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**Teesside University AHRC Impact Acceleration Account**

**Funding Opportunities 2024-2025**

**Background:**

The AHRC-funded Impact Acceleration Account (IAA) is a three-year project (2022-2025) which is designed to support the development and implementation of impact in the Arts and Humanities.

In early 2024, UKRI and AHRC granted a one-year extension of all IAA until **31 March 2026**.

The aims of the IAA at Teesside University are to:

* **Extend the reach of our research** through sustained and immersive partnership working with a diverse range of sectors and geographies **through innovative and imaginative forms of engagement.**
* Support cross-sector engagement to **ensure sustainable and substantial impact work.**
* Extend the reach of our work in terms of both **geography and audience**.
* Access **international networks**, engage more deeply with **hard-to-reach and marginalised communities**, ensure **sustainable legacies**, and build trust by **demonstrating the significant value of arts and humanities research** to a range of different sectors, stakeholders, and community groups.
* The funding will be **transformational for our research and the communities we serve**, actively supporting the levelling up agenda of the Tees Valley and the cultural renewal of post-industrial towns and cities in the UK and internationally.

Resources will be used to support work to develop impact within three themes:

1. Re-imagining the Creative Industries
2. Raising the profile of hidden histories and voices
3. Reconnecting with the built and natural environment.

Projects must be at least 50% rooted in disciplines that fall under the Arts & Humanities Research Council remit ([see pp. 67-74](https://liveteesac.sharepoint.com/:b:/r/sites/TM_ImpactAccelerationAccountGroup-Howtoapply/Shared%20Documents/1.%20How%20to%20apply/AHRC%20Guidelines/AHRC-200324-Research-Funding-Guide-version-6.3-v2-March-2024.pdf?csf=1&web=1&e=f0bjgT))

**What is Impact?**

In REF 2021, impact was defined as an effect on, change or benefit, beyond academia, to:

the economy, society, culture, public policy or services, health, the environment or quality of life.

Impact includes, but is not limited to, an effect on, change or benefit to:

the activity, attitude, awareness, behaviour, capacity, opportunity, performance, policy, practice, process or understanding of an audience, beneficiary, community, constituency, organisation or individuals in any geographic location whether locally, regionally, nationally or internationally.

Impact includes the reduction or prevention of harm, risk, cost or other negative effects.

You can find examples of impacts and indicators from [REF2021 here](https://liveteesac.sharepoint.com/:b:/r/sites/TM_ImpactAccelerationAccountGroup/Shared%20Documents/General/REF2021/REF2021%20Examples%20of%20impacts%20and%20indicators.pdf?csf=1&web=1&e=MfTbR5). You can access the database of impact case studies (including those from Teesside) submitted to [REF 2021 here.](https://results2021.ref.ac.uk/impact)

**IAA Governance**

The IAA is managed by the IAA Task and Focus Group. The group is comprised of Chair, Kieran Fenby-Hulse: Research Fellow for IAA, Sally Blackburn-Daniels: REO Impact Manager, Noola Griffiths: SACI rep, Sarah Perks: SSSHL rep, Rachel Carroll.

The IAA T & F Group is supported by a bank of peer reviewers who have expertise in impact generation and evaluation. The reviewers are from both SSSHL and SACI.

As Research Fellow for the IAA, Sally Blackburn-Daniels will be your first point of contact for IAA related questions and queries. You can contact Sally on [s.blackburn-daniels@tees.ac.uk](mailto:s.blackburn-daniels@tees.ac.uk)

**IAA Schedule**

The IAA funding calls are now rolling, and whilst this does mean you can apply at any point during the year, applications will only be reviewed on a bi-monthly basis. This will continue on a rolling basis until the cut-off point in the final year of the IAA - December 2025 - or until funds have been exhausted.

The application form can be [found here](https://liveteesac.sharepoint.com/:w:/r/sites/TM_ImpactAccelerationAccountGroup/Shared%20Documents/General/03.24_IAA%20Funding%20Application%20Form.docx?d=w7acf2198dddb4ce1b3660830f2ec9fba&csf=1&web=1&e=Q05xZE).

The process for applying for IAA funds should be a) an initial conversation with the Research Fellow for the IAA, b) develop a full draft and submit to the RF for feedback, c) respond to feedback, d) submission to the RF, which will then be shared with peer review college for the IAA.

The next four cut-off points have been detailed below.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| IAA Task & Focus board | Deadline for Peer Reviews of Applications | Applications sent to Peer Reviewers | Cut-off Point for Applications |
| 13 June 2024 | 6 June 2024 | 23 May 2024 | 20 May 2024 |
| 7 August 2024 | 31 July 2024 | 17 July 2024 | 15 July 2024 |
| 26 September 2024 | 19 September 2024 | 5 September 2024 | 2 September 2024 |

**IAA Application Reviews**

Applications will be assessed by two peer reviewers, one from SACI, and one from SSSHL. Reviews will then be discussed by the IAA Task and Focus Group who will classify the application as either:

1. Fundable
2. Potentially fundable, but reviewers/ board would like clarification on certain points
3. Not fundable at this time

The peer review form can be [found here for reference](https://liveteesac.sharepoint.com/:w:/r/sites/TM_ImpactAccelerationAccountGroup-Howtoapply/Shared%20Documents/1.%20How%20to%20apply/Application%20Guidelines/23-24_IAA%20Peer%20Review%20Form.docx?d=wfc0a3ffac3c64d2f8c13222a513e4c24&csf=1&web=1&e=22MfB6). Each application will be scored out of six.

Applicants will be notified of the decision no later than one week after the IAA T&F meeting. Applicants will be sent their peer review forms, and if option b) above, will be asked to provide a response to the reviewers/ board within two weeks. An updated decision will follow.

If the Research Fellow for the IAA notifies you of a successful outcome, they will also arrange a meeting to explain the systems in place for spending your allocated budget. They will provide you with a budget code, introduce you to your school business manager, and provide you with information and the relevant documentation.

Please ensure that your risk assessment training is completed/ up to date prior to booking any events.

If you need to complete this, please email:

Please also ensure that you have completed ethics training prior to applying for ethics clearance. If you need to complete this, please email:

IAA documentation, application forms, and information on Impact best practice will be available on the IAA Teams site. Contact Sally for access.

**Funding Opportunities**

*Impact Generation Fund:*

This low-level funding provides excellent opportunities for Early Career Researchers or researchers with early-stage impact projects. Funding is available from **£1k - £10k.** The end of project and spend must fall before **February 2025.**

We are particularly interested in projects which intersect with policy, education, or potential for commercialisation.

*Partnership development fund:*

This fund is specifically for creating and strengthening partnerships between Teesside University researchers and external partners. This could take the form of sandpits, workshops, or knowledge transfer events. Funding is available from **£1k - £10k.**

We are particularly interested in projects which develop partnerships outside of the region or have international impact.

*Follow-on Fund:*

Follow-on funding is available to scale up or provide proof of concept to an already established impact project. Applications require clear evidence of impact or pathway to impact and evidence of partnership development. Funding is available up to **£25K.**

We are interested in projects that are innovative, sustainable, and show a clear transition to a larger external funding bid.

*Knowledge Transfer Fund:*

Placement to allow researchers to become embedded in an organisation, to build sustainable partnerships, to build networks; or, to allow partner to become embedded in the Institute 4CLP, with a focus on the research strands. Funding is available up to **£25k.**

*Commercialization and Social Enterprise:*

Funding is available to encourage innovative applications of arts and humanities-led research and methodologies in a commercial context. This could include prototyping, market research, licensing through partnership work and spin out (including social enterprise and community interest corporations). Funding is available up to **£15k**.