

# EPSRC

# Impact Acceleration Account

Supports knowledge exchange (KE) & impact from  
Oxford's *engineering and physical science research*

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# Impact Acceleration Account funding

- University's innovation fund – over £2.3m available
- Versatile, flexible, dedicated funding for Oxford's researchers
- Don't need prior EPSRC funding to apply, but projects need to be connected/underpinned by engineering, physical science research.
- 3 funding calls each year
  - Rolling deadline: Doctoral Impact; Workshops, Meetings
- IAA funds cannot be use for fundamental research

# Why apply to the IAA?

- Engage with non-academics, and use your research (experience) to address an external problem/challenge
- Build experiences and skills 'above and beyond' a researcher
- Collaborate with industry, government department, charity, NGO, etc
- Enhance your CV 'over and above' what is feasible with 'just research'
- Ensure your research delivers benefits to society / the economy
- Etc...

# Two EPSRC IAA Funds – Open Call

## [1] IMPACT & TECHNOLOGY FUND

**£684k p/a**

TECHNOLOGY  
DEVELOPMENT

£75k-£100k; 6-12 months

IMPACT DELIVERY

£75k-£100k; 6-12 months

## [2] PARTNERSHIPS FUND

**£462k p/a**

VISITS/MEETINGS -  
WORKSHOPS

up to £5K

PARTNERSHIPS

£30k-75k; 3-12 months

DOCTORAL  
IMPACT

£30K; 6 months

# Impact Visits, Meetings, Workshops

up to £5K

- Funding to coordinate and deliver impact-focussed meetings and workshops.
- Should include engagement with non-academics or non-academic organisations
- Should seek to give rise to further knowledge exchange, translation or partnership activities.

**Example of an ECR-led Workshop:** “Lights, laws and livelihoods”:  
A multi-discipline dialogue to revamp electricity access in Sudan.

# [1] Impact & Technology Fund

## TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT

£75k-£100k; 6-12 months

To develop new technologies to the point where they are suitable for support from other sources or for commercial exploitation.

## IMPACT DELIVERY

£75k-£100k; 6-12 months

To transfer knowledge, whose take-up will provide benefits to users but will not necessarily generate a financial return to the University.

**Supports**, e.g. Proof of concept studies | Prototyping or demonstrators | Scale-up testing and development work | Generation of additional data to demonstrate the credibility of a technology | Access to resources/IP from an industry partner | **etc**

# Partnerships Fund

£30k-75k; 3-12 months

## Partnerships Scheme

Increase engagement of Oxford researchers with end-users of the research in non-academic organisations.

Including (but not limited to):

- Outward secondments
- Pre-application secondments
- Pre-proof of concept secondments
- Inward secondments

# Doctoral Impact Fund

£30K; 6 months

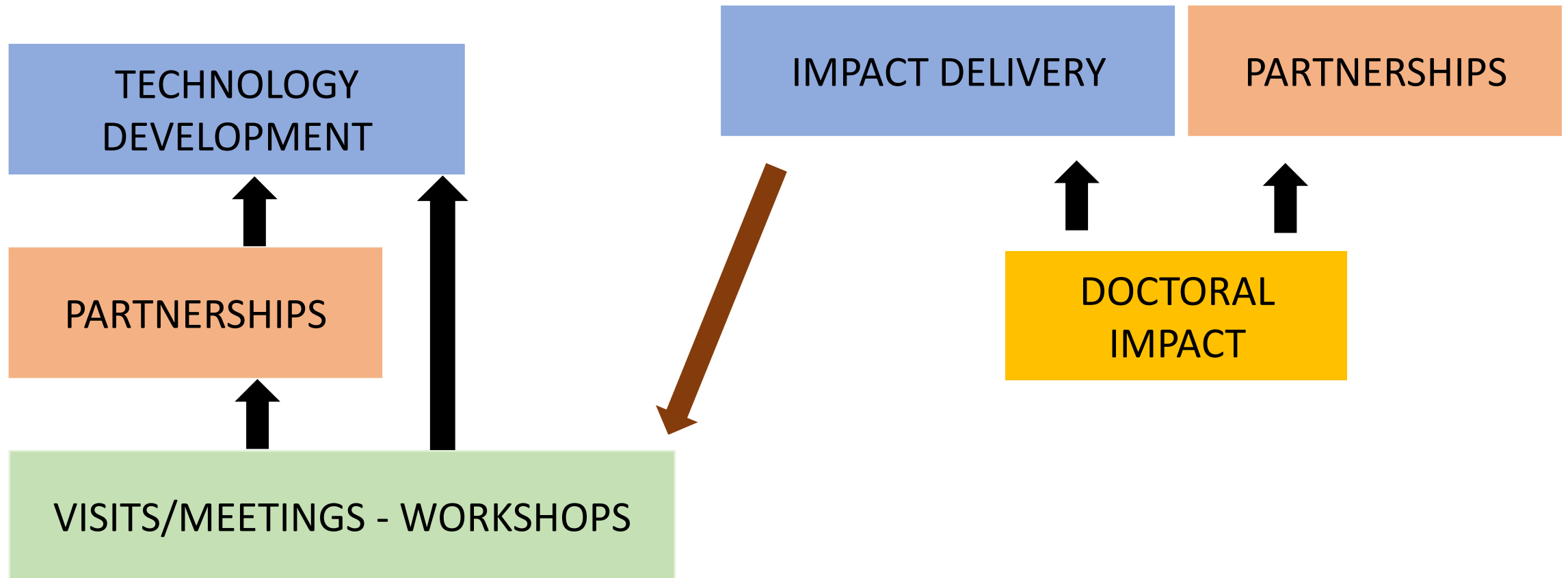
- For new DPhil graduates to achieve the impact of research through engagement with non-academic partners;
- Covers salary costs for up to six months and direct project support costs, travel and accommodation costs.

To be eligible you should have...

- Passed your Confirmation of Status examination;
- Be within 12 months of submission of your thesis.



# Next Steps | Progression | Scaling Up



# What helps your case

- A proposal that is written with clarity
- Project seems to genuinely be for the exploitation of the research findings, not just a little bit more of research.
- Has a good plan of action with project activities and collaborative visits.
- Involves a good idea, blending science and application/use.
- State the importance of this area as others may not be familiar with it.
- Provide sufficient information, e.g. what a "tool" will actually be, how it will work.

# Applications cover...

- Potential application areas for underpinning research, and the impact the technology / knowledge may have
- Barriers that the project will address
- Maturity of project...state of development, the IP position
- Details of user partner
- Follow-on work: what happens next after completion of the IAA
- Your approach to Responsible Research & Innovation
- Equality, Diversity & Inclusion and potential impact of project

# Assessment

## **Assessment criteria** (not in any priority order)

- Potential size of the impact - *could be financial or social*
- Risk involved in the project - *high risk not necessarily a negative...*
- Timescale to impact - *will the project reduce the lead time to impact?*
- Likelihood of impact
- Clarity of plan to achieve the project aims
- Good value? *Impact per £*

# Top Tips for Success

Discuss project with the IAA, OUI, Research Facilitator in advance...

- Must have underpinning engineering, physical science research
- Written with clarity, *and* with a non-specialist panel in mind
- Good fit to the call guidance
- External User/Partner involved in the project
- Include letter of support, clear milestones, justification for costs
- Clear proposition about what follows after IAA project ends

*Welcome to email draft application to MPLS in advance of deadline*

# Reasons why applications may fall short...

- proposes basic research
- lacks user or partner engagement
- subsidises partner's commercial R&D
- next steps after IAA not clear
- not underpinned by engineering, physical science research,
- not aligned with our EPS research portfolio
- not clear what external problem/challenge is being addressed
- lacks clearly defined focus area (and/or external partner) – if a project has plans beyond the IAA timeline, e.g. platform tech may involve many applications
- not written with clarity and a non-specialist panel in mind

# **SUBMIT APPLICATIONS BY**

## **7 February 2023, 16:00**

### **Remember....**

- Department's deadline may be different.
- Go through the Applicant Checklist