

Arts and Humanities Impact Accelerator 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 for competitions to support impact projects ahead of REF2028.

The Arts and Humanities Impact Fund is a competition intended for University of Essex academic staff from any School or Department to undertake projects that will realise Impact for potential submission to the REF2028 Main Panel D disciplines or Law (which is returned to Main Panel C). The Fund will consider applications for up to **£10,000** per project.

Impact is defined as ‘an effect on, change or benefit to the economy, society, culture, public policy or services, health, the environment or quality of life beyond academia’. Think of Impact as measurable benefits accruing beyond academia and caused by your research. Please consider how you will measure and evidence the Impact your project generates.

Please note that dissemination of research is not considered to be Impact by itself. The Fund privileges Impact over ‘early-stage’ engagement, co-production, and relationship building. It will only support the ‘early-stage’ activities if they are part of clear, plausible, and well-scheduled Impact plans. Any co-production plans must articulate their engagement processes and Impact objectives with clarity. The Fund does not support basic research (also known as primary, discovery, or curiosity-driven research).

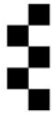
The competition prioritises projects that can support Arts and Humanities Impact Case Study development ahead of REF2028. For advice on Impact and Impact Case Studies, please contact your faculty’s Research Impact Officer.

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

Who is Eligible to Apply?

The scheme is open to all University of Essex academic staff, with minor exceptions asterisked below. For all applicants, the underpinning research must fall within the Arts and Humanities disciplinary remit. The remit is defined as disciplines offered by the University’s Faculty of Arts and Humanities as submitted to REF2021 and disciplines, marked below with asterisks, for potential submission to REF2028. The asterisked disciplines are for Faculty staff only.

- English Language and Literature
- History
- Philosophy
- Art and Design: History, Practice, and Theory
- Music, Drama, Dance, Performing Arts, Film, and Screen Studies
- Law



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- Leisure and Tourism*
- Geography and Environmental Studies*

*Exclusively for academic staff who may be returned to REF2028 through Edge Hotel School or another Faculty of Arts and Humanities school / department.

Which Costs are Eligible?

Most direct project costs are eligible. Indirect costs are not eligible. Travel costs are only approved if they are explicitly related to Impact generation.

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

Research Assistant salaries are paid on the University salary scales. Be aware that costs given in the published University salary scales do not include the University's contribution to the employee's National Insurance (approx. 10 %) and pension (approx. 22%). These costs must be paid from the project budget in addition to the base, taxable pay. Please contact the Impact Programmes team for an accurate salary costing.

Any projects with an overseas element or supplier may have to pay 'Reverse Charge VAT'. Any overseas goods or services brought into the UK will be subject to VAT paid by the customer, not the seller. It is called 'Reverse Charge' in this situation because sellers are usually 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 the University's HMRC VAT account. The total cost to the project would be £2500 plus £500 = £3000. For more information, email tax@essex.ac.uk.

How to Apply to the Arts and Humanities Impact Fund

The competition opens on 4 September 2023. The deadline for applications is 5pm on **2 October 2023**.

Please complete the application form before sending it by email to impact-programmes@essex.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 16 October 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 31 July 2024. 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. The REO will provide templates for these reports.

Award holders can raise queries and request support by contacting their Departmental Management or by writing to impact-programmes@essex.ac.uk as needed.

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.