

Impact Acceleration Accounts – 2020 Funding Allocation

Frequently Asked Questions

USE OF FUNDS

1.1 Can the IAA additional funding allocation be used for costed project extensions?

No, the additional funding allocation is ring-fenced for new projects only. Existing projects may be given a no-cost extension, and funds may be used to support their completion at a later date (see 1.3), but new funds cannot be used to provide additional funding to support extending the duration, scope or costs of projects delayed due to Covid-19 (for example, paying the salary of researchers during times when work has been suspended, or topping up the salary of furloughed staff). If existing IAA funds have already been spent on extending projects, you will have to complete those projects from existing budget or find alternative funding streams.

At time of writing (2 July 2020), this is in line with UKRI policy regarding extensions related to the Covid-19 pandemic. Please note the IAAs were excluded from the calculation for the UKRI COVID-19 Grant Extension Allocation and therefore cannot draw from those funds to cover costed extensions. Please see the UKRI website for the latest policy information and guidance:

<https://www.ukri.org/research/coronavirus/guidance-for-the-research-and-innovation-communities1/>

1.2 Can we use the additional funding to support already allocated projects?

No, the additional funding stream is ring-fenced for new projects only. However, this does not prevent allocated projects taking place next year, since the term of the original grant has been extended until 31 March 2022.

1.3 Do new projects have to start next year (i.e. 2021-22)?

No, you may still use your IAA budget flexibly over the duration of award, which is now four years instead of three. Just as some existing projects may have to be delayed until next year, there may be opportunity for some timely new projects to start this year.

We are especially keen to see timely research and innovation projects relating to the Covid-19 pandemic, including preparedness for future pandemics, providing they meet the conditions for IAA awards.

1.4 Do Covid-19 projects have to be in remit?

Yes, all projects on Covid-19 or pandemic resilience must still be in BBSRC remit to qualify for IAA funding.

However, BBSRC is aware that in order to enable the effective and timely translation of the outputs of BBSRC-funded research, it may be necessary to support activity on the interface of BBSRC's typical fundamental research boundaries.

For guidance on exactly what BBSRC is looking to support with respect to Covid-19, please see the funding information page below:

<https://bbsrc.ukri.org/funding/filter/research-and-innovation-ideas-to-address-covid-19-in-the-uk-and-in-low-and-middle-income-countries/>

1.5 Do IAA projects have to be related to a previous BBSRC grant(s)?

Yes. IAAs are intended to add value to existing or past BBSRC investments. IAA funds should be used to progress the outputs and outcomes from past and current investments towards impact. This may also help you to judge whether a project is in remit (see 1.4). Covid-19 and pandemic resilience projects are included in this condition.

1.6 Can I leverage funds?

Yes. If your institution has other IAAs or other similar funding allocations (e.g. from other UKRI Councils, other BBSRC programmes or HEIF), then funds can be pooled, where eligible, to fund allowed activity.

REPORTING

2.1 How should outcomes be reported in Researchfish®?

In line with previous advice, outcomes from IAAs should be reported against the related BBSRC grants as "Further Funding". Entries should include the original IAA grant reference and the title/description should contain "BBSRC IAA" as well.

For projects directly related to Covid-19, please ensure you also include "Covid-19" in the project title on researchfish® (the current nominated online system for reporting) as well as BBSRC IAA Monitoring Forms.

We have included a separate "Business Plan Objective" (column F) on the Monitoring Form to use for Covid-19 related projects, including pandemic resilience, in case these unexpected opportunities lie outside the original business plan of your IAA. However, please only use Covid-19 in project titles and description if *directly* addressing the current pandemic.



Contact

Capability and Innovation Domain – Impact Awards

If you have any further questions please email James Sundquist or Joely Kellard at impact.awards@bbsrc.ukri.org.