

ESRC Impact Acceleration Account (IAA) Strategic Fund

Open Call for Applications Updated 8th January 2025

Background

The ESRC has awarded Newcastle University a £1.25m Impact Acceleration Account (IAA) grant for 2023-2028. This funding is intended to maximise the social and economic impact of social science research.

The overarching aim of our ESRC IAA is to mobilise our social science researchers, working in equal collaboration with our partners in a broad range of sectors, to determine and drive future solutions to economic and societal challenges on the local, national, and global scale.

Strategic Fund Call Details

This fund is primarily targeted towards our ESRC IAA Strategic Priorities that represent our greatest areas of untapped potential for the social sciences: ageing and vitality; data and digital; childhood and youth; sustainable futures; cities; rural enterprise and innovation; and electrification. It is desirable that applications fit one or more of these priority areas, though other project ideas may be considered.

Applications should be co-produced, with research teams encouraged to propose programmes of work that not only deliver inclusive and sustainable impacts, but also have the capacity and ambition to steer (as opposed to merely support) the longer-term development of interdisciplinary research.

The fund is not aimed at early stage or pilot activity. Instead, it is focused on bringing additional momentum to existing knowledge exchange activities and partnerships, scaling up and sustaining impacts to date. Applications should outline what impacts have been achieved to date, and how the additional funding will increase the range and depth of the activities and likely impacts. Reaching larger numbers of research users, particularly those from traditionally excluded groups is a core ambition.

It is expected that applications will be for up to £50k and projects will last for 12-24 months (projects longer than 12 months will be asked to submit interim reports on outputs and outcomes).

How to Apply

This is a rolling call with no set deadline. Potential applicants can express their interest in the Strategic Fund by completing the online [Expression of Interest Form](#). A member of the HaSS Research and Innovation Team will then get in touch to discuss next steps.

Applicants are required to develop their project ideas and application in conjunction with the appropriate member of the HaSS Research and Innovation Team. There will be a high level of competition for these awards, and we will not accept applications where discussions have not taken place.

Eligibility Criteria

Applications are invited from any member of staff active in social science research (whether or not they are ESRC grant holders) who, at the point of application, holds a current contract of employment with Newcastle University. Applications are welcomed from staff across all three Faculties. Applications involving interdisciplinary teams are encouraged, where the underpinning research overall is at least 50% social science.

Applications should ideally focus on at least one of our Strategic Priorities, though we will consider other project ideas if the strategic need can be demonstrated. We're looking for innovative projects from research teams that can show a track record of effective partnership working with partner organisations and/or communities that has delivered initial impacts. Applications need to demonstrate how the proposed activity will not only deliver inclusive and sustainable impacts but strengthen the partnerships.

Other calls within the ESRC IAA scheme will be able to support applications for pilot activity with new partners/collaborators.

Enquiries

Please email esrciaa@ncl.ac.uk with any questions.