



What is an Impact Acceleration Account (IAA)?

IAs are institutional awards that have been introduced by the ESRC to deliver funding mechanisms for social science knowledge exchange and impact activities at a local, research organisation, level.

How can IAA funds be used?

The primary focus of the IAA is:

- To build and sustain relationships with non-academic communities;
- Knowledge Exchange;
- Improve engagement;
- Utilise existing research to enhance impact and enable researchers to build networks

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.

Full details of the different schemes are available here

<https://lssi.leeds.ac.uk/esrc-iaa/guidance/>

Will postgraduate students be able to access IAA funds?

Those on studentships, ESRC funded or otherwise, are not eligible for IAA funding and IAA funds must not be used to fund studentships. However, PhD Students are eligible to apply for our PGR Placement Scheme that is funded via the University and ran alongside the IAA. IAs can support early career academics as well as those later on in their careers.

Will large ESRC investments (such as centres, large grants and Infrastructure Investments) be able to access IAA funds?

In order to ensure that IAs can be used to fund a diversity of knowledge exchange activity, ESRC-managed investments will not be eligible for IAA funding during via the ESRC IAA.

Will KE activity associated with social science research not funded by the ESRC be eligible for IAA funding?

KE associated with excellent social science research is eligible for funding from the IAs regardless of how the research was originally funded. Therefore research funded by other Research Councils and funding bodies will be eligible.

What activities are ineligible for IAA awarding?

The IAA doesn't support the creation of new research i.e. the collection and/or analysis of new primary data. The awards are not the continuation of research. Applications should therefore focus on the development of impact activities and outputs and not on research. Applications which read like research grant proposals re-drafted for IAA purposes are less likely to be successful than projects which clearly comprise development of findings and ideas toward impact.

What is the maximum funding that can be awarded?

Responsive Mode Impact Fund: Maximum £15k - we will review application over £15k in exceptional circumstance where the exceptionality of the proposal is clearly stated and the breadth and scale of the impact is well-defined.

Knowledge Exchange Fellowships – Maximum £10k

Rapid Action Fund – Maximum £2k

Public Engagement Fund – Maximum £5k

What costs are eligible?

All IAA awards can only cover directly incurred costs associated with the award (i.e. do not cover Full Economic Costs), which may include

- Travel and subsistence costs
- Equipment and consumables directly related to the project may be eligible for funding.
- Salaries - To support existing non-academic staff already employed by the University of Leeds or to recruit new members of staff (on a fixed-term basis)
- Other – such as registration costs at events (this does not include academic conferences), production of professional materials, room bookings, catering etc.

Applicants should provide a budget with their proposal and justification for the budget provided on the application form.

The following costs are not eligible:

- Academic staff time (however, these costs should be included in applications as UoL internal co-funding)
- Estates and indirect costs
- Building and refurbishment costs
- Patent filing or similar costs associated directly to registering intellectual property rights
- Infrastructure and Capital Expenditure, i.e. no single items of equipment above the £10k threshold are permitted.

Can academic time be funded via the ESRC IAA?

No, as above academic staff time isn't eligible for IAA funding EXCEPT for outgoing Knowledge Exchange Fellowships, where time spent with the external partner on secondment can be funded. We would however expect match funding for academic time to be met by your school/faculty.

The maximum duration of IAA funded time on a Knowledge Exchange Fellowship is 6 months, anything over 6 months will need to be covered by the external partner or faculty/school.

For all other funding streams, academic staff time cannot be funded by the IAA, however we would expect academic staff time to be costed and included in your application (to be detailed under UoL internal co-funding).

What is the application process?

There will be up to four open *Calls for Proposals* per academic year. Details of each specific call deadline will be available on the [LSSI website](#) and will be circulated via the email research networks and LSSI.

The word and page limits as indicated on the application form should be adhered to, failure to do this may result in your application not progressing to panel.

Applications should be submitted with a letter of support from the project external partner(s) and forms should be signed by the Head of School, Faculty Research & Innovation Manager and HR Manager (for inward secondments). Please ensure you approach your Faculty Research office early on (minimum 2 weeks prior to the deadline) in the application process for sign off and costs.

Completed forms should be submitted electronically by the deadline indicated to Hannah Crow - h.e.crow@leeds.ac.uk

Applications will be reviewed by the IAA Review Panel, which includes representations from across the Social Sciences and three external representatives from the public, private and third Sector.

All applicants will be provided with feedback, and with three possible outcomes, which include

- Proceed to funding
- Proceed to funding with conditions
- Invited to resubmit at the next call – your resubmission should include a cover letter highlighting the response to panel feedback.
- Unable to support

How can I improve my chances of being funded?

Successful applications, clearly reflect the assessment criteria within their application by:

- Clearly defining the underpinning research and how the application will build upon this;
- Includes clear SMART objectives within the application that are succinct and are within the word limit provided;
- Clearly defines realistic proposed outputs, outcomes and impacts of the project and how they will be implemented and measured;
- Includes well thought out follow on plans, that include the legacy of the project/fellowship and the sustainability of the relationship with the external partner;
- Includes a contribution in cash or 'In Kind' that is representative of the amount of IAA funding being requested, and a letter of support from the partner that states their commitment to the project;
- Clearly breaking down the costs of the project, and is deemed value for money.
- The IAA isn't a mechanism to fund the collection of primary research therefore avoid words such as data collection, data analysis, evaluation, research project, gather qualitative and quantitative data.

How will successful awards receive funding?

Successful projects will have an account set up for the project costs, this will take up to three weeks from confirmation of award. If a risk review or contractual agreements are required, this should be completed prior to account set up. Any project costs, expenses or recruitment that are required throughout the duration of the award should go via the Faculty teams.

All successful awards, should start within 3 months of confirmation of funding.

If I have received an IAA award in the past, am I allowed to re-apply?

Yes, applicants who have received IAA funding in the past are allowed to reapply, however we would need the full reporting requirements of the previous award to be confirmed.

Any applicants reapplying would need to demonstrate how their second project differs to the first project, establish that a second project isn't an add on to the first project but can produce tangible impacts and follow on plans will potentially be developed that differ from the first application, and include a new relationship or step change with an external partner.

Projects are expected to include 'In kind' or cash contributions are expected from the external partners, what level of contribution is required?

We haven't set a minimum requirement of contributions required as we appreciate that partners will come from a variety of sectors, however a cash or in kind contribution is mandatory for all applications, and should be representative of the amount of IAA funding being requested.

If your partner is within the private sector, who will benefit financially from the project, we would expect a cash contribution.

For voluntary sectors and public sectors a cash contribution isn't mandatory, but we would expect an 'In Kind' contribution.

It should be noted that it is mandatory for all in kind contributions to be calculated on your application.

What level of internal match funding is required from my faculty/school?

It is mandatory for all academic time to be costed and included in all applications (except PGR Placements) and detailed under UoL internal co-funding.

Can I apply for co-funding with other UoL IAA schemes (e.g. EPSRC, STFC)?

Yes, if your application is eligible within other IAA schemes your application can be eligible for co funding across the two IAA awards. Please detail this on your application and notify the IAA manager of the scheme you are interested in applying for co funding, and we can discuss internally.

The ESRC IAA also has administrative links with the [iCASP](#) which is managed by the Faculty of Environment, if you would be interested in applying for co funding with this scheme, please detail this on your application.

What is the maximum duration of IAA awards?

The maximum duration for the following funds is 12 months:

- Responsive Mode Impact Fund
- Knowledge Exchange Fellowships
- Public Engagement Fund

The maximum duration of the Rapid Action Fund is 3 months from confirmation of award

The maximum duration of a PGR placement is 130 hours over a 3 month period

Full details of the ESRC Impact Acceleration Account are available at

<https://lssi.leeds.ac.uk/esrc-iaa/guidance/>

Application forms and guidance are available at <https://lssi.leeds.ac.uk/esrc-iaa/guidance/iaadocuments/>

If you have any specific questions about the IAA please contact Hannah Crow at h.e.crow@leeds.ac.uk

