

## **Research Stimulus Fund Projects 1 November 2019 – 31 July 2020 Application Form and Project Proposal Guidance**

Please complete the project proposal form below and submit to Susan Davies [sdd1@soton.ac.uk](mailto:sdd1@soton.ac.uk) by **5pm on Friday 11 October 2019**. 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 2019/20. 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.

Successful projects will be awarded funding normally within a range of £5k to £15k.

### **Project Proposals**

University staff members are invited to submit applications, which should contain the following information. Staff may participate in more than one application.

- 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 (note 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 2020
- 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 4 themes:
  - Security and AI (risk, trust, governance)
  - Making Smart Fair (inclusion, diversity)
  - AI and Social Transformation
  - Data for Public Good
- 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 28 February 2020. 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 2020.
- Produce a final report for the WSI Directors by 18 September 2020. 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
- Small items of equipment up to £3000 (computers are not eligible)
- Indirect costs or PI time are not eligible



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

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

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Funding plans with successful completion of this project

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Approximate timeline for completion and spend out by 31 July 2020

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

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*Please return completed application forms to Susan Davies [sdd1@soton.ac.uk](mailto:sdd1@soton.ac.uk)*

***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](#).