

IAA Impact STRATEGIC GRANT on Migration, Displacement, Minorities and Marginalisation – March 2026

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 is launching the third of four rounds of competitive **Strategic Grants** for collaborative impact projects between SOAS researchers and non-academic partners. The grants fund projects that aim to create enhanced impact from ongoing or recently concluded SOAS research work in the areas of migration, displacement, minorities and marginalisation, through stakeholder engagement.

Partners 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 Grant

The IAA grant is not a research grant, but an impact-focused grant. It may support initial mapping or 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;
- Develop measurable societal, cultural or economic impact activities;
- Design 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 2027**.

Examples of supported impact activities include, but are not limited to:

- Co-designing and delivering workshops with non-academic partners to increase specialist knowledge with practical application.
- 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.¹ Your IAA grant may support your research users to help you design this or pay for relevant services of a third-party supplier.
- Supporting non-academic partners to engage with your existing body of research.

¹ Please note that outputs such as these are not impact in and of themselves, and you should include a plan to ensure they reach their targeted audiences.

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 engagement with non-academic partners
- Clarity of impact measurement approach
- 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 the following:

- a report on their activities including evidence of impact by 30 June 2027
- 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 2027
- a financial reconciliation report by 30 June 2027, while expenses are expected to be reconciled with receipts throughout the project period
- a brief update on impact realised in April 2028 and April 2029.

Other Requirements:

- Grantees are also required to participate at the ESRC Festival of Social Science in November 2026 by running a public engagement workshop to showcase their research impact project to a non-academic audience.
- Grantees required to attend one of the RKED Impact training sessions during the grant period.

Key Dates

Deadline: **30 April 2026**

Notifications of application outcome: first week of June 2026

How to Apply

All applicants should read through the [IAA FAQs](#) prior to submission to understand our framing of impact. Prospective applicants are recommended to attend the *IAA Grant Celebration & New Call Launch* held on 12 March 2026. To attend, register [here](#).

Complete the [Application form](#).

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