

## ESRC Impact Acceleration Account (IAA) Strengthening Partnerships Fund

### Open Call for Applications Updated 8<sup>th</sup> 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.

#### Strengthening Partnerships Fund Call Details

A scheme dedicated to strengthening strategic partnerships between the University and organisations/consortia in the VCSE, industry, policy, and technology sectors, aimed at developing sustainable alliances and delivering impact. Applications (up to £50k) should be co-produced, with research teams encouraged to propose programmes of work that strengthen existing partnerships and create alliances, rather than delivering short-term projects. The fund is not aimed at startups or pilot activity. Instead, it is focussed on bringing additional momentum to established partnerships. Applications should outline the foundations of the partnership, its strategic importance and show how additional funding will increase the range and depth of the activity. Reaching larger numbers of research users, particularly those from traditionally excluded groups is a core ambition.

It is expected that projects will last for 12-24 months (projects longer than 12 months will be asked to submit interim reports on outputs and outcomes). In exceptional cases, we may consider projects for more than 24 months, but these will be expected to be ambitious.

#### How to Apply

This call has three deadlines across the academic year: November, February and May. Please refer to the ESRC IAA Intranet for information on upcoming deadline dates. Potential applicants can express their interest in the Strengthening Partnerships 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 academic member of staff active in the social sciences (whether or not they are ESRC grant holders) who, at the point of application, hold 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. Applicants must have been working on an established partnership project and be seeking funding for a project that extends that activity.

We're looking for Innovative projects from research teams that can show a track record of effective partnership working with their partner organisation. Those projects will need to be able to demonstrate how the proposed activity will not only deliver impact but strengthen the foundations of the partnership in terms that will deliver wider benefits.

Other calls within the ESRC IAA scheme will be able to support applications for funding for smaller scale partnerships based on individual relationships and/or pilot activity with new partners/collaborators.

### **Enquiries**

Please email [esrciaa@ncl.ac.uk](mailto:esrciaa@ncl.ac.uk) with any questions.