**IRC/SRI Small Grants for Impact and Knowledge Exchange Guidance**

Funding has been secured from the institutional HEIF (Higher Education Innovation Fund) allocation to support small starting grants for impact and knowledge exchange for Interdisciplinary Research Centres (IRCs) and Strategic Research Initiatives (SRIs).

The scheme is intended to provide funding to IRCs and SRIs to support engagement and knowledge exchange with research users and external non-academic partners, such as businesses, government and policy makers, civil society organisations, general public etc to help maximise impact from research.

If you have an idea and would like further support in developing an application please contact [impact@admin.cam.ac.uk](mailto:impact@admin.cam.ac.uk)

**Who can apply**

The scheme is open to all IRCs and SRIs. As of October 2023, these are:

* **IRCs:** Cambridge Academy of Therapeutic Sciences (CATS),Cardiovascular, Cancer, Conservation, Data-Driven Discovery, Energy, Engineering Biology, Global Challenges, Global Food Security, Infectious Diseases, Language Sciences, Neuroscience, Public Health, Stem Cells.

* **SRIs:**  Collections-Connections- Communities, Precision Health, Quantum and Advanced Materials for Sustainable Society (QAMSS), Reproduction.

Each application must be made jointly by the Director(s)/Chair(s) and Coordinator of the IRC/SRI.

**What you can apply for**

Grants will be awarded for specific activities that support the strategic aims of the IRC/SRI in relation to promoting and facilitating engagement with non-academic research users in knowledge exchange activities. Examples may include:

* Meetings / workshops to bring together academics and research users to develop contacts, discuss collaborative opportunities and facilitate knowledge exchange
* Engaging with research users – e.g. delivering activities with external partners within schools, work with museums or public engagement activities
* Work on creating equitable partnerships
* Secondments of researchers into research user organisations, or secondments of research users into the university
* Exhibitions and public engagement activities
* Skills training on knowledge exchange and similar professional development
* Pump-priming knowledge exchange activities
* Activities which aim to impact on policy, business and third sector practice, resources and/or procedure

These are only examples and suggestions. Funding can be sought for other eligible activities. If you would like to discuss your idea further please contact [impact@admin.cam.ac.uk](mailto:impact@admin.cam.ac.uk)

Funding cannot be used to support research activities.

**Funds Available**

Applications may be made for grants of £10,000 - £15,0000 (direct costs only).

**Please note that joint applications between IRC/SRIs is welcomed but each IRC/SRI may submit only one application for this call**

If projects include receiving or transferring funds to an external partner that the University has not worked with before, additional due diligence may be required. Further context on the University's due diligence process is available [here](https://www.research-operations.admin.cam.ac.uk/managing-research-projects/due-diligence-new-research-relationships).

If you have ideas that go beyond the scope of this call please contact the impact and knowledge exchange team to discuss at[impact@admin.cam.ac.uk](mailto:impact@admin.cam.ac.uk)

**Application Process**

Applications should be made using the application form and submitted via the [application system](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=RQSlSfq9eUut41R7TzmG6TeEJn5pOh5Ekp5pp_sCQUZUNFcyQ1IzRjYyVFhKR0lXUlBNV1BLMVNKNS4u)

The Fund will be open on a rolling basis with deadlines as follows:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Application deadline** | **For projects to start in** | **Maximum length of project** |
| 14th Dec 2023 | Feb 2024 | 6 months |
| 8th Feb 2024 | March 2024 | 4 months |
| 9th May 2024 | June 2024 | 2 months |

All funds should be spent by 31 July 2024.