Higher Education Innovation Fund (HEIF) and

Oxford ESRC Impact Acceleration Account (IAA)

Economic, Social, Cultural & Environmental Impacts of COVID-19: Urgent Response Fund

In response to the global COVID-19 crisis, and to complement the urgent funding call co-ordinated by Medical Sciences Division, some time-limited funding has been made available to support **economic, social, cultural and environmental impact relating to COVID-19**.

This funding supports knowledge exchange, engagement or impact work between now and 31st July 2020. **In no circumstances can it be extended beyond this date.**

This opportunity is intended for researchers who are well-placed to collaborate and deliver immediate impact activities in light of the COVID-19 crisis.

The deadline for applications is 12 midday on Thursday 7ᵗʰ May 2020.

About the Fund

- This fund, supported by the Higher Education Innovation Fund (HEIF) and the ESRC Impact Acceleration Account (IAA) is designed to support immediate impact and engagement work pertaining to the **economic, social, cultural and environmental dimensions of the global COVID-19 crisis**. **Examples** of activities that may take place under this fund include (but are not limited to):

  - Co-design and co-production of tools enabling policymakers, businesses, civil society organizations or community organisations to respond more effectively to the pandemic

  - Partnerships with policymakers enabling them to understand and improve social or economic outcomes for the most vulnerable or those that are likely to be disproportionately affected by the pandemic

  - Collaboration in synthesising evidence in one or more relevant areas of controversy or concern that will inform policy or practice in the short term

  - Partnerships that improve policymakers understanding of models and their limitations and build capacity to apply them to improve planning

  - Collaboration projects that strengthen public engagement with research regarding particular socio-economic/cultural issues – in response to a need for a fast improvement in public understanding at local, national or international level.

  - Working with businesses to develop remote service provision.

- Applications are welcomed from members of any department or faculty at the University of Oxford.

- Projects that are interdisciplinary are particularly welcome

- Awards will typically be made in the range of £1k to £15k (larger projects may be funded in exceptional circumstances).

- Ideally, projects should demonstrate that they have key external relationships with relevant stakeholders in place to deliver knowledge exchange/impact outlined. Please contact the Research, Impact & Engagement team in the Social Sciences Division if you need help establishing partner relationships quickly - impact@socsci.ox.ac.uk .

- Good knowledge exchange involves mutual benefit – there may be some research benefit to the individual/team applicants but there needs to be a clearly articulated and strongly demonstrated benefit to external partners listed in the case for support, including an outline of *how* the applicant will engage with them.

- These external partners/beneficiaries can come from any sector – business, policy, or public-facing/community organisations.

- Non-urgent COVID-19 impact projects, or ones that cannot be completed within the timeframe of this call, are encouraged to apply through standard internal calls, e.g. ESRC IAA, John Fell Fund, GCRF QR, UKRI funding.

Eligibility

- The Principal Investigator must hold an academic post or be a PI on a research contract awarded competitively and intended to enable the holder to establish an independent research career. If you are in any doubt of your eligibility, please contact impact@socsci.ox.ac.uk for clarification.

- Principal Investigators based in colleges or GLAM institutions must apply through department / faculty. Awards can only be held by a department /faculty.

- An Academic Lead on a fixed term contract must ensure their current contract extends significantly beyond the proposed project end date.

- Early Career Researchers (ECRs) who do not meet the criteria above may not serve as PI or Co-I but may be named as part of the core team in the application form.

Timing

- **The deadline for applications is 12 midday on Thursday 7th May 2020.**

- We are aiming to notify all applicants of the outcome by 13th May.

- Projects must be able to start no later than 28th May

- Awards can be made to projects that have already begun

- **All funding must be spent by 31st July 2020**.

How to apply

1) Applicants must seek approval from their Head of Department before submitting an application.

2) Submit applications via the Internal Research Award Management System (IRAMS). The online form includes

- Information about project dates
- Information about the principal applicant and any co-applicants
- Information about the external partners
- Budgetary information

Applications must be reviewed and approved in IRAMS by a Departmental Approver before they will be reviewed by the Panel; the advertised application deadline is the deadline for final submission. Please check with your local admin team and submit your application to your Departmental Approver in advance of the advertised deadline.

3) **The online Case for Support, downloaded from IRAMS, requests** –

1) A lay summary of the project and its intended impact (3-5 sentences)

2) A case for support (max. 800 words)

The case or support should include:

- *A brief summary describing the underpinning research*
- *Key objectives of the project*
- *An outline of the external partners/beneficiaries, and how the researchers will engage with them.*
- *A project plan, including timeline and expected deliverables within limited timeframe available*
- *Anticipated impact and how this will improve responses to the COVID-19 pandemic.*

3) HoD Approval

4) **This template should then be uploaded to IRAMS as a PDF**

Costing

- The fund will cover direct project costs including equipment, consumables, short-term RA/postdoc assistance and external suppliers etc.

- PI or Co-I salary costs will not be eligible.

- Many funders, including UKRI, have confirmed that current staff on projects they fund can be redeployed to COVID-19 research, **PIs are encouraged to redirect staff from their existing grants wherever possible.**

  In circumstances where staff from grants or elsewhere in wider department/Division cannot be redeployed, the panel are willing to consider proposals that include short-term casual assistance.

- External partner salary costs are not normally eligible. However, if you think there are extenuating circumstances in the current situation, then please discuss with the SSD Research, Impact & Engagement team before submission at impact@socsci.ox.ac.uk .

- As the emphasis is on urgent response impact, applicants should not typically propose to recruit new staff or purchase equipment where this cannot be completed within 4 weeks of the award date.

- PIs are responsible for ensuring that partners are following proper procedure re: working with furloughed staff (who should not be carrying out duties as normal whilst on furlough).

- Awards can be used to leverage other funding.

Assessment and Outcomes

- Applications will be assessed by an cross-Divisional academic panel.

- **We are aiming to notify all applicants of the outcome by 13th May.**

Contact

If you have any queries about eligibility or project suitability, or would like assistance in helping your research reach the right audiences, please contact one of the SSD Divisional Research and Impact team at impact@socsci.ox.ac.uk