ESRC Impact Acceleration Accounts (IAA)

Permitted Activities and Costs

UKRI expects Impact Acceleration Accounts (IAAs) funding to add value to existing funding and take advantage of new opportunities. IAA funding can be used to support a wide range of activities that support the scheme aims, including engaging users and forging strategic partnerships; building internal capability and culture; or progressing commercial opportunities – whatever best fits the strategic aims and opportunities of your research organisation.

We encourage the development of creative and innovative approaches to accelerating impact. Institutions will need to decide the most appropriate method for costing each activity included within the IAA application.

There is no requirement that UKRI IAA funded projects have to be directly related to previous UKRI funding. We still require funded projects to sit within the remit and aims of UKRI and the participating councils.

IAA funding can enable multidisciplinary working and engagement of partners, including research organisations, industry and public or third sector organisations that do not hold an IAA.

Any activity or project supported by the ESRC IAA should be at least 50% within ESRC's remit. For multi-disciplinary activities or projects, support from two or more councils' IAAs is encouraged.

IAAs may be used to fund:

Direct Project costs:

- 100% direct costs. Directly incurred and directly allocated projects costs can be claimed. This includes staff time and travel and subsistence.
- Other engagement, knowledge exchange, training and culture change activities can also be supported.
- All applications must include an annual allocation of £10k or more towards ESRC's Festival of Social Science events.

Support Costs:

- Funds can be used to support limited staffing costs. The proportion may vary depending on the organisation's situation, e.g., whether there are already shared staff between IAAs, or whether this is the first infrastructure support in social sciences for the applicant.
- So, in each case we would expect institutions to articulate why there is a need and added value in supporting KE staff effort through the IAA.

Non-permitted Activities and Costs

In addition to the standard UKRI ineligible grant costs, IAAs cannot be used to fund:

Activity/Cost	Detail

New research	Primary research is not supported
Duplication of support	Impact activities that should already have been anticipated and support through standard routes, e.g., impact activities costed as part of basic research proposals, DTPs or Centres.
	Duplication of other sources of funding that can be used more appropriately for the impact activity within the remit of UKRI
Training	Undergraduate activities, Masters training, core PhD training including tuition or bench fees
IP Management	Any costs relating to intellectual property management including but not limited to registering, maintaining or supporting patents or property rights
Equipment	Equipment with a value of £10,000 or more
Other	Indirect costs or estate costs at the research organisation
	Contributions to Knowledge Transfer Partnerships