**Queen Mary Impact Fund**

**Internal Funding Competition for Impact Generation, Collaboration and Commercialisation Activities**

 **Closing Date: Wednesday 15 December 2021**

**Expression of Interest Form**

Are you looking for help to generate impact from your research? Are you working on an early stage commercialisation project that needs help to grow and attract external funding?

This Queen Mary Impact Fund (QMIF) competition is for funding awards to support researchers to undertake projects focused on:

* commercial impact (e.g., early stage commercialisation, collaborations with industry partners);
* non-commercial impact (e.g., policy change, societal impact, end user engagement)
* knowledge exchange (e.g., incoming or outgoing placements/secondments); and
* new, innovative, and imaginative approaches to knowledge exchange and impact.

Awards will be streamed in ‘small’ projects of up to £10,000 and ‘large’ projects with an indicative maximum of up to £50,000 per project. Where the assessment panel determines project costings require an upward or downward variation to optimise impact outcomes, we reserve the right to make these changes in the awarding process.

Guidance notes for completing this Expression of Interest are below the form.

Please note that if you have previously received QMI Proof of Concept or IAA funds, you will need to demonstrate you have successfully met milestones within the previously-funded projects. We reserve the right to exclude applicants who cannot prove this success.

We expect projects to start shortly after decisions have been communicated.

If your project is funded, we would expect you would to generate a REF impact case study and to prepare case studies for other organisations such as the relevant research councils.

If you wish to discuss your application prior to submission, please email: **impact-acceleration@qmul.ac.uk**

**Expressions of Interest should be submitted to impact-acceleration@qmul.ac.uk by 17:00 on Wednesday 15 December 2021.**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Applicant(s): |   |
| Email: |  |
| School: |  |
| Project Title: |  |
| Project Start Date & Duration: |  |
| Total QMIF award funds requested (up to indicative max. of £50,000: |  |
| Award Stream (tick one): | Small (to £10,000)  |  |
| Large (to £50,000) |  |
| Please indicate the type of project you are applying for:(Definitions provided in Guidelines for Applicants) | **Primary Impact proposed** | **Please tick only one box** |
| Commercial impact - e.g., spin-out company, license for novel technologies that are commercially viable. |  |
| Non-commercial impact - e.g., policy change, impact on society, cultural impact, health impact. |  |
| We welcome applications from all research areas. However, if your research falls within the remit of the following funding councils please tick all that apply: | **ARHC** | **BBSRC** | **EPSRC** | **MRC** | **STFC** |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| Will this project involve work with an overseas entity (e.g., a person or organisation)? (Y/N) |  |
| If you answered ‘Y’ to the above question, please list overseas entity/entities involved:  |  |

|  |
| --- |
| **Describe the impact you plan to generate (e.g. economic; societal, cultural, policy change, health):***Outline the current unmet need for generating impact you want to address using referenced third party material where appropriate. Describe the problem you are trying to solve (300 words).* |
|  |

|  |
| --- |
| **How the project will address the above impact opportunity:** *Briefly outline your underpinning research or expertise. State what you believe to be the unique and novel aspect of this research/expertise that addresses the impact opportunity described above. Include a summary of results to date as appropriate (300 words).*  |
|  |

|  |
| --- |
| **Describe the expected outcomes:** *List the expected outcomes and describe your plans to achieve them. Include details about timelines, who you plan to work with, and how you will measure and record success. (300 words)* |
|  |

|  |
| --- |
| **Project Plan and Milestones:***State how much funding is needed. Outline what you are planning to do with the impact funding. What will you achieve (milestones and deliverables)? (600 words)* |
|  |

|  |
| --- |
| **Sustainability / routes to achieving impact:***What stages are required after this project to realise the impact? Where will the next funding come from to further commercially validate your technology or sustain your project? (200 words)* |
|  |

|  |
| --- |
| **Collaboration / commercial interest:***State any collaborators providing their role and contribution to the project. List any commercially relevant information such as public disclosures that might invalidate an IP position, relevant historic contracts, or agreements already in place or interest shown by external organisations, including expressions of interest, testimonials, or letters of support. (300 words)* |
|  |

|  |
| --- |
| **Previous internal IAA or Proof of Concept funding:***List any previous internal impact funding you have held (IAA/Proof of Concept), providing details of funding period, amount and a description of project and whether or not you were able to meet your milestones. If not, please explain why. State whether the new proposal relates to any of these previously funded projects. (500 words)* |
|  |

**Guidance Notes**

**General:**

*Describe the impact you plan to generate*

Describe the impact opportunity you propose to address. Please indicate:

* the size of the target audience; and
* details of existing solution(s), highlighting why it/they are substandard.

In other words, what is the current unmet need?

*How your impact project will address the above opportunity*

Describe how you will apply your research to address the opportunity. Please explain how this application of your research is novel and will address the above unmet need(s) in a satisfactory manner.

Describe any preliminary data and state how they support this impact project.

*Describe the expected outcomes*

Describe your impact plans including type of outcome (commercial, policy, health, arts and culture, environmental, services), timelines, roles of collaborators or supporting staff (e.g., QMI, Business Development, Impact Team, Centre for Public Engagement) and deliverables.

*Project Plan and Milestones summary*

Provide a clear and concise summary of the project. Include a description of how much funding is required and what this funding will be used for.

State the project milestones clearly. These milestones will be used to characterise project progress following successful applications.

Any applications which progress beyond the EoI will need to be supported by a Worktribe costing.

*Sustainability/routes to impact*

Because of the size of the funding, we anticipate there may be further activity needed to consolidate your impact.

How will you seek funding or resource to continue this work? Where will the next stage of funding come from to sustain your project?

*Previous impact funding*

If you have previously received QMI Proof of Concept or Impact Acceleration Account funds, you need to demonstrate that you have successfully met your milestones for your previous project.

If you have not received any QMI Proof of Concept or IAA funds, please put ‘n/a’.

**Specific guidance by type of funding:**

**Early-stage commercialisation**

Note that for early-stage commercialisation projects QMI will additionally have to ensure that a) the Intellectual Property (IP) is either owned by Queen Mary, or Queen Mary has the appropriate commercialisation rights; b) there are no restrictive rights to the IP granted to other parties; and c) where appropriate the IP is protectable by a patent.

*‘How the project will address the above opportunity?’*

Describe your proposed technology solution to this ‘problem’, including any underpinning research or existing expertise. When answering this question, you may wish to consider the following points (depending on the nature of the solution):

* why your solution is superior to existing solutions (the competition);
* the novel/inventive aspect of your technology or solution;
* the activity, experimentation, and data generated thus far which substantiates your concept (with comparisons to current solutions if available);
* (if applicable) the current status of the IP. Is there an existing Queen Mary patent filing? If not, is it anticipated that the project may become the subject of a new patent application? What other forms of Intellectual Property Rights protect your invention?
* Why are QMUL researchers well placed to address the market opportunity?

For help assessing the target technology readiness level (TRL), please email: impact-acceleration@qmul.ac.uk

*Collaboration/Commercial Interest*

Provide an overview of any direct collaborators on the project. State their expected role and contribution within the project. Describe evidentiary documentation they supplied to confirm their expected role and contribution.

**Business/end user engagement and Secondments/Placements**

This funding scheme can be used to support all types of impact, including economic, societal and policy impacts (but excluding academic impact).

*Collaboration/Commercial Interest*

Please provide an overview of any direct collaborators on the project and their role and contribution within the project.