 

**The University of Manchester**

**ESRC Impact Acceleration Account**

**ESRC IAA schemes** cover potential impact activities at all stages of the research process, from setting up networks to help inform or scope new research projects, to the development of activities designed to apply previous research. The panel will be keen to see how applications support the development of Early Career Researchers at the University of Manchester and link with previous research conducted by the PI.

**Strategic Stream**

* ***Relationship building-*** Flexible support for building relationships with non-academic partners. This call encourages initiatives that increase our engagement with commercial businesses since these have been under-represented in Round 1 calls. Proposals that include a direct cash contribution from one or more commercial businesses will be particularly welcomed. Particularly innovative proposals to develop relationships that include in-kind contributions will also be considered, where the lack of a direct contribution is justified*.* Funding available – up to £15k per project.
* ***Research into practice-*** Activity to translate research evidence for use by research users/ practitioners. The scheme is flexible and open to innovative projects and activities may include policy or evidence seminars, knowledge exchange or co-produced research etc.Funding available – up to £15k per project.
* ***Staff exchanges/placement-*** Flexible support for secondment-out of academics to external partner organisations or enabling secondment-in of external partners. This scheme is to increase the exchange of knowledge through mobility of people, enhance external links and provide the secondee with experience of working in a partner organisation. Funding available – up to £15k per project.
* **Breakthrough Stream** *-* This stream supports projects which take unusual, speculative routes to KE and impact, fostering a creative approach to tackle real world problems with ambitious delivery strategies. Examples might include video blogs, podcasts, plays, artwork, and games, although this is by no means an exhaustive list and the panel are receptive to any novel ideas. Our current Breakthrough projects have focussed on pathways such as apps and international podcasts, and link with other key strategic priorities for the university such as our [Digital Futures Campaign](http://www.digitalfutures.manchester.ac.uk/) (as an example.) Funding available – up to £15k per project.

**Eligibility**

The ESRC IAA is open to academic staff across The University of Manchester and the academic project team should normally be University employees with a contract of employment which lasts the duration of the proposed IAA project. Schemes will fund the activity of academic colleagues from other HEIs, provided the lead applicant is from The University of Manchester and collaboration is demonstrated.

ESRC IAA funding is to support knowledge exchange with a range of sectors and publics and for activity relating to any area of social science research within the [ESRC’s remit](http://www.esrc.ac.uk/funding-and-guidance/applicants/proposal-classifications-ESRC-disciplines.aspx). Interdisciplinary projects with a major social science component are also eligible for funding.

The following are ineligible for support through ESRC IAA funding:

* 1. Basic research that does not include substantive user engagement.
	2. Large ESRC investments (e.g. centres, large grants, infrastructure investments) during their term of ESRC funding.
	3. Ongoing ESRC funded projects where the activities should have been costed into the application’s ‘Pathways to Impact’.
	4. Knowledge Transfer Partnerships (KTPs).
	5. Those on Research Council-funded studentships or internships; the ESRC IAA cannot be used to fund studentships.
	6. Applicants must apply via the correct internal channels and, where possible, work with their schools Knowledge Exchange and Impact team to form an application.

Please note: We particularly welcome applications from researchers who have not previously received ESRC IAA funding, in particular, Early Career Researchers.

**Call timeline**

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|  | **ESRC IAA Call 3 Opens** | **School Application Deadlines** | **School decisions and shortlisting notifications** | **Deadline for submitting presentations** | **Expected project start date** |
| **Call 3** | 04/01/2022 | 11/02/2022 | 25/02/2022 | 11/03/2022 | Between 01/04/2022 and 01/05/2022  |

**Application process**

An outline application form is available which covers all IAA Streams

All applications should be crafted with support from the PI’s Research Support Services, including a full FEC budget and approval, and in collaboration with the School’s Impact Officer.

For all streams a short-listing process will take place at school level and short-listed candidates will be required to record and submit a 5-minute pitch presentation detailing further particulars of their project to the ESRC IAA Schemes Panel.

Letters of support from external partners are only required for short listed candidates and should be submitted to the panel at the same time as the presentation.

**Funding arrangements and eligible costs**

Applicants should request and justify the project-specific resources needed to achieve their IAA project. All applications are expected to be costed on a full Economic Costing (fEC) basis to allow the University’s contribution to each project, to be reported.

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| The ESRC IAA will provide funding at 100% of the total project costs.  |
| Eligible costs | Directly incurred, for example;* Staff costs
* Travel and subsistence
* Consumables including equipment (up to £10k)
* Minimal Directly allocated staff costs (secondments only)
 |
| Ineligible costs | DA Staff costs (with the exception of secondments, for which limited DA costs may be included)Equipment (with an individual value of £10k or more)Indirect and estate costs |

For secondment-out staff exchange staff must seek permission to apply from their Head of School.

For secondment-in from an external organisation, the external organisation will be expected to cover the staff costs of their employee and the only eligible costs will be travel and subsistence and small budgets for consumables.

**Application submission**

* Where possible applicants must liaise with their Knowledge Exchange and Impact Officer prior to submission and adhere to school deadlines
* Completed applications should be sent electronically to esrciaa@manchester.ac.uk by no later than 5pm on **11th February 2022**
* Applications will be evaluated at School level. Each School within Humanities may shortlist up to 30% of their total applications (or up to 6 applications, whichever is greater) to the ESRC IAA Schemes Panel for consideration.
* **For applications outside of the Faculty of Humanities: these projects will be assessed in the first instance by a school within Humanities with relevant expertise. Projects outside of Humanities will not count towards a Schools total contribution.**
* Applications received after the deadline will not be eligible for consideration
* Shortlisted applicants will be notified by **25th February 2022**
* Pitch presentations and letters of support must be sent to esrciaa@manchester.ac.uk by **5pm 11th March 2022**

**Assessment Criteria**

The ESRC IAA Schemes Panel is chaired by Professor Neil Humphrey, Associate Dean: Research (Faculty of Humanities). The Panel will assess applications on a competitive basis, and proposals/presentations that demonstrate alignment with The University of Manchester’s strategic priorities and have strong external partner commitment, will be particularly welcomed.

Successful proposals/presentations will:

* be written for a non-specialist audience with clear aims and objectives;
* explain how the proposal builds upon research undertaken at The University of Manchester;
* demonstrate the benefits to the University and academic team as well as the external partner(s) and/or beneficiary- both immediate and potential;
* present a clearly defined project plan with achievable timescales and stages linked to tasks, outputs and outcomes;
* demonstrate the potential to realise research impact and measures of success;
* show well thought through follow-on activity, building sustainability and opportunities for future external funding capture;
* justify the budget and demonstrate value for money;

**Conditions of Funding**

Successful ESRC IAA award holders must:

* Credit the ESRC and The University of Manchester as providing the support for the project and outputs.
* Report at the end of the funding and contribute to regular reporting to ESRC and The University of Manchester
* Produce a project poster or blog post summarising the work at the end of the project

**Contact**

For more information, contact Hannah Clark, ESRC IAA Manager, at esrciaa@manchester.ac.uk

Knowledge Exchange and Impact Officers:

AMBS: Dr Clare Canning (Clare.Canning@manchester.ac.uk))

SALC: Dr Lucy Stone (Lucy.Stone@manchester.ac.uk )

SEED: Dr Carly Chadwick (Carly.Chadwick@manchester.ac.uk)

SOSS/Law: Dr Leanne Munroe (Leanne.Munroe@manchester.ac.uk )