IAA Impact Rapid Response Grants 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 the first round of competitive Rapid Response grants on an ongoing basis from **March 2024 to October 2024.** 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).

The Rapid response grants are designed to address emerging topics and need for intervention arising either from policy change, new findings or topical and immediate need in new or existing areas of work. The intension is to sustain a nimble process to approve and allow work to start immediately when the grant is awarded.

Defining Impact:

The Rapid Response Grants aren't intended to fund new research, but for impact projects addressing emergent needs.

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 **£2,500 to £5,000** per project. All funds must be spent by **31 March 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 capacity development activities 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.

Assessment Criteria

Applications will initially be assessed for suitability and fit to the objectives of the Rapid Response call. All eligible proposals will be sent to a panel consisting of members of IAA team, a member of the IAA Internal (academics) and external (non-academic) Advisory Board, and academics with engagement/ policy/ KE/ innovation in research experience. Please refer to the timelines below for ongoing application and announcement schedule.

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 and element of response to emergent need
- 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:

- Attend a update meeting halfway through the project with the IAA Impact Developemnt Manager
- provide 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, at the end of the project.
- Provide a brief written update on impact realised in at the end of the project.

Please note that all receipts for project expenses should be kept for financial reconciliation.

Key Dates

RR Grant Announcement Date	Grant Application Closes	Panel Meets	Announcement Successful Grants
15th March 2024	1st of May 2024	W/C 13th May 2024	W/C 13th May 2024
1st of June 2024	12th July 2024	W/C 22nd July 2024	W/C 22nd July 2024
15th August 2024	27th of September 2024	W/C 14th October 2024	W/C 14th October 2024

How to Apply

Complete the application form here.

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