

University of Manchester
ESRC Impact Acceleration Account Schemes Panel- Terms of Reference

Background

The ESRC has awarded The University of Manchester over £860k to deliver the Impact Acceleration Account (IAA) until 31 March 2018. The IAA will be used to fund knowledge exchange activities to accelerate the impact of research in the social sciences, across the University.

The aims of the IAA are to:

- increase knowledge exchange through **staff exchanges/placements** between the University and external user organisations;
- align external partners and academics strategically to extend collaboration and shape the research agenda, and influence policy and practice through **policy/evidence seminars**;
- Provide flexible and innovative opportunities for researchers to translate **research into practice**;
- Provide **training, workshops and tools development** to extend the University's culture of engagement into new and innovative areas.

Purpose

The ESRC IAA Schemes Panel is responsible for the overall management of the award and will:

- Promote the ESRC IAA across the University of Manchester and identify key research groups
- Agree application processes and evaluation criteria for proposals under the IAA schemes
- Evaluate proposals and provide feedback on applications put forward to the Panel
- Approve allocation of funding
- Review progress of awards and overall IAA against key performance indicators
- Provide input into the training, workshops, tools development and opportunities to embed Knowledge Exchange into the University's culture and practice
- Make recommendations on all issues related to the operation of the IAA
- Make recommendations to the ESRC and UoM Knowledge Exchange Strategic Group on strategy related to the IAA award as well as coordination and sharing across all IAAs (EPSRC, ESRC, MRC, NERC, BBSRC and STFC)
- Ensure that the University meets its statutory requirements to the ESRC.

Basis for evaluation:

- It is expected that there will be significant demand for the IAA, and this, combined with limits on funding, means that evaluation will take place on a competitive basis.
- Panellists will be sent the evaluation criteria with applications and the meeting will allow discussion around applications and their evaluations against University/ Faculty strategic priorities. The Panel will agree one of the following outcomes for each application:
 - a. Approve (green)
 - b. Approve subject to amendment/conditions (amber)
 - c. Reject with offer of resubmission to a later funding call (red)
 - d. Reject on ground of eligibility (red)
- In the event that the number of approved and approved subject to amendments applications exceeds the budget available, panel members will be asked to rank applications.

In 2015/16, the schemes will be:

Scheme	Funding available per application
Staff exchanges/placements	Up to £20K
Policy/evidence seminars	Up to £5K
Research into practice	Normally up to £20K
Tools development	£10k will be available annually
Responsive open call- where an opportunity arises between rounds, proposals will be considered, however a case explaining why the project must start before the next round would be required.	
The rapid response scheme to fund up to £2.5k operates as an open call and feedback will normally be given within one week of submission.	

Accountability

Reporting to the ESRC and The University of Manchester's Knowledge Exchange Strategic Group (chaired by the Vice-President, Research and Innovation).

Meetings

The Panel will meet at least two times a year during each academic session.

In 2015/16, there will be three funding calls and the timeline will be:

	Opens	Close	IAA team eligibility checking	Applications circulated	Schemes panel meeting	Expected project start date
Call 3	01/07/2015	05/10/2015	4 days	12/10/2015	19/10/15	01/12/2015
Call 4	01/07/2015	25/01/2016	4 days	01/02/2016	15/02/16	01/04/2016
Call 5	01/07/2015	16/05/2016	4 days	23/05/2016	08/06/16	01/07/2016

Membership

- Deputy Dean (Associate Dean for Research), Faculty of Humanities- Chair
- ESRC Investment Manager
- Assistant Associate Dean for Business Engagement and External Relations, Faculty of Humanities
- Assistant Associate Dean for Research, Faculty of Humanities
- School of Psychology Research Director, Faculty of Medical and Human Sciences
- Wellcome Trust Engagement Fellow, Faculty of Life Sciences
- Business Engagement Manager, Faculty of Humanities
- Research Strategy Manager, Faculty of Humanities
- Research Support Assistant, Faculty of Humanities- Secretary
- Additional members of the committee may be appointed at the discretion of the Chair including the opportunity to engage with key external partners.