www.lssi.leeds.ac.uk

@UoLSSI

For any questions or queries please contact:

Hannah Crow – LSSI Coordinator H.E.Crow@leeds.ac.uk
Tel: x38468