

# ESRC Accelerating Business Collaborations

## Guidance Notes

### Introduction

The Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) has made funding available to build the capacity and capability of social science doctoral students and early career researchers (ECRs) to engage with business. The Accelerating Business Collaboration (ABC) funding will be delivered via the Oxford ESRC Impact Acceleration Account (IAA) and the Grand Union Doctoral Training Partnership (GUDTP).

This funding is intended to provide PhD candidates and ECRs with an opportunity to enhance their research and collaboration skills by engaging with a UK business partner. The objective is to support the growth of a cohort of talented individuals with transferable skills and encourage knowledge exchange between social science researchers and business.

Funding for this scheme **must be spent by** 28 February 2021.

Grants are typically expected to be in the area of £2,000 to £4,000.

Enquiries are welcome at any time; contact details provided at the end of this document.

### Eligibility

This funding is available to social science PhD candidates and ECRs from:

Brunel University London, Oxford Brookes University, The Open University, University of Oxford and University of Reading.

Researchers do not need to be currently funded by the ESRC to be eligible. Applicants’ area of research must align with the ESRC remit.

For the purposes of this scheme, an ECR is defined as a researcher within five years of the completion of their doctorate, excluding career breaks. If you do not meet this criteria but think you should be considered an ECR, please contact us.

Researchers on visas should contact their University visa office first to discuss whether undertaking a PhD placement or a project outside a post-doctoral contract will be compatible with their visa requirements.

A UK-based business organisation is required as a partner/host for projects/placements to be eligible for funding under this scheme. Such organisations include but are not limited to consultancies, companies, corporates, industry etc. For the purposes of the scheme, a business is defined as a private sector organisation operating for profit. Government and charities are not eligible host/partner organisations for this scheme.

### Project proposal

Funds can be requested to:

* Do a PhD placement with business, working with an organisation for up to 3 months
* Build and broker potential partnerships and networks with businesses
* Enable knowledge exchange with business
* Engagement and impact activities that involve business
* Scoping of future research projects involving business collaboration
* Do a collaborative research project with a business organisation

### Application process

Complete the application form and submit it via email. Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis and we will aim to notify you of the outcome within up to ten working days.

The application form requires a financial breakdown of the project. It also requires a letter of support from your PhD supervisor or Principal Investigator/Research Director (or equivalent) and the partner organisation.

### Selection criteria

* How far the activity meets the requirement for genuine research-based knowledge exchange or collaboration with a business/industry partner
* The likely benefit to the researcher’s area of expertise and/or their broader development
* The capacity of the activity to be beneficial to the host organisation
* Feasibility – whether the project aims can be completed in the expected timeframe
* Value for money

### Contact and further information

For inquiries, please contact Dr Denitsa Filipova, Postgraduate Placements Officer at: denitsa.filipova@socsci.ox.ac.uk