

## ***IAA Impact Strategic Grant on Migration, Displacement, Minorities and Marginalisation – February 2025***

### **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 now offering the second of four rounds of competitive grants for collaborative projects between SOAS researchers and non-academic partners. 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).

### **Defining Impact:**

The IAA grant isn't a research grant, but an impact grant. This can include initial mapping/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;
- 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 **£5,000 to £10,000** per project. All funds must be spent by **31 May 2026**.

### **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.<sup>1</sup> Your IAA grant may support your research users to help you design this or pay for the services of a third-party supplier.

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<sup>1</sup> 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.

- 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.

### **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 co-production and engagement with non-academic partners
- Strategic importance to the underlying research
- 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:

- a report on their activities including evidence of impact by 30 June 2026
- 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 2026
- a financial reconciliation report by 30 June 2026, while expenses are expected to be reconciled with receipts throughout the project period
- a brief update on impact realised in April 2027 and April 2028.

### **Other requirements:**

Grantees are also invited to participate at the ESRC Festival of Social Science in 2026 by running a public engagement workshop to showcase their research impact project to a non-academic audience.

### **Key Dates**

Deadline: **23 April 2025**

Notifications of application outcome: end of May 2025

### **How to Apply**

All applicants should read through the [IAA FAQs](#) prior to submission. Prospective applicants are recommended to attend the IAA workshop "Designing an IAA Impact Project" held on 19 March 2025. To attend, register [here](#).

[Complete the application form here.](#)

Please contact [iaa@soas.ac.uk](mailto:iaa@soas.ac.uk) with any questions.