

**The University of Manchester
EPSRC Impact Acceleration Account
7th Call for Proposals**

Closing Date: 15th October 2014

Summary

EPSRC has awarded The University of Manchester over £3.2M to deliver an Impact Acceleration Account (IAA) following the successful conclusion of its Knowledge Transfer Account (KTA).

Running until March 2017, the IAA will aim to ensure that the University fulfills its strategic Knowledge Exchange objectives in the domains covered by EPSRC research:

‘To maximise the University’s economic and social impact, by ensuring research and expertise/know-how are delivered in a timely and effective manner to relevant external partners, and in turn to inform and strengthen research activity by means of interaction with those partners.’

The IAA activities will aim to:

- develop early stage contact and strategic alignment between business and academics through **Relationship Incubation**
- bridge the gap in support for early stage commercialisation of ideas through **Concept Development and Feasibility Studies**
- increase the exchange of knowledge through mobility of people between the university and user organizations through **Exploitation Secondments** and **Academic Secondments**

The University’s IAA Operations Board is pleased to announce the 7th call for proposals for funding under the following mechanisms:

- **Concept Development and Feasibility Study Scheme**
- **Exploitation Secondment Scheme**
- **Academic Secondment Scheme**

To provide a responsive scheme to enable early stage relationship development, the **Relationship Incubation** scheme will now be run as an open call, with submissions sent to ke@manchester.ac.uk. Feedback will be given within one week of submission.

The closing date for applications to this 7th call is **15th October 2014, 12 noon**.

Outline of IAA funding opportunities

Relationship Incubation

The scheme aims to overcome the ‘market understanding – technology awareness’ and relationship barriers by supporting the secondment-out of academics to organisation(s) to explore the exploitation opportunities for their EPSRC research, or enabling the secondment-in of users to explore opportunities offered by an identified range of EPSRC research. **(£10k max)**

Concept Development and Feasibility Studies

EPSRC research can remain unexploited because a greater evidential base is required before companies or academics are able to commit to its further development and application. Therefore, funding is available to support the development of an early evaluation prototype or ‘demonstrator’, initial trials in a particular field, or ‘scoping exercises’. **(£30k max)**

Exploitation Secondments

The IAA provides flexible support for secondments between The University of Manchester and external businesses and organisations that focus on the commercial development of specific EPSRC research outputs. **(£60k max)**

Academic Secondments

The IAA will provide funding to support up to three Academic Secondments to external businesses and organisations that focus on the commercial development of specific EPSRC research outputs, for a total period of 6 months each. Prior to submission of an application, permission must be sought from the relevant Head of School. **(£50k max)**

Eligibility

Applications are only permitted for projects focused on the exploitation or application of knowledge or technology generated through EPSRC-funded research. Eligible external collaborators are UK-based businesses, UK sites of international businesses, UK-based charities, and UK public sector organisations.

Application Process

Further information about the different IAA schemes, guidance notes and application forms are available online at www.staffnet.manchester.ac.uk/knowledge-exchange. Prior to submitting an application, academics are strongly advised to contact a member of the KE Team for support.

Assessment Criteria

Applicants should write their proposal for a non-specialist audience. The University’s Knowledge Exchange Schemes Panel will assess applications on a competitive basis, and proposals that demonstrate strategic alignment with Faculty of EPS will be particularly welcomed. Assessment of the various bids will take into account:

- the contribution the University is expected to make relative to the company (gearing).
- the benefits to industry, to the partner, to the University and to the Research Assistant
- the likelihood that the project plans will deliver the expected outcomes and benefits

Further details

Please contact the KE Team on 0161 306 6815 or ke@manchester.ac.uk

Further information and case studies of completed projects can be found at www.manchester.ac.uk/business/ke/