

Queen's University Belfast

Impact Acceleration Accounts

Guidelines 2022

Background

Queen's University has been awarded Impact Acceleration Accounts (IAA) from a number of UKRI Research Councils. These awards build on and complement the University's vision for research and impact to support the delivery of an ambitious programme of targeted, responsive and flexible financial support that will help embed a culture of impact and knowledge exchange among our researchers and our external impact partners.

Objectives of Impact Accelerator Accounts

IAs seek to:

- strengthen engagement with users in order to accelerate the translation of research outputs into impacts
- support, develop and foster strategic partnerships for knowledge exchange and impact, including across disciplines and sectors
- build and maintain an environment and culture that enables effective and ambitious knowledge exchange and impact, including development of skills, capacity and capability within research organisations
- provide early-stage support for progressing research outputs towards the next stages in the impact pipeline, for example:
 - proof of concept projects
 - commercialisation
 - market validation
 - activities targeting policy, business and the third sectors
- drive continuous improvement in impact by supporting innovation, enabling 'fast failure', and capturing learning through appropriate mechanisms
- enable flexible and adaptive approaches to knowledge exchange and impact, including the ability to respond quickly to emerging opportunities.

What is impact?

Impact can be defined as 'the demonstrable contribution that excellent research makes to society and the economy'. According to the Research Excellence Framework (REF) impact is an effect on, change or benefit – beyond academia – to:

- the economy
- society
- culture
- public policy or services
- health

- the environment
- quality of life

Impact

Impact includes, but is not limited to, an effect on, change or benefit:

To:	of:	in any geographic location, whether:
attitude awareness behaviour capacity opportunity performance policy practice process understanding	audience beneficiary community constituency organisation individuals	locally regionally nationally internationally

Impact also includes the reduction or prevention of harm, risk, cost or other negative effects.

Queen's has directed institutional investment to areas of research excellence aligned to major societal challenges across the world which, in turn, help us achieve our aim of being distinguished by our academic strengths and recognised globally for the social, economic and cultural impact we deliver through our research.

The research landscape at Queen's has evolved in line with this ambitious vision and our commitment to research, impact, innovation and internationalisation is reflected in an environment that encourages and accelerates the translation of ideas into validated, robust and impactful solutions, with real-world application and benefit.

Eligibility

The Queen's University IAAs invite applications for funding for projects that will enable academics to generate new, or build on existing, impact-related activity.

Applications are welcomed from staff across the University working on projects that clearly align with the individual Councils' aims and objectives. The proposed activity must be based on past or current research. **Please note** that, for the purposes of administering the award, the person named as Principal Investigator is usually a permanent member of staff. If you are not a permanent member of staff but wish to apply, please contact the Business Alliance Manager that supports your faculty – businessalliance@qub.ac.uk

Applications based on multi-/inter-disciplinary research are eligible and encouraged.

All initiatives must be able to demonstrate potential for social, economic, commercial, political and/or cultural impact.

Applications should reflect school, faculty and institutional research priorities, such as those contained in the Strategy 2030 in reference to Research and Innovation, for example aligning projects with UN Sustainable Development Goals.

Innovative and creative approaches to impact are encouraged, particularly if your proposal relates to Covid-recovery and a post-lockdown world.

Applications from early career researchers and staff who are new to Queen's or new to impact are welcomed.

Covid-19

Queen's follows current communication from the NI Executive regarding additional measures to control the spread of Covid-19. Please consider the most recent guidelines when considering impact activities within your application and make suitable provision, if necessary, for alternative arrangements. Given the unknown duration of the pandemic, and the timing of this funding call, Covid-19 will generally not be considered as an eligible reason for project delays.

Eligible Costs

IAs can support directly incurred and directly allocated costs. All costs must be clearly justified and may include the following but check with the individual IA you are applying to:

- salary costs for Research Assistants, Research Technicians etc.
- consumables such as professional materials
- promotional materials, such as digital toolkits, video content, infographics, blogs, podcasts and briefing papers
- small pieces of equipment directly related to the project*
- venue bookings and catering**
- travel and subsistence**

*Where funds are transferred to external organisations, a contract and due diligence checks may be required. Contact the Business Alliance Team for advice.

**In the likelihood that travel and face-to-face meetings are possible in the future, travel, subsistence, venue hire, and catering can be considered. However, if you include these costs you must also include alternatives in the event of another lockdown.

IAs do not prescribe the types of initiatives that can be supported. It is for applicants to put forward proposals that will best support **the realisation of impact** from their research.

Activities that are **not** eligible for funding include:

- primary research
- activities that can be supported through other standard routes
- estates and indirect costs
- infrastructure and capital expenditure (other than small pieces of equipment directly related to the project as mentioned above)
- patent filing or similar costs associated with registering intellectual property rights

- training or activities aimed at undergraduate or Masters students

You can find information on internal funding opportunities which may be able to support these activities [here](#).

Applications

Applications should be submitted through the appropriate application form. Please see the relevant IAA for details on how to apply. Pre-submission conversations with the Business Alliance Team are strongly encouraged: please contact your Faculty BA Manager.

Terms and Conditions of Award

By accepting an IAA award, successful applicants accept and agree to the following terms and conditions:

- Award holders must engage with the relevant Impact Acceleration Officer to monitor progress both during the life of the initiative and post-initiative, to allow for learning and reporting of potential impact.
- Award holders will be required to collate evidence of impact and adhere to reporting procedures outlined with offers of award.
- Successful applicants are expected to start impact activities as soon as possible. In most cases, it is expected that activities will be completed within 3 to 12 months of the start date.
- Successful offers are required to consider any ethical issues relating to their application and comply with the University procedures for ethical review processes.
- The award holder and her/his/their School are required to manage the approved funds appropriately and to record expenditure.
- For awards administered through an R account: after completion of the initiative, the account should be reconciled and closed with any unspent funds returned.
- Where there are cash contributions from external organisations, the award holder's School is responsible for managing contributions and liaising over collaboration agreements.
- Awards are non-transferable.
- Any major amendments to budget plans must be agreed with the relevant Impact Acceleration Officer.
- Any amendments to project timescales must be agreed with the relevant Impact Acceleration Officer.
- Details of successful initiatives may be listed on the QUB website and in other publications.
- Details of successful initiatives may be shared with other award holders and potential applicants.
- Any equipment or materials purchased from the award shall remain the property of the University.
- All activities must adhere to the [QUB Safeguarding Policy](#)
- All applicants must adhere to both regulations from Queen's and from the NI Executive regarding additional measures to control the spread of Covid-19
- It is expected that applicants will have anticipated any delays that could result due to Covid-19 and to have made alternative arrangements.

For Further Information

To discuss the AHRC IAA, contact iaa@qub.ac.uk (please include AHRC IAA in your subject line)

To discuss the BBSRC IAA, contact iaa@qub.ac.uk (please include BBSRC IAA in your subject line)

To discuss the EPSRC IAA, contact Joan Grieve - j.grieve@qub.ac.uk

To discuss the ESRC IAA, contact Alice Neeson - a.neeson@qub.ac.uk

To discuss the MRC IAA, contact iaa@qub.ac.uk (please include MRC IAA in your subject line)

To discuss the STFC IAA, contact Joan Grieve - j.grieve@qub.ac.uk