**BBSRC Impact Acceleration Award (IAA) Guidelines**

The national BBSRC IAA objectives are as follows:

* strengthen user engagement
* strengthen the exchange of knowledge through culture and capability development, including through the development of skills for knowledge exchange activity
* supporting knowledge exchange and commercialisation at early stages of progressing research outputs and outcomes to the point when they would be supported by other funding
* supporting new, innovative and imaginative approaches to KE and impact, including processes that enable "fast failure" and appropriate learning
* supporting activities that enable impact to be achieved in an effective and timely manner, including secondments and people exchange

The specific aims of the University of Birmingham’s BBSRC IAA focus on:

* Building capacity and embedding an impact culture
* Accelerating translation of impact from our existing BBSRC portfolio
* Deepening our engagement with key stakeholders and partners to maximise impact

The University has been awarded £300,000 over a three year period from April 2018, to be distributed between six key schemes. Funding through these schemes is available from September 2018 and open to application from all members of the academic community who hold or have previously held BBSRC funding.

Details of the six schemes are as follows:

**Follow-on-Fund (FoF)** £140,000 total: The FoF will provide early-stage commercialisation funding (market analyses/validation, business modelling, business planning with a focus on commercial validation). Projects should have been discussed with [the University of Birmingham Enterprise team](https://intranet.birmingham.ac.uk/finance/Enterprise/Inventions-Patents.aspx) prior to application.

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| **Funding mechanism** | **Aim** | **Outcome** | **Performance Indicator** |
| Follow-on-Fund | Supporting proof-of-concept projects in the range of £10,000 - £30,000, with the latter being a limit for exceptional projects and most tending towards the lower limit. UoB Enterprise will advise on appropriate objectives and funding requests. | Proof of concept obtained for future translational funding  Generation of novel market assessments  Generation of new records of invention/patents | Applications for translational funding arising as a result of proof of concept funding  Number of completed market assessments  Number (or value generated) of records of invention/patents filed |
| Applications open: | September 2018. First deadline for applications 5th October 2018 | | |

**Business Engagement Fund (BEF)** £20,000 total: To support early stage interactions with new users or collaborators (primarily industry-based), funding will enable individual mobility through grants of up to £2,500 allowing researchers to visit UK/international stakeholders for face-to-face meetings.

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| **Funding mechanism** | **Aim** | **Outcome** | **Performance Indicator** |
| Business Engagement Fund | Supporting face to face meetings with new stakeholders by funding travel costs and/or related costs such as childcare | Initiation of novel partnerships  Co-creation of future research programmes | Number of new partnerships formed  Grant applications arising from co-creation of research |
| Applications open: | September 2018 – no deadlines, apply when needed, decision within 2 weeks | | |

**Policy Placement Scheme (PPS)** £10,000 total: To drive policy impact, and create/nurture/embed partnerships as part of the University’s wider impact agenda, knowledge exchange activities between BBSRC-funded researchers and public sector organisations are a key priority.

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| **Funding mechanism** | **Aim** | **Outcome** | **Performance Indicator** |
| Policy Placement Scheme | Supporting influential policy engagement and placements, especially those relevant to the West Midlands region (e.g. West Midlands Combined Authority). | Creation of new partnerships with regional and national public sector organisations  Translation of BBSRC research into policy outcomes | Numbers of placements undertaken  Academic-public sector joint publications  Communications to promote and share learning (e.g. news stories, web hits, presentations) |
| Applications open: | September 2018. First deadline for applications 5th October 2018 | | |

**People Exchange Programme (PEP)** £100,000 total: The most ambitious of our IAA-funded knowledge exchange programmes, this scheme aims to support long-term embedding of staff (typically 6-12 months) within non-academic user organisations – or embed people from these organisations within the University – to support the translation of BBSRC funded research.

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| **Funding mechanism** | **Aim** | **Outcome** | **Performance Indicator** |
| People Exchange Programme | Supporting ambitious secondment activities that provide funds to embed BBSRC-funded research within non-academic user organisations – either through movement of UoB research staff to their organisations, or their staff to our institution. Funds cover appropriate expenses for either direction of travel. | Deepening of partnerships with external stakeholders  BBSRC research translated into new products, policies and/or services  Co-creation of future research programmes | Number of secondments funded & individuals engaged in the activity.  Contributions from partners (financial and in-kind).  Communications to promote and share learning (e.g. news stories, presentations)  Grant applications arising from co-creation of research |
| Applications open: | First deadline for applications 5th October 2018 | | |

**Entrepreneurial Training (ET)** £20,000 total: BBSRC funded researchers, including the postdoctoral community, are invited to express their interest in an expanded training programme with a particular focus upon entrepreneurship and tackling challenges around SME engagement.

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| **Funding mechanism** | **Aim** | **Outcome** | **KPI/KSM** |
| Entrepreneurial Training | We will train up to 50 academic and research- associated staff through expanded existing training and novel programmes | Deeper understanding of entrepreneurship, market analysis, stakeholder engagement and networking among members of BBSRC funded staff | Number of academic and research staff engaged in training  Number of staff making applications to FOF, BEF, PEP |
| Applications open: | Expressions of interest should be sent to [Michelle Read](mailto:m.l.herron.1@bham.ac.uk) | | |

**Public Engagement Funds** **(PEF)** £10,000 total: We are enhancing the funding available to engage the public with BBSRC-supported research, working with [the University’s Public Engagement with Research Team](https://thinkpe.wordpress.com/).

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| **Funding mechanism** | **Aim** | **Outcome** | **KPI/KSM** |
| Public Engagement Funds | Supporting new PER activities specifically related to BBSRC research. Applications should go via [the PER Team’s existing process for supporting new activities.](https://thinkpe.wordpress.com/perform/funding/uob-funds-for-pe/)  The public engagement team can be contacted at [engage@contacts.bham.ac.uk](mailto:engage@contacts.bham.ac.uk) | Increased engagement of the public with BBSRC funded research  Embedding a culture of public engagement within our researchers, particularly ECRs | Number of members of the public engaged with BBSRC funded research through events/activities  Number of researchers engaged in public engagement activities |
| Applications open: | Open call from September 2018 | | |

Award of funds will be made on the following criteria:

1) excellence and innovation;

2) potential for impact;

3) user engagement including associated leverage;

4) feasibility; and

5) excellence of underpinning research.

All projects will be required to provide a clear description of outputs and to identify a set of Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) related to the overarching institutional ones noted in the guidance. The use of PURE for recording outputs is mandatory for IAA funded projects. Account beneficiaries will be required to submit a report, detailing expenditure use and outcomes of the activity.

**Funding oversight and management**

All immediate queries should be sent via [Michelle Read](mailto:m.l.herron.1@bham.ac.uk), but please talk to the LES Research Support Office for further advice where relevant.

The panel overseeing the BBSRC IAA in Birmingham include:

* Robin May – Chair
* Tim Dafforn
* Lee Chapman
* Ferenc Mueller
* Joff Lee
* Jennifer Jennings
* Peter Fryer