

Pathways to Impact

In the Impact Summary, you will have outlined who potential beneficiaries might be, and how the research might impact them. The Pathways to Impact allows you the platform to illustrate (within two sides of A4) what you will actually do to assist this. Ideally the Pathways to Impact attachment is unique to users and beneficiaries of the research out with the academic research domain. That being said, plans for academic impact may be included where this forms part of the critical pathway towards economic and societal impact.

In summary, the plan should describe the kinds of impact envisaged, how the proposed research project will be managed in order to engage users and beneficiaries and increase the likelihood of impacts, including (wherever appropriate):

- methods for communications and engagement,
- collaboration and exploitation in the most effective and appropriate manner
- the project team's track record in this area
- the resources required for these activities (also to be captured in the financial summary and the Justification of Resources).

Resources/Costs:

You can request any eligible project-specific resources. However, general activities that are arranged at the level of the department, school or university (for instance, industry open days) would not be eligible.

There is no maximum funding limit for activities within Pathways to Impact provided that they are fully justified in the Justification of Resources section of the Je-S proforma. Details of these costs (including relevant staff costs) should be provided in the financial resources section of the Je-S proforma (under the standard FEC headings) and should also be clearly identified in the Pathways to Impact document itself.

The costs of activities aimed at developing pathways to impact and engaging with beneficiaries can be included within the full economic costs of grants (subject to any scheme funding limits as applicable). Impact activities that are funded will be funded at 80%, but note that Pathways to Impact will not be funded as stand-alone activities.

Similarly, in some cases, the duration requested may need to be extended to accommodate activities included within the Pathways to Impact. Any costs or additional time requested in applications for such activities should be fully justified in the application and will be subject to value for money considerations in the assessment of applications in the same way as other directly incurred costs.

In some cases impact-related activities will involve collaboration, support in kind or co-funding from partner organisations. However, it is recognised that this is not always possible or appropriate and so co-funding is not a requirement for seeking costs for impact-related activities within grant applications. Details of partner contributions to the costs of impact activities may be included in Pathways to Impact or in a letter of support but should not be included in the requested contribution.

Whilst all the costs associated with impact activities will be subject to value for money considerations, it is expected that individual applications will not be disadvantaged by requesting increased funding or time for such activities. However, in some cases where the activities are considered inappropriate given the nature of the research proposed or likely to be ineffective in engaging with the beneficiaries identified then funding for such impact-related activities as a part of grants may be declined.

Impact activities should be designed appropriate to your project, and built into the work plan so they can be assessed by peer review (for instance, interleaving research and impact activities).

Examples of eligible costs:

- Secondments/people exchange (either to other disciplines or user organisations)
- Investigator time allocated to impact activities for the project
- Employment of specialist staff (for instance KT experts, consultants, business analysts, technology translators, public engagement specialists), with a clear justification, and description of what they will do on the project
- Interaction with University technology transfer office
 - Business Development staff time for specific project engagement
- Project-specific marketing assessments and early stage commercialisation exploration
 - Proof of concept and pre- Proof of Concept funding to test commercial viability
- Up-skilling of staff in Knowledge Exploitation skills
- Events aimed at a target audience
- Workshops, seminars, exhibitions, road shows, networking and engagement events to provide training, information or dissemination, e.g. with other disciplines, industry, policy makers, the public or 3rd sector
- Publications costs and publicity materials summarising main outcomes in a way that beneficiaries will be able to understand and use.
- Websites and interactive media
- Media relations
- Public affairs activities, possibly including local opinion formers e.g. MPs
- Developing resources for schools or teachers
- Special data management
- Project-specific publicity/dissemination

The above article is based upon information extracted from the Research Council's guidance on Pathways to Impact. For further information please refer to the Research Council Guidance:

- AHRC: www.ahrc.ac.uk/FundedResearch/Pages/ImpactAssessment.aspx
- BBSRC: <http://www.bbsrc.ac.uk/funding/apply/impact/funding-impact-index.aspx>
- EPSRC: <http://www.epsrc.ac.uk/funding/apprev/preparing/Pages/economicimpact.aspx>
- ESRC: www.esrcsocietytoday.ac.uk/ESRCInfoCentre/Support/esrcexpectations/
- MRC: <http://www.shaf.ac.uk/ris/application/impact/mrc>
- NERC: www.nerc.ac.uk/funding/application/information.asp
- STFC: <http://www.stfc.ac.uk/rgh/rghDisplay2.aspx?m=s&s=166>