

Industry Engagement Fund

An ESRC Impact Acceleration Account (IAA) & SeNSS fund

Objectives & available funding

The Industry Engagement Fund is designed for social science doctoral researchers (PhD students) in any of the 10 SeNSS universities. The aim of the funding is to support SeNSS & other social science PhD students in engaging with business (i.e. profit-making entities), whether this means developing new relationships, or continuing established links. This support is based on working with ESRC Impact Acceleration Accounts (IAAs), which are funds given to three of the SeNSS universities to support 'impact' of research through engagement with non-academics. The funded activities of the Industry Engagement Fund should be based on your social science research with an aim to explore collaborations that could lead to long-term positive changes in the 'real world'. This could include:

- *exploring and understanding business needs and how they can be incorporated into research*
- *understanding how to collaborate and co-produce knowledge, including through existing collaborative research already supported under the SeNSS DTP Collaborative Scheme;*
- *undertaking social science-informed projects and activities that will support both research and the industry partner*
- *organising or attending collaborative events*

Funding is available for up to £5,000. We request that activities have a start date no later than 1 December 2018. All activities will need to be completed, and funding spent, normally within 3 months, and no later than 28 February 2019.

Eligibility

- Funds are available to ESRC-funded SeNSS DTP students, ESRC DTC students in SeNSS institutions who do not have recourse to similar funding elsewhere, and other PhD students who are conducting social science research
- Activities should have a benefit to an identified business
- Applications and activities can be in conjunction with other students and researchers
- Unfortunately, we are not able to directly fund impact activities that have been costed into a 'Pathway to Impact' section of an ESRC or other UKRI grant

Review Procedure

The final submissions of applications are due on 15 October 2018. Applications will be reviewed by a panel that includes the leads for the Impact Acceleration Accounts (IAAs) at the University of Essex, University of East Anglia and University of Sussex, as well as a representative from the SeNSS senior management team, and industry partners. We hope to have decisions made within 2 weeks of submission.

Review Criteria

- Explanation of the business links, or possibilities of linking with industry
- Clear activities
- Explanation of how it links to research and/or training
- Potential outcomes (short or medium term changes) and impacts (long-term changes) explained
- Potential risks and assumptions, and how you will address these if things do not go to plan

Reporting requirements

Successful applicants will be expected to submit a report on progress, outcomes to date, and intentions for possible future impact activities no later than the 15th March 2019.

Elements to consider

- Please consider any risks that you might encounter as a part of your project & discuss with your supervisor
- Please adhere to the ethical policies and financial requirements (e.g. procurement policies) within your institution
- Please consider data protection and GDPR issues
- All activities and financial claims must be made by end February 2019
- The award is non-transferable
- We ask that successful applicants be willing to participate in future events or available for case studies, particularly for the purpose of sharing experiences
- The information and application of those who successfully receive funding will be shared with ESRC and others
- We cannot fund hardware purchases
- We cannot fund academic conference organisation or other initiatives with a primarily academic audience.

Key dates

- Application submission deadline: **5pm 15 October 2018**
- Decisions to applicants anticipated: **week commencing 29 October 2018**
- Projects can begin from: **1 November 2018**
- Projects to conclude by: **28 February 2019**

Further information

To discuss the possibility of applying, we recommend contacting one of the following:

- Nikki Pockett, SeNSS-IAA Business Engagement and Impact Officer,
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- Additional contacts:
 - University of East Anglia
 - Richard Clarke, Relationship Manager - Healthcare and Social Sciences: R.Clarke@uea.ac.uk
 - Dr Maddy Copley, DTP Business Boost Fund Administrator:
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 - University of Essex
 - Dorian Hayes, Knowledge Exchange Manager, Social Sciences:
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 - Shelley Jenkins, Senior Doctoral School Coordinator:
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 - Megan McMichael, ESRC IAA Project Manager:
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