**Queen Mary Impact Fund**

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

**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 develop your ideas and attract external funding?

If the answer to any of the above is ‘yes!’ then the Queen Mary Impact Fund can provide support for researchers carrying out projects with a focus 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 (placements/secondments), and
* new, innovative and imaginative approaches to knowledge exchange and impact.

We anticipate funding up to twelve projects of £10k-£50k across all the categories.

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

Please note that if you have previously received QMI Proof of Concept or Impact Acceleration Account funds, you will need to demonstrate that you have successfully met milestones of from the previously funded projects and we reserve the right to exclude applicants where this in not the case.

You will be expected to participate in reporting and write impact case studies for REF and EPRSC and STFC, who part-support the Impact Fund.

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 5PM, Monday, 1 February 2021.**

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| Applicant(s): |   |
| Email: |  |
| School: |  |
| Project Title: |  |
| Project Start Date & Duration: |  |
| Funds requested  | **Funding Scheme** | **Please tick as appropriate** |
| Small Award (~£10k) |  |
| Large Award (up to £50k) |  |
| Please indicate what 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 |  |
| IAA eligible? (Y/N) |  |

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| **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).* |
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| **How will the project address the above impact opportunity:** *Briefly outline the underpinning research or expertise, and what you believe to be the unique and novel aspect that addresses the impact opportunity described above. Include a summary of results to date as appropriate (300 words).*  |
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| **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 success (300 words).*  |
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| **Project Plan and Milestones:***Outline what you are planning to do with the impact funding. What you will achieve (milestones and deliverables) and how much funding is needed? (600 words)`* |
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| **Sustainability / Routes to Achieving Impact:***What stages are required after this project to realise the impact? Specifically where will the next funding come from to further commercially validate your technology or sustain your project? (200 words)* |
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| **Collaboration / Commercial Interest:***State any collaborators providing their role and contribution to the project. Also 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)* |
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| **Previous Internal Impact (IAA) or Proof of Concept funding:***List any previous internal impact funding you have held (Proof of Concept / IAA), 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. Please state whether the new proposal relates to any of these previously funded projects. (500 words)* |
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**Guidance Notes**

**General:**

*IAA eligible?*

Please put ‘Yes’ only if (i) your proposal takes forward research outputs from STFC funded work, **or** (ii) your proposal takes forward research outputs from research that fits into the EPSRC remit and/or addresses EPSRC grand challenges, **or** (iii) you are a Turing Fellow.

*Describe the impact you plan to generate*

Describe the impact opportunity that you are proposing 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 problem and how is it addressed (albeit unsatisfactorily) currently - what is the current unmet need?

*How will the project address the above opportunity*

Describe how your research will address the opportunity. Please explain how it is novel and will address the problem in a satisfactory manner or a better way than how it is address currently i.e how will your project address the current unmet need identified in the section above?

Please also describe any preliminary data and how they support the project.

*Describe the expected outcomes*

Please 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, the required funding and what it will be used for. Make clear what the project milestones will be. Any applications which progress beyond the EoI will have to be supported by a Worktribe costing.

*Sustainability/Routes to Impact*

Because of the size of the funding, we anticipate that 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 nor 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 will the project 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 you believe your solution is superior to existing solutions (the competition);
* what you believe to be the novel/inventive aspect of your technology or solution;
* the activity, experimentation and data generated to date which substantiates your concept (with comparisons to current solutions if available);
* (if applicable) what is 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 Right 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*

Please list any commercially relevant info 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*.*

**Business/end user engagement**

You will only be eligible to apply for Business/User Engagement and Secondments if your project is related to EPSRC or STFC funding (including projects linked to Alan Turing Institute fellowships). 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.

**Secondments/Placements**

You will only be eligible to apply for Business/User Engagement and Secondments if your project is related to EPSRC or STFC funding (including projects linked to Alan Turing Institute fellowships). 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.