

AHRC Impact Acceleration Account Open Call (March 2026)

Funding to accelerate the impact of your research in the arts & humanities

This online form should be used to apply for the AHRC Impact Acceleration Account (IAA) Open Call (March 2026). Questions include explanatory notes to help answer questions fully.

Please complete all relevant sections of this online form and upload your Head of Dept. approvals by 24th April 17.00

This form includes a save and return function and an offline copy of the form can be accessed on the call webpage.

* This form will record your name, please fill your name.

Applicant Details

Principal Investigators (PIs) must have an employment contract at Lancaster for the duration of their proposed project. You **do not** have received funding from the Arts and Humanities Research Council (or any Research Council) to be eligible to apply.

1. Please specify the "Level 1" and Level 2" AHRC remit area(s) your proposal aligns to and outline a brief justification/explanation of alignment

See <https://www.ukri.org/publications/ahrc-research-funding-guide/ahrc-research-funding-guide-for-applicants/#section-annex-a-ahrc-disciplines>. Please note we expect the underpinning research and the activity to broadly align at least 51% with this remit.

2. Name of Coordinating / Principal Investigator

3. Names of Co-Investigators (Co-I) or Co-Principal Investigator (C-PI)

This question is about **other Co-Investigators or Co-Principal Investigators**. Please state their full name, followed by status (Co-I or C-PI) in brackets.

4. Lead Faculty(s) *

If no lead, or an even split across the project team, please select more than one faculty.

FHASS

FST

FHM

LUMS

5. Department(s) *

Full titles, please list.

6. Across the project team (including yourself), please state the number of Early Career Researchers *

Definitions vary across the sector, but for guidance, see <https://www.ukri.org/what-we-offer/developing-people-and-skills/ahrc/early-career-researchers-career-and-skills-development/> and <https://www.ukri.org/councils/epsrc/guidance-for-applicants/types-of-funding-we-offer/new-investigator-award/eligibility/>

7. Please state the number of Mid-Career Researchers *

Definitions vary across the sector, but for guidance, see <https://www.ukri.org/what-we-offer/developing-people-and-skills/ahrc/early-career-researchers-career-and-skills-development/> and <https://www.ukri.org/councils/epsrc/guidance-for-applicants/types-of-funding-we-offer/new-investigator-award/eligibility/>

8. Please state the number of Senior Researchers *

Definitions vary across the sector, but for guidance, see <https://www.ukri.org/what-we-offer/developing-people-and-skills/ahrc/early-career-researchers-career-and-skills-development/> and <https://www.ukri.org/councils/epsrc/guidance-for-applicants/types-of-funding-we-offer/new-investigator-award/eligibility/>

9. Please state the number of Professional Services staff involved *

The value must be a number

Partner Details

It is mandatory that you have an external (non-HEI) partner for this funding scheme. **Please note that if successful we may ask for a signed collaboration agreement** to be signed between LU and the external partner. This will clarify things such as payment terms, in-kind, and intellectual property ownership. A template of this agreement is available on the LU IAA webpage under the 'IAA Resources, Agreements and Requirements'.

See: <https://www.lancaster.ac.uk/business-and-innovation/for-businesses/iaa-business/iaa-resources/>

10. Principal Partner organisation name *

If more than one partner, you will be prompted for a second tier of partner later.

11. Name of main contact *

12. Job title of main contact *

13. Email address of main contact *

14. Please select the sector(s) in which your partner is based *

- Doctoral Training Partnership/CDT
- Government (local)
- Government (national)
- Government (devolved)
- International government
- International government organisation
- Public sector (other)
- NGO/INGO/Non-project/Charity
- Third sector (other)
- Industry/Business (SME)
- Industry/Business (Large Corporation)
- Industry/Business (other)
- Other

15. Are there any other partners involved in this project? *

This could be on an equal footing to the principal partner or as a second-tier of partner

- Yes
- No

16. What is the status of this partner? *

- Principal Partner / on equal footing to partner 1
- Associate Partner / lesser involvement compared to partner 1
- Other

17. Partner organisation name

18. Name of main contact

19. Job title of main contact

20. Email address of main contact

21. Please select the sector(s) in which your partner is based *

- Doctoral Training Partnership/CDT
- Government (local)
- Government (national)
- Government (devolved)
- International government
- International government organisation
- Public sector (other)
- NGO/INGO/Non-project/Charity
- Third sector (other)
- Industry/Business (SME)
- Industry/Business (Large Corporation)
- Industry/Business (other)
- Other

22. Are there any other partners involved in this project? *

This could be on an equal footing to the principal partner or as a second-tier of partner

- Yes
- No

23. What is the status of this partner? *

- Principal Partner / on equal footing to partner 1
- Associate Partner / lesser involvement compared to partner 1
- Other

24. Partner organisation name

25. Name of main contact

26. Job title of main contact

27. Email address of main contact

28. Please select the sector(s) in which your partner is based *

- Doctoral Training Partnership/CDT
- Government (local)
- Government (national)
- Government (devolved)
- International government
- International government organisation
- Public sector (other)
- NGO/INGO/Non-project/Charity
- Third sector (other)
- Industry/Business (SME)
- Industry/Business (Large Corporation)
- Industry/Business (other)
- Other

Declarations

29. Please confirm that your project and IAA application has the approval of your Head of Department?

Yes

No

30. Please outline why an email approval from your Head of Department cannot be uploaded at this stage

31. Please upload an email from your Head of Department confirming approval

Note: you will either have to save the email as a PDF or if you do not have a licence for Adobe Acrobat, use the snipping tool or screen shot functionality to save the email as an image file. (.msg files cannot be directly uploaded via MS forms)

 Upload file

File number limit: 1 Single file size limit: 10MB Allowed file types: Word, Excel, PPT, PDF, Image, Video,

32. **The IP position:** *Please answer the questions below to help us address the Intellectual Property (IP) position (is it being managed by the Lancaster IP Office; is it patented; is it owned or jointly owned by another party, etc.)*

Do you have any patents / IP in place or submitted that covers this work?

Yes

No

Unsure

33. Do you anticipate that work proposed here will give rise to any intellectual property?

Yes

No

Maybe

34. Do any organisations other than Lancaster, have any rights to the work being proposed here (*e.g. through commercial sponsorship, or grant funding*)?

- Yes
- No
- Maybe

35. Do you need to access background IP/patents, materials, data or other resources held by anyone else for this work?

- Yes
- No
- Maybe

36. Has the Lancaster IP Office been engaged in discussions around the proposed research?

- Yes
- No
- Maybe

37. Is there any knowledge/IP owned by any other parties relating to the work you will undertake with your external partner?

If you need any further IP and Commercialisation Support, please see <https://www.lancaster.ac.uk/research/research-enterprise-services/ip-support/>

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

Project Details

38. Project Title *

39. IAA funding requested *

For this call we are offering awards of up to £10,000 but smaller awards <£5,000 are encouraged. Amounts over £10,000 will be considered on an exceptional basis but please discuss with the IAA Manager in advance. Projects should be no more than 6 months in duration as all funding needs to be spent by December 2026.

40. Project Start Date *

Projects should be no more than 6 months in duration as all funding needs to be spent by December 2026.

41. Project End Date *

Projects should be no more than 6 months in duration as all funding needs to be spent by December 2026.

42. Summary of the collaborative idea and key objectives (15% of score) *

*Provide a summary which can be understood by a non-specialist reader. Briefly outline the **underpinning research** that will be applied, **what** you will do (i.e. high level objectives) the **need** for the project (i.e. what problem is being addressed), the **importance** (i.e. why now), and the intended **beneficiaries** and/or impact(s) (i.e. who will benefit/how and through what means). Primary or engaged research or contract research/consultancy will not be funded.*

43. Why is this partnership/collaboration best suited to achieve your project objectives? (15% of score) *

The primary purpose of the IAA scheme is to enable partnership working and collaboration that accelerates the application of academic research to real world scenarios and problems. Provide a summary explaining why this particular partnership between the researcher and the partner is suitable to explore the collaborative idea and objectives stated above.

Please enter at most 2000 characters

44. What could the potential impact of this project be? (15% of score) *

Think about potential impacts that could come about from the project and how you will measure these during and/or after the project concludes - and try to be specific. This could be impact(s) for the **partner** (i.e. costs savings, increased R&D, increased profit/turnover/exports, product/service innovation, jobs secured), **broader knowledge exchange outcomes** (practitioner/industry events, exchanges, secondments, CPD), **leveraged or scale up investment(s)** (i.e. seed corn/demonstrator funding to scale up), or **other academic/industry outcomes** (patents, publications, licensing, spinouts, equity investment, policy changes or training).

Impact could also be broader, including an "effect on, change or benefit to the economy, society, culture, public policy or services, health, the environment or quality of life, beyond academia."

Impact-generating projects should be done 'with' partners, not 'to' or 'on' them. If your proposal involves product development you may find a 'FAB analysis' useful otherwise consider writing an impact summary and pathway to impact statement – see <https://www.fasttrackimpact.com/post/2017/06/01/how-to-write-an-impact-summary-and-pathway-to-impact>

45. What is your proposed project plan? (15% of score) *

Describe the key 'work packages' to be undertaken by the researcher/partner(s), describing interactions and timescales. This should demonstrate the dependencies between the activities, outputs and outcomes. The significance of partner involvement and the impact(s) that may be accrued by their organisation as a direct result of participation cannot be overstated. We expect to see partners embedded in project activities regardless of whether they are contributing cash to the project or not – ensuring a high level of involvement is more likely to enable a sustained partnership post IAA funding.

46. Please describe how the relationship between the university and the external partner(s) will be sustained post-funding, and what you expect a follow-on project could achieve? (15% of score) *

A key aim of the IAA is to build sustainable partnerships beyond the initial impact project. Consider how the relationship between the partners could be sustained post-funding and/or what a follow-on project could be explored or developed going forward.

Describe how you envisage the partnership developing, what your collaboration could achieve and how it could develop going forward. Be ambitious and realistic. Provide specific examples for funding streams and timescales. For example, identifying a specific UKRI / Innovate UK or other funding call or further contract research or consultancy.

47. Do you have any cash match from your partner(s)? *

- Yes
- No

48. Please itemise any cash contributions here, including £ value and source *

The value must be a number

49. Do you have any in-kind match from your partner(s)? *

Yes

No

50. Please itemise any in-kind contributions here, including £ value and source *

51. Provide a breakdown of your budget and cost headings. (15% of score) *

One total figure is not sufficient – a breakdown of headings is required i.e. staffing, consumables, travel and subsistence, equipment. This should be itemised where possible i.e. Research Assistant 1, £12,000; Equipment Item 2, £1,500; Two Train Journeys to London, £200 etc.

If you are proposing to pass a portion of your IAA grant to a third party then VAT may be incurred. Ensure you include allowance for any VAT on 'taxable supplies' – see gov.uk/how-vat-works/what-vat-charged-on.

Full Economic Costs are not applicable/eligible (i.e. estates and indirect costs, permanent staff time etc).

Types of eligible costs include: Research Assistant/Post-Doctoral Researcher time, travel, consumables, equipment (<£10K), and items such as childcare costs to enable work or time away from home.

*Costs and approvals **do not** need to go through the Lancaster Research Support Office, though you may find it helpful to seek assistance with generating accurate staff costs, if applicable. See lancaster.ac.uk/research/research-services/pre-award-development/costing-and-pricing/*

Explain how you will manage the budget and ensure delivery to time, cost, and quality.

52. Please explain how your project will protect and promote Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) (5% of score) *

Lancaster's IAA works to promote, equality, diversity and inclusion. This supports institutional commitments to create an environment where everyone can thrive and fulfil their potential. This is expressed by initiatives linked with recognising and supporting protected characteristics including age, disability, gender identity, race, religion and sex and sexual orientation in alignment with the Equality Act 2010. Commitments, aims and planned actions are set out in our EDI strategy, Gender Pay Gap Report and EDI charter marks. Consider how you will promote EDI through your project, for example:

- Project recruitment and Personal Development Reviews of staff (e.g., positive action statements, recruitment panels)

- Enhancing understanding of EDI opportunities and challenges (e.g., highlighting the importance of diversity in research).

- Designing inclusive activities (e.g., language, terminology and communication channels used in promotions, events, or materials, and consideration of timings such as avoiding school/religious holidays)

- Addressing under representation (e.g. sharing case studies where IAAs have had beneficial outcomes for individuals)

Please enter at most 1000 characters

53. Please explain how you will approach Responsible Innovation within this project. (5% of score) *

Applicants should think more broadly about ethical issues that may be relevant to the project. You should reflect on the prompts and note your response below: - Are there any ethical issues you need to consider for the project, its outcomes, or impact? - Have you considered how you might maximise the benefits to users? - Have you explored who will benefit, and whether there could be negative impacts for certain people (e.g. gender; age; ethnicity; disability; etc), and how negative impacts could be avoided? Should any ethical issues arise before/during/after the project, applicants should consult relevant guidance, and/or refer to EPSRC's Anticipate, reflect, engage, act (AREA) framework.

54. Please upload any letters of support from your partner(s) and/or imagery in relation to your project

Letters of support are not mandatory and successful projects may be asked to facilitate the signing of a Collaboration Agreement between Lancaster and the project partner(s)

Imagery in relation to product development, schematics, diagrams etc. can be uploaded here if helpful to visualise aspects of the submitted proposal

 Upload file

File number limit: 2 Single file size limit: 10MB Allowed file types: Word, Excel, PPT, PDF, Image, Video, Audio

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