

International Impact Fund 2024-2025

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 REF2029. This support includes the International Impact Fund.

The International Impact Fund is for 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 of the project, and any ensuring work realised, will occur outside of the country. It will consider applications for **up to £10,000** per project. *The Fund does not support basic/primary research.*

For this call priority will be given to projects that can support potential Impact Case Study development ahead of REF2029. 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
- building environmental, social, judicial, or economic benefits in developing countries
- activities to extend and/or evaluate existing impact

For advice on research impact please contact your [Research Impact Officer](#).

All funds awarded **must be spent by 30 June 2025**.

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 Open Access 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 £2,500, the project would also need to pay 20% Reverse Charge VAT into our HMRC VAT account (so in this case, 20% of £2,500 is £500). The total cost to the project would then be £2,500 plus £500 = £3,000. For more information, email tax@essex.ac.uk.

How to apply

The call opens on Friday 13 September 2024.

The deadline for applications is **5pm on Monday 14 October 2024**.

Please complete the application form before submitting 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 end of October 2024.

Due to the competitive nature of this funding call, we would encourage you to liaise with your Director of Impact/Research Impact Officer to ensure that your potential project and accompanying application is in scope of the funding call.

Post Award processes

Successful proposals will receive a seven-character departmental cost code to spend against. The code will only function to 30 June 2025. No spending is permitted after this date. 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 August 2025. Both the half-way and end-of-project reports must explain how the funding is contributing to a potential REF2029 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.