KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE
ESRC Impact Acceleration Account

The University of Manchester’s ESRC Impact Acceleration Account (IAA) provides a broad range of mechanisms to accelerate the impact of research in the social sciences.

THE AIMS OF THE IAA ARE TO:

- Increase knowledge exchange through staff exchanges/placements between the University and user organisations;
- Develop strategic alignment between external partners and academics to shape the research agenda and influence policy and practice through policy/evidence seminars;
- Extend the University’s culture of engagement into new and innovative areas through training, workshops and tools development;
- Provide flexible and innovative opportunities for researchers to translate research into practice.

WHAT IS KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE?

Knowledge Exchange (KE) is a two-way process which transfers ideas, knowledge and expertise between academic staff, users of research and wider groups and communities with the overall aim of bringing economic, social, cultural and environmental benefits to society.

BENEFITS TO EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS

- Access to world-leading academics and researchers whose quality, breadth and volume of research activity is unparalleled in the UK
- New skills and capabilities embedded into your organisation
- Commercial and social benefits including job creation, cost savings, opening up of new markets and process and productivity improvements
- Access to a team of highly qualified knowledge exchange experts who will assist you in the different stages of your project, from applying for funding, to project planning and evaluation

BENEFITS TO ACADEMIA

- Application of research in challenging real-world issues
- Improved understanding of organisational requirements and operations
- Career development opportunities through projects and secondments
- Opportunities to develop and demonstrate research impact and publish quality journal and conference papers

www.manchester.ac.uk/KE
SUSTAINING AND ENHANCING FAIRNESS AT WORK DURING HARD TIMES

EXTERNAL PARTNERS Age UK, Oxfam, Unison, Royal Navy and Brighton and Hove City Council.

PROJECT In recent times the issue of fairness at work has come under increasing pressure due to the economic crisis, particularly the shift to new forms of work intensification and a political questioning of the equality agenda. The Fairness at Work Research Centre in Manchester Business School has created a dynamic dialogue with external organisations, to share positive interventions on sustaining fairness and dignity, and understand the challenges to sustaining fairness strategies, during the current context of crisis and change.

OUTCOMES Leading-edge research briefings have been produced, focussing on how organisations and individuals might sustain and enhance fairness at work in this challenging new environment. Areas covered include domiciliary care work, global supply chains, zero-hours contracts, the minimum wage and the ageing workforce.

AN AGE-FRIENDLY GUIDE TO URBAN SPACE

EXTERNAL PARTNERS Age UK, RIBA and Manchester City Council.

PROJECT Working as part of a multi-agency, age-friendly research network, researchers in the School of Social Sciences have developed a shared resource exploring new ways to improve older people’s everyday experience of urban space and to integrate the age-friendly agenda into mainstream social science thinking on urban change.

OUTCOMES The UK’s first Alternative Field Guide to Age-friendly Urban Actions provides creative urban practitioners, policymakers and older people with the knowledge, tools and resources to promote and develop a range of innovative and sustainable initiatives – informed by the latest social science research.

DEVELOPING BEST PRACTICE GUIDANCE FOR COMMUNITY SHARES

EXTERNAL PARTNERS Co-operatives UK.

PROJECT Working closely with Co-operatives UK, the project team from Manchester Business School expanded, improved and analysed a database of community share offers, comprising quantitative and qualitative information, to produce best practice proposals for Co-operatives UK’s Community Shares Unit (CSU).

OUTCOMES As the first analysis of its kind, the team created a framework for capturing and analysing data and developed market intelligence to assist the CSU in designing its guidance on good practice community share offers. Through partnership with the Department for Communities and Local Government and the Financial Services Authority, research practices are being developed that will improve sector understanding of the supply and demand of social finance.

INTERESTED? To find out how your organisation can collaborate with the University through the ESRC IAA programme please contact the ESRC IAA Team on: EMAIL: esrcliaa@manchester.ac.uk; WEB: www.manchester.ac.uk/collaborate/business-engagement/knowledge-exchange/