

# UKRI Impact Acceleration Accounts in Scotland

## SCCS PhD Consortium 2024

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# CCS Impact Acceleration – examples from Edinburgh

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## Edinburgh researchers win funding for ship-based carbon capture

27/04/2023



<https://www.sccs.org.uk/latest/news/edinburgh-researchers-win-funding-ship-based-carbon-capture>



Geological hydrogen storage  
knowledge exchange  
with SGN

# What are UKRI IAAs?

UK Research and Innovation (UKRI)

Impact Acceleration Accounts (IAAs)

- IAAs are institutional funds awarded to a Higher Education Institution to accelerate and amplify impact from their research.
- Six UKRI Research Councils award IAAs to support impact activities within their remit area.
  - NERC does not currently support any IAAs
- The individual IAA awards are devolved to each institution to allocate in line with local strategy and decision-making processes
  - Talk to your institution's IAA contact!



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## IAA Objectives

IAs support knowledge exchange, user, policy and third sector engagement, translation and early-stage commercialisation by

- Strengthening **engagement with research users**
- Supporting **strategic partnerships** for knowledge exchange and impact
- Development of **skills, capacity, and capability** for knowledge exchange and impact
- **Early-stage support** for progressing research outputs towards the **next stages in the impact pipeline**
- Driving **continuous improvement and learning**
- Empowering **flexible and adaptive approaches** to knowledge exchange and impact



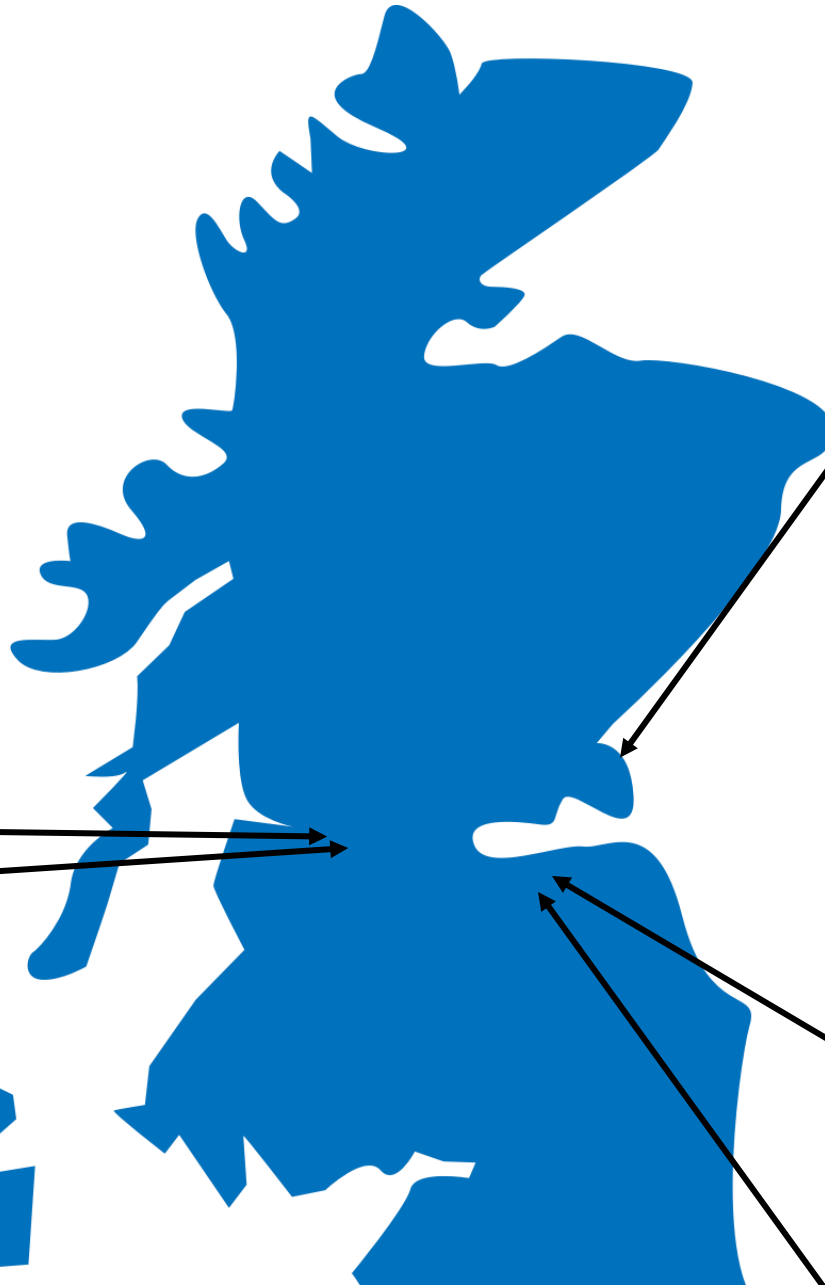
## IAAs in practice

- Most institutions invest most of their IAA funds in project funding
  - Short, sharp, focused on real-world outcomes
- Most project funds are awarded through institution-internal funding calls
  - Amounts and guidelines differ
- Five of the current IAA programmes end March 2026
- The ESRC IAA is not harmonised and will run as normal through 2027
- Your IAA teams may offer more than project funding!

## Current IAA timelines

2022-2026	2023-2028
    	

# UKRI IAAs in Scotland



University of St Andrews



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# BBSRC, EPSRC & ESRC IAAs funding calls in Scotland 2025

- University of Edinburgh
  - BBSRC IAA x1 February (deadline)
  - ESRC IAA x2 spring and autumn
  - EPSRC IAA x1 spring
    - Also offers ongoing small amount Early Career Researcher and travel/events awards
- University of Glasgow
  - BBSRC IAA x1 (smaller) spring
  - ESRC IAA x2 spring and autumn
- University of Strathclyde
  - ESRC IAA x1 annual



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## IAA eligibility

- Only staff with current employment contracts can be awarded IAA funds
  - PhD candidates are not eligible to apply for funding
- IAAs cannot support any academic education activities, taught or otherwise
- No original research can be supported – only translational research and impact activities
- Funded activities must be within the relevant Research Council remit
  - Although no requirement of previous funding from the Research Council
- Additional local eligibility requirements can and do apply





## Key takeaways

- IAAs are a unique mechanism to support making a difference in the real world!
- Each IAA can only support activities in its research council remit area for staff with employee contracts
- Funding opportunities are limited in 2025 as funds renew 2026
- Your IAA teams may offer other support (training etc) and can connect you to knowledge exchange and impact support at your institution
- Talk to your IAA teams!
  - IAAs are different at each institution
  - Your contact can advise if your idea fits
  - Amounts, guidance, and requirements vary



# Contacts for EPSRC, BBSRC & ESRC IAAs in Scotland



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EPSRC IAA: [epsrciaa@ei.ed.ac.uk](mailto:epsrciaa@ei.ed.ac.uk)  
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# Questions?

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