

# ESRC IAA Postdoctoral Innovation Fellowship- Application Guidelines

## Scheme background

The University of Birmingham has been awarded funding from the ESRC Impact Acceleration Account to support a four-year programme (April 2019 to March 2023) of activities to help accelerate impact from excellent social science research. As part of this programme, the ESRC IAA@UoB will fund four postdoctoral fellowships for recent graduates from one of our doctoral programmes to apply the outcomes of their social science research to real-life challenges through an approved plan of activities.

## Support and Guidance

Postdoctoral innovation projects will consist of a plan of relevant activities to develop and/or deliver the impact of the PhD student's research outside academia. Activities might include engaging with non-academic partners to whom the research will be of relevance, co-developing mechanisms with partners to implement the findings, or developing a public engagement programme to disseminate the research. The ESRC IAA@UoB team can advise on possible activities and also help identify academic or practitioner mentors who have experience in developing similar engagement and impact activities.

- Applicants are reminded that this scheme is designed to fund impact and engagement activity. Funding will not be awarded to applicants proposing further academic or research activity. Applicants should consider the [ESRC's definition of non-academic impact](#) when designing their postdoctoral innovation project to ensure that their project falls within the remit of impact and engagement.
- Applicants may wish to consult the [ESRC's Impact toolkit for economic and social sciences](#) when designing projects for advice on impact activity types and how to implement them successfully.
- Applicants may wish to discuss their applications with their School's Impact Lead. Please contact the ESRC IAA team ([esrciaa@contacts.bham.ac.uk](mailto:esrciaa@contacts.bham.ac.uk)) if you need advice on whom to contact.

## Eligibility

- Applicants must be final year students (submitted or due to submit before commencement of the project) or recent graduates (within three years of a PhD award) of the University of Birmingham within a [social science discipline](#).
- Applicants must have submitted their thesis before the fellowship can commence.
- Those with a full-time academic post are not eligible to apply.
- Applicants with a part-time academic post may apply on a pro rata, part-time basis to bring their total contracted hours up to 100% full-time equivalent hours. Applicants applying on this

basis must be able to demonstrate the feasibility of completing the proposed project alongside their existing academic post.

- Students with an ESRC DTP award should only apply to this scheme after having exhausted opportunities for impact funding and support available through the DTP programme.
- This scheme is designed to fund [impact and engagement activity](#). Funding will not be awarded to applicants proposing further academic or research activity.

## Duration

- Proposed projects to develop the [impact](#) of social sciences research are expected to take place between September 2022 and March 2023.
- All projects must be completed by 31 March 2022.
- Fellowships will be funded for either:
  - Up to three months full-time; or
  - Equivalent part-time hours for up to six months

## Award

Projects funded from the ESRC IAA Postdoctoral Innovation Fellowship scheme will include:

- Salary at Grade 7, Spine Point 27 (£31,406 pa pro-rata) for either up to three months full-time, or equivalent part-time hours for up to six months, for the named applicant.
- A budget of up to £2,000.00 to spend on engagement and impact activities. This might include travel, marketing (e.g., website, video), meeting, or event costs. Costs must be identified and justified in the application. If there is appropriate justification for seeking a higher budget – for example, if overseas travel costs are anticipated - please discuss this with the ESRC IAA team ([escrcaa@contacts.bham.ac.uk](mailto:escrcaa@contacts.bham.ac.uk)) prior to making an application.

## Mentoring and Line Management Arrangements

### Mentor

- Applicants need to approach a suitable mentor to support the application and its subsequent implementation.
- The mentor cannot be the applicant's PhD Supervisor.
- The mentor can be an external partner who has experience working with the impact of academic research, or an academic or professional services member of staff experienced in developing and delivering research impact. Mentors may or may not work in the applicant's discipline.
- An academic mentor may be based at either the University of Birmingham, or any other Midlands ESRC IAA University (Nottingham, Leicester, or Warwick).
- Applicants need prior agreement from the proposed mentor before applying. The proposed mentor will be required to provide a supporting statement as part of the application.
- Mentors will receive an honorarium of £250 plus travel costs of a maximum of £300, where relevant to the Fellow's project.

## Line Manager

- Applicants need to approach a suitable member of University of Birmingham academic staff to act as their Line Manager. The proposed Line Manager must be in the school where the proposed Postdoctoral Innovation Fellow will be based.
- The Mentor and Line Manager can be the same person if the Mentor is a member of University of Birmingham academic staff who is **not** the applicant's PhD Supervisor. A separate Line Manager is required if:
  - The proposed mentor is not a University of Birmingham academic staff member.
  - The proposed mentor is not able to line manage postdoctoral fellows.
- Applicants need prior agreement from the proposed Line Manager before applying. The proposed Line Manager will need to provide a supporting statement for the application.
- The Line Manager will hold the grant from which the project is funded.

If you would like support in identifying a suitable Mentor or Line Manager, please contact [esrciaa@contacts.bham.ac.uk](mailto:esrciaa@contacts.bham.ac.uk).

## Selection criteria

Applications will be assessed on the following criteria:

- Potential reach of the proposed project to a non-academic audience.
- Potential significance of the proposed project to a non-academic audience.
- Evidence of clear and realistic plans for what will be achieved and how it will be managed.
- Demonstrated potential for the candidate to be able to engage and develop research impact outside academia.
- Evidence of a supportive environment for the proposed Fellow and their development and delivery of impact and engagement activity, including effective mentoring arrangements.

The successful Fellow will be selected by a panel including representatives from the ESRC IAA Management Panel, and relevant Impact Leads from across the social science disciplines.

Successful applicants will be required to:

- Prepare relevant outputs (e.g. blogs) in collaboration with the University's Marketing, Communications and/or Public Affairs teams.
- Present the outcomes of the project at the University's ESRC IAA Impact Festival.
- Prepare an end of fellowship report.

## How to apply

Applicants should complete the ESRC IAA Postdoctoral Fellowship application form available on the [ESRC IAA webpages](#). Completed application forms, along with a complete CV, should be submitted to [esrciaa@contacts.bham.ac.uk](mailto:esrciaa@contacts.bham.ac.uk).

For any queries please email: [esrciaa@contacts.bham.ac.uk](mailto:esrciaa@contacts.bham.ac.uk)

## Timetable

- **March 2022:** Scheme launched
- **1 July 2022:** Deadline for applications to be submitted to [esrciaa@contacts.bham.ac.uk](mailto:esrciaa@contacts.bham.ac.uk)
- **End of July 2022:** Panel confirm decisions to candidates
- **1 September 2022:** First possible project start date
- **31 March 2023:** Latest possible project end date