This scheme is only available to applications by invitation. This mechanism aims to provide opportunity to support the development of a pipeline of future REF case studies and support the delivery of strategic research activity.

Background

The resources allocated through this strand of the EPSRC IAA play an important role in both de-risking and demonstrating the UoB’s technological capability within key strategic areas in order to realise their market potential and commercial return. Funds are distributed through a competitive, invitation-only process that includes both small (typically up to £25k) and large (£25k+) awards.

These mechanisms aim to provide opportunity to support the development of a pipeline of future REF case studies. This is important because projects instigated and furthered through the IAA enable the UoB not only to demonstrate its research achievements and credentials to external partners and peers at an earlier stage, but also to contribute to the body of evidence that helps to build a case for continued investment in academic research and KE activities to develop a critical mass around them.

Applications of above £25k will need to put in place a Project Steering Group and answer some additional questions that link to UoB’s Strategic Research Themes and demonstrate:

- potential to be transformative – creating a ‘step change’ in what we currently do
- Potential to attract world-leading global talent
- Potential to secure at least £2m of investment in the medium term

The scheme will operate from 1 June 2017 until 31 March 2020. Applications will be invited quarterly, while details of the application deadlines are provided on the Internal Funding intranet page and through email.

Recommendations for EPSRC IAA funding will be made by the Management Group chaired by Professor Jon Rowe. Recommendations will be approved by the Strategic Block Grants Panel which consists of Professor Tim Softley, Professor Lee Chapman, Professor David Hannah and Professor Paul Moss, which has an accountability and governance role.

How to apply

This scheme is only available to applications by invitation. Anyone with queries as to their eligibility should in the first instance discuss their project’s REF and strategic potential with:

- Gavin Scott McNee (Research Planning Officer, EPS, x43633) or Ronni Littlewood Research Planning Partner (Life Sciences, x48192).

and your Research Support Office:

- Paul Reay, (EPS, x42216), Jennifer Jennings (LES, x45890) and Georgina Drury (MDS, x58010).

All applicants can contact Alta Innovations to discuss matters relating to IP and business planning:

- Alan Tibbets (ext. 48620)
- Francesco Maria Colacino (ext. 43891)
All application for the Accelerating Research Impact Scheme must be submitted via the online form available here: [https://bham.onlinesurveys.ac.uk/epsrc-iaa-accelerating-research-impact-scheme](https://bham.onlinesurveys.ac.uk/epsrc-iaa-accelerating-research-impact-scheme)

To assist in the completion of your application please see below for a list of the questions included within the application form:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Heading</th>
<th>Question</th>
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| **Project Details**                  | Within this section you should include details of the following:  
  - Aims and objectives of the project and methods for achieving these  
  - Relationship to the research  
  - The intended beneficiaries: non-academic partners (where applicable) or end users; and how they will benefit  
  - Details of any financial or non-financial leverage offered by non-academic partners  
  - The proposed pathways through which impact can be realised (the mapping to the proposed project plan activities is a separate section)  
  *Max. 4000 characters*                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| Details of Underpinning Research     | Within this section you should include the following:  
  - Brief, lay description of research underpinning the project  
  - No more than 6 key research outputs associated with the project (published and/or planned)  
  - Associated EPSRC and other grants awarded and/or applied for, both internal and external (please include year, title, amount, funder, PI name) noting that it is a condition of the award that the proposed research builds upon that previously funded by the EPSRC  
  *Max. 4000 characters*                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| Partnerships with External Organisation(s) | Please provide details of the partnerships already in place with external organisations or individuals. If these are not in place, please describe how you will approach potential partners.  
  *Max. 2000 characters*                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Anticipated Impact/KE potential and how will this be evidenced | Please describe the potential short and long term impact of the project in relation to the partner organisation(s), the University and the wider society.  
  *Max. 5000 characters*                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| Proposed Project Plan               | This section should provide details of key milestones, outputs and outline costs for the proposed project. This should include impact on business/benefit to university milestones in table below. SMART (specific, measurable, achievable, realistic, and time-bound) objectives should be used.                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| Project Costs                       | Please provide a breakdown of project costs, including justification                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Attachments                         | Unfortunately attachments cannot be submitted via this online system. However, if you wish to include your Impact Case Study Template this can be submitted as a pdf document. All submitted pdf's should clearly state the 'receipt number' of your application.  
  Please note that you will receive your receipt number once your application has been submitted.  
  Please submit Impact Case Study Templates to: centralfunds@contacts.bham.ac.uk                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| **For applications above £25,000**  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| Transformative potential            | Within this section details should be provided on how the proposed project has the potential to be transformative, creating a 'step-change' in what is currently being done.  
  *Max. 4000 characters*                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| Potential to attract world leading talent | How will the development of this project lead to UoB being able to attract world leading talent?  
  *Max. 4000 characters*                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Potential to attract at least £2m of external investment in the medium term | Please comment on your projects potential to attract at least £2m of external investment in the medium term (3-5 years) and on the potential sources of this investment as well time scales for the expected funding applications to further pump prime the activity to this effect.  
  *Max. 4000 characters*                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| Project Steering Group             | Please provide details of internal and external representatives that form the Project Steering Group.  
  *You should suggest up to three internal/external experts who you believe have the experience and skills to benefit your project. Please note that you will not be penalised if you suggest only one, compared to two or three individuals. This question is to encourage you to start thinking, ahead of*                                                                                                                                 |

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potential funding, who would be a good addition to your PTG. Ideally, your project plan should include detail of how this external expertise will be retained in the core academic team.

**Improving the quality of your application**

To improve the quality of your application, please ensure that:

a) Your project is eligible for EPSRC funding and that you have shown a clear link to previous EPSRC investment

b) You have clearly identified a viable market and have given the Panel a sense of its size and the potential for impact within it

c) Where you are working with business, that the business need is clear

d) You have discussed your application with your Research Support Office and Research Planning:
   o Paul Reay, P.Reay@bham.ac.uk (ext. 42216) - EPS
   o Jen Jennings, j.l.jennings@bham.ac.uk (ext. 45890) – LES
   o Georgina Drury, g.e.drury@bham.ac.uk (ext. 58010) – MDS
   o Gavin Scott McNee (Research Planning Officer, EPS, x43633)
   o Ronni Littlewood Research Planning Partner (Life Sciences, x48192).

**What reporting will award holders have to do?**

Awardees will be expected to report impact annually and on a cumulative basis via a survey that we will be circulated.