

International Impact Fund 2023-2024.

Programme Funding and Purpose

The University of Essex has achieved Quality Related (QR) funding based on its performance in the Research Excellence Framework 2021 (REF2021) evaluation exercise. The University has allocated some of this funding to support impact projects ahead of REF2028. This support includes the International Impact Fund.

The International Impact Fund is for University of Essex academic staff from any School or Department to undertake projects that will realise impact outside the United Kingdom. The Fund will support work based in the United Kingdom so long as most of the impact the project and any ensuring work realise will occur outside of the country. It will consider applications for up to **£10,000** per project. The Fund does not support basic research. It does support co-produced research led by external, non-academic partners' needs.

For this call priority will be given to projects that can support Impact Case Study development ahead of REF2028. Examples of international impact include:

- International networking, partnership building, events, and engagement leading to impact.
- New research activity co-produced with policymakers, particularly to better understand local, regional or national challenges overseas.
- Implementing changes to policies or services overseas.
- Staff exchanges and visiting fellowships (in both directions) to support capacity and capability building, then developing our relationships and exchange of knowledge.
- Building environmental, social, judicial, or economic benefits in developing countries.
- Activities to extend and / or evaluate existing impact.

For advice on impact and Impact Case Studies, please contact your faculty's Research Impact Officer.

All funds awarded must be spent by **31 July 2024**.

Which Costs are Eligible?

Most direct project costs are eligible. Indirect costs are not eligible.

Eligible direct costs include Research Assistant salaries, activities related to co-produced research and data collection, engagement with stakeholders, training and development events, workshops, and travel. Teaching buyout and O/A publishing charges are not eligible.

Projects may have to pay 'Reverse Charge VAT'. Any goods or services brought into the UK will be subject to VAT paid by the customer. It is called 'Reverse Charge' because sellers are responsible for paying VAT in domestic transactions. The Reverse Charge VAT is paid at the normal rate, usually 20 per cent. The payment will be part of your project's direct costs and needs to be budgeted for.

An example of Reverse Charge VAT would be consultancy work undertaken overseas for an Essex academic who then writes a report based on the work. If the base cost of the work was £2500, the project would also need to pay 20 per cent Reverse Charge VAT into our HMRC VAT account. The total cost to the project would be £2500 plus £500 = £3000. For more, email tax@essex.ac.uk.

How to Apply

The competition opens on 3 July 2023. The deadline for applications is 5pm on **31 July 2023**.

Please complete the application form before sending it by email to impact-programmes@essec.ac.uk. Queries and requests for indicative costs can be directed to this email address. Applications will be reviewed by a panel of senior academic and REO staff. Outcomes are expected to be communicated w/c 7 August 2023.

Post Award Processes

Successful proposals will receive a 7-character departmental cost code to spend against. The code will only function to 31 July 2024. No spending is permitted after those dates. There is no facility to roll unspent funds into the next financial year.

Award holders must report on their projects at a half-way point. They must also provide an end-of-project report. The end-of-project report will be for submission by the end of September 2024. Both the half-way and end-of-project reports must explain how the funding is contributing to REF2028 Impact Case Study development.

If your project involves human participants, it may need ethical approval before a cost code can be issued. See the University's [guidance on obtaining ethical approval](#) for research involving human participants. You will be responsible for obtaining ethical approval for your project. Please contact REO-Governance@essex.ac.uk for additional advice.