

BBSRC Impact Accelerator Account FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

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Who is eligible to apply for the BBSRC IAA?

Applications are welcomed from staff across the University working on projects that clearly align with BBSRC aims and objectives. The proposed activity must be based on past or current research.

ECRs are encouraged to apply and will be named as the PI. PDRAs are encouraged to apply and will be named as Co-I. For the purposes of administering the award, there must also be a person, who should be a permanent member of staff, named as Principal Investigator on the application. PDRAs holding a Fellowship at the University however can be named as the PI.

Applications based on multi-/inter-disciplinary research are eligible and encouraged. All initiatives must be able to demonstrate potential for social, economic, commercial, political and/or cultural impact.

Applications should reflect school, faculty and institutional research priorities, such as those contained in the Strategy 2030 in reference to Research and Innovation, for example aligning projects with UN Sustainable Development Goals. Innovative and creative approaches to impact are encouraged.

Applications from early career researchers and staff who are new to Queen's or new to impact are welcomed.

A PDRA can be a named researcher on an IAA application but for the purposes of administering the award, there must be a person named as Principal Investigator who should be a permanent member of staff. The PDRA completes the "Named Researcher" section of the application form while the PI completes the PI details section.

Previous BBSRC award – is this a requirement for an application to the BBSRC IAA?

No: UKRI have removed the requirement that all UKRI IAA funded projects have to be directly related to previous UKRI funding. UKRI still require funded projects to sit within the remit and aims of UKRI and the participating councils.

Can I apply to more than one IAA in Queen's?

Yes, but an application needs to be submitted to both IAAs in order that each IAA Assessment panel can consider the application for approval of award. It should be clearly indicated on both applications that this is a Cross-IAA application and you should indicate which IAAs the application is being submitted to.

COSTS

Maximum award size is indicated in the guidance, can I make an application that exceeds this?

The BBSRC IAA aims to be supportive of Queen's research colleagues developing their research impact. If your project exceeds the maximum suggested for a particular funding stream, contact the BBSRC IAA team to discuss iaa@qub.ac.uk.

Eligible project costs – what is eligible?

BBSRC IAA can support directly incurred and directly allocated costs. All costs must be clearly justified and may include the following

- salary costs for Research Assistants, Research Technicians etc.
- consumables such as professional materials
- small pieces of equipment directly related to the project (<£10k)
- venue bookings and catering
- travel and subsistence
- promotional materials, such as digital toolkits, video content, infographics, blogs, podcasts and briefing papers
- Other engagement, knowledge exchange, training and culture change activities can also be supported

What costs are not eligible?

- New, fundamental research
- Duplication of support: impact activities that are already supported through a grant associated with the research.

- **Non-specific** public engagement and science communication e.g. a general event that is not related to your specific existing biotechnology and biological science research.
- Undergraduate activities, core PhD training, Masters training
- IP management costs relating to IP protection e.g. registering, maintaining, supporting patent applications or Property Rights.
- Equipment > £10k
- Infrastructure and capital expenditure
- Indirect costs, estate costs
- Contributions to KTPs

Is the development of data sets based on existing research an eligible activity for funding?

Yes. Ensure that your applications clearly indicate what the proposed work is and that it is based on existing Queen's biotechnology and biosciences research; that the proposed activities will accelerate the impact of this existing research; drive the research culture agenda within Queen's through knowledge exchange and technology transfer; and the new results/data gathered within such a pilot study has the potential to be used in future collaborative research bids or could potentially be used as a case study for the translation of Queen's research in an industry setting.

BBSRC IAA funding spend profile – when must my awarded funding be spent by?

All BBSRC IAA funding must be spent by 1st March 2025.

WORKING WITH EXTERNAL/INDUSTRIAL PARTNERS

Industry partner contributions – what form can this take?

External partners can provide matched funding e.g. for Scoping projects as an in-kind contribution, cash or a combination of both.

Is a Collaboration Agreement required with external partner contributing to an awarded project?

Yes a Collaboration Agreement will be required where an external partner provides cash contribution or in kind contribution to your project.

Who owns the Arising IP (Results) in BBSRC IAA projects with an external partner?

Nothing affects the ownership of Background IP. Any intellectual Property, Know How or Results created during the project are owned by the Party that generated them. The creator jointly created IP, Know How, Results will be jointly owned.

What does 'early partnership' mean?

Where there is an existing partnership your application should outline the partnership that currently exists and how a BBSRC IAA award would develop that partnership or move it in a different direction. This could be through the introduction of new members of the research team to

interact/engage with the industry partner or that the proposed project brings a new direction to the partnership through the proposed activity.

Can a Queen's researcher apply for an IAA award if they have an equity state in the proposed external partner organisation?

A Queen's researcher can still apply for a BBSRC IAA award even if they have an equity state in the proposed external partner organisation, however, this association should be made clear in the application.

Is there a duration limit for any activities involved in the Scoping Projects strand of the Relationships Incubator Fund?

No, there is no set duration limit to Scoping projects. However, it is expected that all IAA spend and activities will be completed by the end of the funding period, i.e. March 2025.