

## **Responsible Research and Innovation Guidance for IAA Applicants**

### **1.1. Introduction:**

Consideration of Responsible Research and Innovation (RRI) is an important component of UKRI IAA awards. This guidance is intended to support project planning and underpin meaningful engagement with non-academic partners and stakeholders.

### **1.2. Our working definition of RRI:**

*‘RRI is a process that aims to enable positive societal impact by addressing potential unintended or negative impacts and mitigating associated risks.*

*It encourages exploring the perspectives of research users, partners and stakeholders, and meaningfully incorporating them into the design of projects.*

*RRI requires ongoing consideration of power dynamics and open dialogue around community needs—including social, cultural, economic and physical sensitivities—to ensure equitable and mutually-beneficial collaborations.*

*RRI does not exist in isolation; it is inherently linked to good research culture and considerations of ethics, EDI, PPI and sustainability’.*

### **1.3. General advice and key questions to consider:**

Be specific, rather than simply referring to institutional or external RRI policies, indicate how these will be applied in *your* project.

Below are some key questions for applicants to consider and suggested approaches in relation to the working definition of RRI provided:

### **1.4. Considering unintended or negative impacts and associated risks:**

<b>Questions to consider</b>	<b>Suggested approach</b>
<i>Have you taken steps to determine any unintended or negative impacts associated with this project?</i>	<i>Number and list potential unintended or negative impacts in the RRI section of your application.</i>
<i>Have you considered how you’ll mitigate associated risks?</i>	<i>Be upfront, acknowledge risks within your work packages and include appropriate mitigations.</i>

**1.5. Considering research users, partners and stakeholders:**

Questions to consider	Suggested approach
<i>Have you taken active steps to explore the perspectives of your partners, stakeholders or intended users of the product or service that your project will develop?</i>	<i>Explain how you've engaged them in the development of this project and how their views are represented in the design of your project plan. If possible, capture in a letter of support.</i>

**1.6. Considering power dynamics and community needs:**

Questions to consider	Suggested approach
<i>Who holds the power in this project? (e.g. are there disparities in terms of the resources available, financial contributions, or Global North/South dynamics)?</i>	<i>Explain how these power dynamics may affect your partners' ability to raise issues or flag concerns about the project. Factor these issues into your communication strategy.</i>
<i>Are there any social, cultural, economic or physical sensitivities to consider with regards to your project partners, stakeholders or intended users?</i>	<i>Demonstrate that your project is aware of these issues and explain how it will adapt and respond to potentially changing community needs.</i>
<i>Are the contributions of your partners fully recognised?</i>	<i>Ensure that both cash and in-kind contributions are acknowledged. Quantify in-kind contributions wherever possible.</i>
<i>Who will own the outputs and Intellectual Property (IP) generated through this project?</i>	<i>Discuss openly with project partners from the outset, especially with commercial projects, or when using terms such as 'co-production'.</i>

**1.7. Additional resources:**

- Advice on RRI is available from your [local IAA team](#)
- To discuss matters relating to IP, please contact the [UofG IP&C Team](#)
- [UofG Research & Innovation Services: a short guide to RRI](#)
- [UKRI Guidance on RRI](#)
- [TAS RRI prompts and practice cards](#)
- [Orbit RRI training](#)