IAA Impact Strategic Grant on Migration, Displacement, Minorities and Marginalisation – March 2024

Overview:
SOAS has successfully secured a 5-year, £1.25 million Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) Impact Acceleration Account (IAA) from 2023-2028, to develop impact in the areas of migration, displacement, minorities and marginalisation.

As part of this initiative, the IAA will offer four (4) rounds of competitive grants for collaborative projects between SOAS researchers and non-academic partners. The IAA funds projects that aim to create greater impact from ongoing or recently concluded SOAS research in the areas of migration, displacement, minorities and marginalisation, through stakeholder engagement. Stakeholders may be research partners or research users from the public, private or third sectors (e.g. commercial businesses, NGOs, policymakers, industry bodies, charities, heritage organisations, social enterprises, local councils, community organisations, creative practitioners, activists).

Defining Impact:

The IAA grant isn't a research grant, but an impact grant. This can include initial mapping/scoping activities or exercises to distil ongoing research to maximise its impact but cannot fund the commencement of a new research project.

All funded projects and activities should aim to:

- Build new, or strengthen existing, relationships with non-academic partners;
- Identify opportunities to scale-up and develop further partnerships including by evidencing potential uses/market for the research;
- Facilitate a two-way exchange of knowledge and/or skills with non-academic partners;
- Design measurable societal, cultural or economic impact activities;
- Set methods for assessing impact outputs;
- Ensure feasibility of the project's outcomes within a set budget and timeline.

The IAA advises applications of **£5,000 to £10,000** per project. All funds must be spent by **31 May 2025**.

Examples of supported impact activities include, but are not limited to:
- Running workshops or other collaborative activities designed to explore or develop an interactive knowledge transfer partnership that may lead to innovative commercialised outcomes and impacts.
- Producing materials (e.g. working papers, policy briefs, podcasts, arts-based outputs, educational toolkits, data visualisations, facilitated discussions, etc) or activities to enable stakeholders to apply your research findings in practice. Your IAA grant may support your research users to help you design this or pay for the services of a third-party supplier.
- Co-designing and delivering workshops with non-academic partners to increase specialist knowledge with practical application.
- Supporting non-academic stakeholders to engage with your existing body of research.

Eligibility: The scheme is open to all SOAS' staff members, including SOAS researchers, SOAS Research Associates, SOAS PhD students. Early Career Researchers are encouraged to apply. Non-academic partners are also encouraged to apply with a SOAS party as the lead of the project.

Criteria

Applications will initially be assessed for eligibility. All eligible proposals will be sent to a panel consisting of members of IAA team, a member of the IAA Internal Advisory Board, a member of the IAA External Advisory Board, a member of Professional Services and academics with engagement/ policy/ KE/ innovation in research experience.

Applications will be assessed on the following criteria:
- Potential for delivery of impact
- Depth of co-production and engagement with non-academic partners
- Strategic importance
- Novelty and timeliness of proposed activities
- Quality, feasibility and appropriateness of approach
- Cost effectiveness and appropriate use of funds

Reporting:

In addition to planned project outputs, all grantees are required to submit:
- a report on their activities by 30 June 2025
- a post for the IAA blog (500-700 words) covering the project impact on the grantee, the non-academic partner, and targeted population, if applicable, by 30 June 2025
- a financial reconciliation report by 30 June 2025, while expenses are expected to be reconciled with receipts throughout the project period
- a brief update on impact realised in April 2026 and April 2027.

Key Dates

Deadline: 1 May 2024
Notifications of application outcome: early June 2024

How to Apply

Complete the application form [here](#).

Please contact iaa@soas.ac.uk with any questions.