MRC and BBSRC IAAs FAQs

Table of Contents

What is the purpose of IAA funding?

The MRC and BBSRC IAAs aim to accelerate the transition from discovery research through to creating impact. It is aimed at projects at proof-of concept stage, seeking support for further development towards impact generation. IAAs can support (i) the de-risking of innovations with a view to securing larger translational grants or external investment, (ii) partnership development with academic, private and third-sector organisations, (iii) provide training, up-skilling or researcher mobility opportunities, and (iv) develop the MVLS technology and innovation pipeline.

What types of projects do the IAAs fund?

Research can be done in the laboratory, office, clinic, or field, and may involve experimental or theoretical approaches. Partnership development projects can involve new academic, industry or third sector organisations, with a view to enabling knowledge exchange, events, and collaborations towards impact generation. Research mobility projects support the flow of people and expertise between the University and partner organisations to allow for skills and technology/policy development. IAAs can also be used to support business case creation and market assessments.

Applicants are encouraged to contact the Translational Research Initiative (TRI) with any queries on the relevance of your project to grant requirements.

How do I apply?

To apply for either grant, please complete the application form and submit your proposal (both pdf and word document) via email to mvls-innovation@glasgow.ac.uk. Applicants are strongly encouraged to contact TRI MT to assess opportunities within their project prior to applying.

Who will evaluate my project?

The TRI Review Panel, part of the TRI Management Team, will assess your application along with the University's IP & Commercialisation team.

Can I discuss my application before I apply?

Yes, all applicants are strongly encouraged to discuss their application with the TRI prior to applying to ensure the project is suitable and at the appropriate stage for funding. Please contact mvls-innovation@glasgow.ac.uk to express your interest in applying and to discuss your application.

Can I make several Translational Award applications at once?

Yes, we will consider each application. However, PIs will be required to demonstrate adequate time commitments for each.

Are there multiple stages to the application?

No, there is one application stage. For further advice or opportunity development reviews prior to submission, please contact mvls-innovation@glasgow.ac.uk.

What does the fund cover?

For full details, please see the TRI MRC and BBSRC IAA funding webpages.

What does the fund not cover?

The MRC and BBSRC IAAs are not intended to support:

- Administration costs or industrial partner costs;
- Staff between posts/funding (i.e. as "bridging" funds), or PhD/Masters studentships;
- Continuation of normal research grants;

- Costs relating to the protection of intellectual property.

What is the typical length of a project?

Objectives within development IAA projects can be between 6 - 12 months in duration. Mobility projects can last up to 6 months.

Should I ask for a specific amount and how much can I be awarded?

IAA projects can typically fund to a maximum of £80k per project, depending on objectives and funding council remit. Partnership development projects can be up to £20k; event and mobility applications can be up to £10k per project. The specific amount should be in accordance to the breakdown of budget proposal in your application form.

How will my application be assessed?

Applications will be assessed on the demonstration of how the fund would facilitate the development of your project, as well as the suitability of the project remit in line with UKRI objectives and the translational stage of the project. All applicants will be asked to demonstrate how their project fits within the respective remit of MRC or BBSRC, depending on the funding stream they wish to apply for.

The assessment is based on a summary of knowledge and technology in development and project status with supporting evidence, including key timeline, milestones, success criteria and go no-go points as well as risk mitigation plans. A clear translational focus must be evident throughout your application. Desired future plans to support project progression past its completion towards achieving longer term impact should also be detailed, where appropriate, e.g. larger translational funds, private investment, policy implementation etc.

Do I need to have match funding in place before applying?

No, match funding is not necessary. However, in-kind and in-cash contributions as well as applications to other funding bodies are encouraged.

How do you measure performance?

Key milestones of your project's progression along the translational pathway and risk mitigation will be agreed upon between you and the TRI Management Team. Spending will be checked regularly along with a submission of quarterly progress reports and meetings for the duration of the funding. Successful applicants will be asked to report project outcomes, via the TRI, to the UKRI and via Researchfish.

Do you support projects that are already working with NHS, industry and/or commercialisation partners?

Public, private and third-sector collaborations are viewed strongly by the TRI panel. Applications involving external partners should demonstrate the value and contributions each partner brings to the project.

If my application is unsuccessful, are there future rounds of translational funding I can apply for?

Please see the TRI funding pages for regular updates, or contact the TRI team.

I am developing a healthcare technology in an area that's not commercially attractive; can I apply?

Yes, we encourage applicants with projects that are impactful within healthcare. Projects can also be relevant to policy changes or be interdisciplinary in nature. Where appropriate, partnerships with non-governmental organizations or public-private partnerships are also encouraged, but not required when applying.

My university spin-out company is looking for funding. Should I apply for an IAA?

IAAs cannot be used to support private companies. Such funds may, however, be used to support a pre-spinout venture at UofG. Please contact the TRI team or the IP & Commercialisation teams to discuss further.

What is your policy on publishing results from Translation Award projects?

Typically, the mechanism of protection of any findings arising from the project depends on the nature of the work being conducted and the anticipated outcomes in terms of

impact generation. Some projects aiming at policy development or social interventions may not give rise to intellectual property assets. In contrast, projects focused on developing new technologies, therapeutics, or medical devices may generate commercially valuable data or innovations that need to be protected in order to provide exclusive rights to the inventors or creators of that property and enable them to pursue commercial benefits from their creative efforts. In such cases, intellectual property arising from the project would be put in place prior to publishing. See the [UKRI publishing guidance](#), [MRC and BBSRC Intellectual Property Arrangements](#) and the University of Glasgow's [Intellectual Property Policy](#) for further details.

The Grant holder must consult the TRI in the first instance and the relevant funding body media office before releasing any announcements, press statements or other media presentation concerning the award.

Does UKRI expect a share of revenues or equity if a technology is commercially successful?

MRC and BBSRC do not own any intellectual property generated by research they fund unless it is conducted in their institutes and units. For research conducted at UofG, this belongs to the researchers, UofG, and any involved partners doing the work. For further information, please contact the [TRI](#) and see the University of Glasgow's [Business and Innovation pages](#) for more details.

Do I need The University of Glasgow's consent to exploit MRC/BBSRC funded intellectual property?

Yes, please contact the [IP & Commercialisation team](#) for more details.

Are inventors rewarded for MRC/BBSRC funded intellectual property that's exploited?

Please see [University of Glasgow IP Policy](#).

How quickly will I hear back about my application?

Applicants will be notified of the preliminary decision via email in the first instance. This process will take approximately one month after the submission deadline. Award

Letters can be provided, if requested. Please contact the TRI to request your Award Letter.

Will I receive feedback from my application?
Yes, all applicants will receive feedback on their application, regardless of outcome.

Is there a particular management structure for award funded employees?
Staff funded through MRC and BBSRC IAAS, such as Research Associates and Enterprise Associates, will be jointly managed by both the grant holder and the TRI MT. The supporting PI of the project must be responsible for ensuring grant conditions are met.

Is a staff ID number required?
Yes, the project PI and all internal collaborators are required to provide their name, job title, email, college & school/service/unit, and staff number in the application form for EDI monitoring purposes.

Can we joint-fund across IAAs within the college?
Yes. For multidisciplinary projects spanning across different remits of UKRI funding councils, cross-funding may be available. Cross-funding is available among all UKRI funding awards held by UofG, including MRC, BBSRC, EPSRC, AHRC, ESRC and STFC. Please contact the MRC & BBSRC IAA manager, Dr Louise Mason to discuss your project and explore cross-funding opportunities.