

Funding to Support Research Impact (2026-27)

In addition to the ESRC Impact Acceleration Account, two additional funding schemes are available:

- Faculty Impact Fund (FIF): to enable knowledge exchange (KE) and impact-generating activities helping researchers to maximise the impact from their research. **Spend by 30 June 2027.**
- QR Policy Support Fund (PSF): facilitating the use of existing research and the exchange of knowledge between researchers and policymakers, to support policy pathways to impact. **Spend by 31 July 2027.**

Two joint FIF/PSF funding calls are now open for expressions of interest. Please note:

- For both schemes, priority will be given to applications where the underpinning research is in Arts, Humanities or Physical Geography.
- Social Science researchers should apply to the ESRC Impact Acceleration Account (IAA) [open calls](#). Applications to FIF/PSF will only be considered where the ESRC IAA calls are not appropriate for the proposed activities, or where ESRC IAA funds have been fully allocated.

Open Calls:

FIF/PSF: Open Competition Stream – Funding for knowledge exchange and impact-generating activities, with awards of **up to £1000**.

- Deadline for expressions of interest: Friday 20 November 2026.
- Deadline for final applications: Friday 11 December 2026.
- Decisions communicated by: Friday 15 January 2027.
- If funds are not fully allocated, a rolling call may be available later this financial year.

FIF/PSF: REF Impact Case Study (ICS) Stream – To support the development of REF 2029 Impact Case Studies, funding is available for knowledge exchange and impact-generating activities. This offers a streamlined application process. Award limits vary, see table 1 below.

- Deadline for expressions of interest: Friday 6 November 2026.
- Deadline for final applications: Monday 23 November 2026.
- Decisions communicated by: Tuesday 8 December 2026.

	Faculty Impact Fund	Policy Support Fund
Arts & Humanities	£3000	£2500
Physical Geography	£3000	£2500
Social Sciences	£1000	£2000

Table 1: Award Limits for the REF Impact Case Study Stream

You can express your interest in either of the calls by completing a short [Expression of Interest \(Eoi\) online form](#) before the relevant deadline – please refer to the [Guidance Notes](#) and [Calls Overview](#).

REF 2029 ICS leads who miss the REF ICS Stream deadline can apply to the Open Competition stream, but please note that awards are smaller and there is a standard application process. Once your eligibility to apply has been checked, you will be sent an application form to complete.

Funds have been ring-fenced for the above streams. Competition is likely to be high – where funds are oversubscribed, the Faculty Impact Team will liaise with Schools and Units of Assessment to rank applications. Please liaise with your Impact Director/Coordinator when preparing your application.

Please email hass.researchteam@ncl.ac.uk with any enquiries.