

**The University of Manchester
EPSRC Impact Acceleration Account
8th Call for Proposals**

Closing Date: 25th February 2015

The current allocation of EPSRC IAA funds must be spent by 30th September 2015. For projects where there is an industrial contribution, it will be possible to front-load costs onto the IAA allocation before drawing down the industrial contribution. Under these circumstances, we will be able to support projects that intend to run beyond September 2015. A £1.7M extension to the IAA will run from October 2015 to March 2017.

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 September 2015, 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 (open call)**
- 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**
- support for development and / or delivery of social impact linked to EPSRC research outputs through an **Outreach Fund (open call)**

The University’s IAA Operations Board is pleased to announce the 8th call for proposals for funding under the following mechanisms:

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

The closing date for applications to this 8th call is **25th February 2015, 12 noon.**

The Relationship Incubation and Outreach Fund are both available through an open call, with feedback provided within 2 weeks of submission. Academics are encouraged to work with a KE Manager to develop the proposal ahead of submission.

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)**

Outreach Fund

Support for development and / or delivery of social impact through outreach opportunities that specifically link to EPSRC research outputs. Activities supported include engagement through events, games, online material, publications etc. **(£30k 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.

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/