

UKRI IAA Social Venture Fund Scheme

Guide for Applicants

About IAA Social Venture Fund

Initial stakeholder, impact and competitive landscaping, business model development and concept evaluation to drive spin-out of social ventures.

Innovative, socially responsible entrepreneurship is essential to allow research within the University to realise its potential economic, environmental and social impact. Delivered by the University of Manchester Innovation Factory, who are responsible for driving the commercialisation of Manchester's innovations and intellectual property, the fund will provide the essential first stage of *initial market, competitive & social landscaping; technology evaluation; business model development and stakeholder engagement* to drive spin-out opportunities for social ventures. The aims of the scheme are:

- To support the development of the evidential base required to drive spin-out of social ventures.
- To enable the University and Innovation Factory to secure further investment for social ventures that exploit University IP.

Funding for Social Venture projects is available via the AHRC and ESRC 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): [AHRC](#) or [ESRC](#)
- We welcome applications from early career academics. Fellows may be eligible to apply as PI, please check with your Research Services Team.

Contact the [Knowledge Exchange Partnerships team](#) if you have any queries about eligibility

Duration

IAA Social Venture Fund projects will typically be between 3 and 9 months in duration.

Funding Criteria

With the expected significant demand for the IAA Schemes, combined with unavoidable limits on funding, evaluation will take place on a competitive basis with evaluation considering Potential for Impact; Work Plan; and Follow-on.

Dates

IAA awards to the University end on 31 March 2027 and no extensions will be permitted. All IAA project spend must be completed by this date.

About Your Application

Completing the Application Form:

The University of Manchester Innovation Factory can provide active support for your submission. **You are strongly advised to contact the Innovation Discovery Team for support before applying.** Please email: sonia.nikolovski@uominnovationfactory.com

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

- Remember to write your proposal for a non-specialist audience.

Costing:

Eligible Costs

Social Venture 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)
 - Equipment and Consumables (maximum £2k, with justification)
 - Travel and Subsistence (maximum £5k, with justification)
 - Other costs as required (e.g., external market assessment fees)
- Directly Allocated:
 - Investigator time (maximum 20%)
 - Technician time (maximum 30%)

All Estates, Technician IS and Indirect costs are ineligible and must be allocated as Department Sustainability. Fees to cover registration of intellectual property rights (i.e. patent, trademark) are also ineligible.

Black Dackel 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 select 'Report Definition', and select 'Breakdown Full'.

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

The maximum contribution from the IAA Social Venture Fund funds is £10K, all costs must be justified.

Assessment

Applications will be assessed by the University of Manchester Innovation Factory UKRI IAA Panel. Applications will be assessed on the following criteria:

1. Potential for impact
2. Quality of the work plan
3. Demonstrable potential for follow-on activity

The panel will consider:

- The benefits to the University, staff involved, external stakeholders and end-users
- The likelihood that the project plans will deliver the expected outputs and impacts
- The contribution the University is expected to make relative to the impact opportunity

Submitting Your Application

Contact the Innovation Discovery Team at least one month 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 application.

Completed applications should be submitted via email to:

sonia.nikolovski@uominnovationfactory.com

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

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 on the [IT Services website](#).

To find out more about the work The University of Manchester is doing to meet the requirements of the Equality Act, contact equalityanddiversity@manchester.ac.uk or visit the [equality and diversity page on Staffnet](#)