UKRI IAA - Innovation Works Scheme

Guide for Applicants

About IAA Innovation Works

Strengthening engagement, connecting people, and sparking impact

Collaboration and engagement with external partners or stakeholders is often critical to the exploitation of University research to deliver impact. This scheme aims to support a broad range of activities that will help to foster engagement activities and provide a strategic and targeted intervention aimed at establishing or strengthening relationships with industry, public and the third sector organisations. Activities should seek to:

- Lay the foundations for new external collaborations within strategic priority areas and / or across disciplines that provide opportunities for longer-term and impactful partnerships
- Provide a structure that could support further potential BEKE opportunities, such as progression on to other IAA funding mechanisms (e.g., Proof of Concept or Secondments), other BE offers (e.g., Consultancy), and external funding mechanisms (e.g., Innovate UK)
- Strengthen user engagement to accelerate the translation of research outputs into impact

The Innovation Works mechanism will support a broad range of activities, but with focus towards:

- Regional engagement events
- Thematic brokering
- Challenge events, hackathons, innovation labs and sandpits
- Researcher to innovator accelerator events and competitions

The Innovation Works mechanism will help to foster and provide foundations for new collaboration within strategic priority areas, for example Innovation District (ID) Manchester, which will mark a huge step in the development of a world-class innovation ecosystem around the University research beacons, and regional SME and supply chain engagement, with the overall aim of improving engagement strategies, connecting people, and sparking impact.

Funding for Innovation Works projects is available via the AHRC, BBSRC, EPSRC, ESRC, MRC, and STFC IAAs. We encourage you to apply for co-funding where appropriate for multidisciplinary projects.

About Your Project

Eligibility:

IAA projects are no longer required to be directly related to previous funded research but must fall within the remit of the relevant Research Council(s). Applicants much show how the proposed event aligns with selected funder's themes and remit.

AHRC   BBSRC   EPSRC   ESRC   MRC   STFC

Applications must have an academic champion(s) and an Event PS Lead who will lead on event facilitation and management. We welcome application with collaborating partner organisation(s) and the provision of in-kind or direct cash contributions towards project activity, **but this is not a requirement**.

Contact the Knowledge Exchange Partnerships team if you have any queries about eligibility.

Duration: There is an expectation that the event will be delivered within 6 months of the award.

Funding Criteria: Applicants should note that that it has been agreed by the finance sub-committee to use our own services and facilities wherever possible to support events, thereby supporting the University's financial sustainability. Catering for events can only be ordered through University Hospitality and further guidance can be found on the following link. Details of venues can be found here. Activity which does not intend to utilise University venues/space or catering must provide appropriate justification. Many external suppliers have now been removed from the finance system, so please ensure that any proposed supplier is approved by the University.

Dates: IAA awards to the University end on 31 March 2025 and no extensions will be permitted. All IAA project spend must be completed by this date.

About Your Application

Completing the Application Form:

You are encouraged contact the Knowledge Exchange Partnerships team at **kepartnerships@manchester.ac.uk** prior to completing the application to discuss alignment and that the proposed activity is within scope.

Word limits are strictly applied. If you exceed a section word limit, your application may be rejected.

- Applications are anonymised for assessment. **Please include the names of academic project partners on the first page and signature page only**. Use the terms "Event Lead", "PI", "Co-I" or "PDRA" throughout the rest of the application. Do not include hyperlinks to sites where you may be identified, such as grant awards and research profiles.
- Remember to write your proposal for a non-specialist audience.
- IAA grant contribution **cannot exceed £10K** unless previously discussed and agreed with the KE Partnerships Team. Justification for enhanced IAA contributions will need to be provided.

Costing:

Eligible Costs: Innovation Works projects are expected to be costed on a full Economic Costing (fEC) basis. IAA funding can be used to cover the following:

Directly incurred:	- PDRA Costs (if applicable and must be named and justified)
	- Equipment (justification must be provided for any requests)
	- Consumables (e.g., room hire, refreshments, AV hire, print costs)
	- Travel and Subsistence (justification must be provided and cannot include external partner costs)
	- Other costs as required (subject to approval from KE Partnerships team, e.g., facilitator costs)
Directly Allocated:	- Investigator time (maximum 20%)

All Estates, Technician IS and Indirect costs are ineligible, and must be allocated as Department Sustainability.

BlackDackel Costing Report:	Select appropriate research council as 'funder' with 100% fEC'd income template. This will ensure that inflation costs are included. To produce a submission report, please use 'submission reports', 'project proposal details' and select 'income template rules
Total Project Costs:	The costs directly associated with the project, in the eligible cost headings (above). These include all staff costs, estates, indirect costs, technician IS, travel and subsistence, and consumables
Partner Contributions:	Any direct (invoiceable) partner contributions to the total project
In-Kind Costs:	These may include staff time, access to equipment/facilities/space or provision of consumables.

Given the early nature of Innovation Works activity, a direct partner contribution is not mandatory.

Assessment

Your application will be anonymised and assessed by the University's IAA Knowledge Exchange Schemes Panel. The panel will consider:

- The benefits to the University, staff involved and any external partner(s) or collaborator.
- The likelihood that the activity will deliver the expected outputs, outcomes, and impacts. Outputs could include:
  - Presentations
    - From keynotes (slides, videos), lightning talks (slides, videos), mini workshops (slides)
  - Blog posts
  - Hackathons/Innovation Labs/Sandpits
    - Information about entries and winners
    - Presentations, pitches, and links to any created content
- The likelihood of further collaboration resulting from the project

Please note that outcomes should align with the objectives of the event, but the Event Lead or PI could decide if a report or thematic analysis of the workshop outputs might be appropriate. Feedback results can also be a part of this. Longer term analysis (e.g., surveys after the event) may also be useful to see if the activity has, for instance, changed practice or led to further collaborations.

Submitting Your Application

Contact the [Knowledge Exchange Partnerships Team](#) prior to submitting your application.

All projects should be costed (fEC) and input onto PURE by your Department Research Services Hub, prior to completion of the IAA application.

Completed applications should be submitted via email to: kepartnerships@manchester.ac.uk

Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion

The University of Manchester aims to have an inclusive environment for all staff and students, by identifying and removing barriers in our practices. As part of UKRI's Equality, Diversity & Inclusion initiative, completing the monitoring form will help us to achieve this, and also help us to meet our obligations under the Equality Act 2010. While it is voluntary to disclose this information, doing so will enable us to better understand the composition of our workforce/student body and examine our practices fully. The ED&I survey is anonymous and can be accessed on the following link: IAA Equality, Diversity & Inclusion Survey

Data we want to capture includes Gender, Age range, Ethnicity, Disability Status and Sexual orientation. Your answers will be treated in the strictest confidence, and all data disclosed will comply with the Data Protection Act 1998. All data is handled in accordance with University Policy and more details can be seen here.

To find out more about the work The University of Manchester is doing to meet the requirements of the Equality Act, please contact equalityanddiversity@manchester.ac.uk or visit: https://www.staffnet.manchester.ac.uk/equality-and-diversity/data/

Application Checklist

☐ Signed Application Form in PDF format

☐ Evidence of approval authorised by your Head of Department (e.g., a screenshot of the approval on PURE), to confirm that the proposal is supported by your Department and is in line with Department policy for the costing of collaborative research projects

☐ fEC BlackDackel Costing

☐ Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion Survey

Further Information

FAQs   IAA Handbook