

**WSI Stimulus Fund Projects 2020-21  
(December 2020 – July 2021)  
Application Form and Project Proposal Guidance**

Please complete the project proposal form below and submit to Alison Tebbutt ([amt4@soton.ac.uk](mailto:amt4@soton.ac.uk)) by **5pm on Friday 6 November 2020**. All projects should meet the criteria set out. Awards will be made within 2 weeks of the application closing date.

**Scheme Outline**

The Web Science Institute has been granted an £80,000 Research Collaboration Stimulus Fund for 2020/21. This is funded from the Higher Education Innovation Fund (HEIF) allocated to the University by HEFCE, to stimulate and pump-prime interdisciplinary research activity across Faculties that will ultimately lead to collaborations and the development of full research grant or contracts proposals with non-academic partners. It is expected that these will be externally-funded either directly by industry, or the collaboration with the non-academic partner(s) will be leveraged through public funding sources, either national or international. We anticipate that each pump-primed project will lead to a full grant application.

Projects may run between **1 December 2020** and **31 July 2021**. Successful projects will be awarded funding normally within a range of £5k to £15k.

We welcome applications from all disciplines, particularly those that are currently under-represented. You can find details of previously funded projects here:

[https://www.southampton.ac.uk/wsi/research/research\\_collaboration\\_stimulus\\_fund.page](https://www.southampton.ac.uk/wsi/research/research_collaboration_stimulus_fund.page)

**Project Proposals**

University staff members are invited to submit applications, and may participate in more than one application. The following information should be provided:

- Investigators and Academic Unit/Faculty affiliation
- Short CVs of investigators (max 2 pages)
- Research proposal (max 750 words, with references in an appendix)
- Statement of collaboration between disciplines. Cross-Faculty collaboration will be strongly favoured (max 250 words)
- Statement of non-academic collaboration (max 250 words)
- Funding plans with successful completion of this project
- Approximate timeline for completion and spend out by 31 July 2021
- Budget request and justification (NB Faculty Finance Offices can provide actual costing)

### **Selection Procedure**

An awards panel comprising the WSI Directors will rank proposals and make final funding decisions within two weeks of the closing date. The panel will examine:

- Knowledge of and commitment to Web Science, Data Science and/or AI for Future Society
- Alignment with one of the following themes:
  - Security and AI (risk, trust, governance)
  - Making Smart Fair (ethics, inclusion, diversity)
  - AI and Social Transformation (data for public good)
  - Health and Wellbeing
  - The New Knowledge Economy
  - Smart Cities, Intelligent Communities
  - Web, AI and Public Deliberation

If you have an idea which falls outside of these themes, please contact Alison Tebbutt ([amt4@soton.ac.uk](mailto:amt4@soton.ac.uk)) for further guidance.

- Fit with the HEIF criteria to stimulate and pump-prime interdisciplinary research collaborations **that engage with non-academic partners**. Note that the proposal should identify how the non-academic partner will provide input and contribute to the collaborative project.
- Cross-Faculty and interdisciplinary nature of the project.
- Impact and future funding potential.

### **Project Conditions and Reporting**

Awardees will be required to:

- Produce a mid-term report for the WSI Directors by 31 March 2021. This report must include a review of the budget spent to date and a **four-page outline grant proposal that involves at least one non-academic partner or contract proposals that involves at least one non-academic partner**.
- Spend all allocated funds by 31 July 2021.
- Produce a final report for the WSI Directors by 17 September 2021. This report must include a review of impact of the project and a **mature grant proposal that involves at least one non-academic partner or contract proposals that involves at least one non-academic partner**.
- Present a poster at a WSI networking event. Awardees may also be invited to present at other interdisciplinary activities.
- Include an acknowledgment of WSI support on all publications and posters resulting from this funding.

### **Eligible costs**

Awards will be normally within a range of £5k to £15k and will cover:

- Directly incurred salary costs
- Consultancy costs
- Consumables
- Travel costs

Indirect costs or PI time are not eligible

**WSI Research Collaboration Stimulus Fund  
Project Proposal Form  
Deadline: 5pm, Fri 6 November 2020**

**PI Details:**

Principal Investigator**:	
Academic Unit & Faculty:	
Email:	
Additional Colleague(s)**:	
Academic Unit & Faculty:	
Email(s):	

**\*\* Please include short CVs (max 2 pages) in the appendix**

**Project Details:**

Project Title:	
Project start date:	
Project end date:	

Research proposal (max 750 words, figures and references can be included in the appendix)

--

Which theme(s) does your research proposal align with [delete, as appropriate]:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="radio"/> Security and AI (risk, trust, governance)</li><li><input type="radio"/> Making Smart Fair (ethics, inclusion, diversity)</li><li><input type="radio"/> AI and Social Transformation (data for public good)</li><li><input type="radio"/> Health and Wellbeing</li><li><input type="radio"/> The New Knowledge Economy</li><li><input type="radio"/> Smart Cities, Intelligent Communities</li><li><input type="radio"/> Web, AI and Public Deliberation</li></ul>
---

Statement of cross-Faculty and interdisciplinary nature (max 250 words)

--

Name of non-academic partner and a statement of collaboration (max 250 words). **NB** Letters of Support can be included in the appendix.

--

Funding plans with successful completion of this project

--

Approximate timeline for completion and spend out by 31 July 2021

--

Budget request and justification. (NB Faculty Finance Office can provide actual costing)

--

*Please return completed application forms to Alison Tebbutt at [amt4@soton.ac.uk](mailto:amt4@soton.ac.uk) by **Fri 6 November 2020**  
**Please submit as one PDF document***

**Note:** We do not share external contacts' details with third parties unless we have obtained explicit consent to do so. A copy of our Privacy Notice can be found [here](#).