NEW IDEAS DEVELOPMENT AWARDS
GUIDANCE NOTES

Objective:
The New Ideas Development Awards support the exploration of new interdisciplinary research ideas by providing resources for meetings and the establishment of research networks with a view to creating research collaborations around a particular theme.

Rationale:
Interdisciplinary collaborations have always been a fertile ground for the generation of new research ideas and, as can be seen through the demands of funders and the inclusion of Interdisciplinary Research Advisers on each sub-panel for REF2021, is increasingly important in the UK research landscape.

The New Ideas Development Awards will support groups of researchers from different disciplines who want to come together in order to explore new research ideas and to build a network around them.

Scope:
The New Ideas Development Awards scheme will support scoping activities and expedite new collaborative research initiatives, including taking existing networks in new directions. The activity is expected to take the format of one or more of the following options:

1. Speculative Meeting
2. Research Network

These mechanisms can be used to support the exploration of collaborative links with researchers from across the University including but not limited to i) developing links or emerging strands of interest arising from both GRP or non-GRP activity ii) enabling colleagues across a range of departments to learn about each other’s research interests with a view to identifying on-going partnerships iii) formalising partnerships within and outside Warwick to build critical mass around a new topic etc.

Guidance for applicants:
Applicants are expected to specify the key research topic(s) to be addressed together with a programme of activities appropriate to the intended outcome in the application e.g. single meeting, series of workshops, visits etc. The aim of the activity is to test capacity for establishing a longer-term, sustainable programme of collaborative interdisciplinary research activity.
It is possible to include people from outside Warwick in the proposed activities but, given the restricted budget for this scheme, those looking to advance an emerging collaborative research activity with a specific external partner are advised to consider the IAS Residential Fellowship programme for support as an alternative to the options available under the Developing Ideas scheme.

The participants may be composed purely of academic staff and postgraduate/postdoctoral researchers or include non-academic staff as appropriate to the activity from within and outside the University however, the core membership should be based at Warwick

**Eligibility:**
Applications should specify a Principal Applicant who must be a permanent (including probationary) member of academic or hold a fellowship awarded by an external funder (the duration of which extends beyond the proposed activity) and at least one Co-Applicant from a different department to the Principal Applicant. The scheme is not designed to support collaboration between only two staff members and should demonstrate the wider attendance/collaboration that will be generated through the award.

**Funding:**
The level of funding available is dependent on the type of support required to achieve the proposed objective. Applicants are invited to identify which of the following is most appropriate to their requirements, more than one option can be applied for if necessary including additional support from the Residential Fellowship programme. Additional fund from other sources can be used to increase the scope of the proposed activity and if this is the case it should be highlighted in the application

1. **Speculative Meeting**
   A forum for informal discussion of research ideas at an early stage of formulation, Speculative Meetings should be open to staff as well as postdoctoral fellows and postgraduate students in addition to cross-sector experts as appropriate. The Principal Applicant is free to structure the discussion as they wish, leading the agenda to achieve the outcome as specified in the application form.

   The IAS will provide a meeting venue in Millburn House (capacity 35) and cover lunch / refreshments for the participants. In special circumstances, modest and proportionate travel expenses for external participants may be sought.

2. **Research Network**
   Funds may be provided to start new or to develop fledgling Warwick-based collaborative research networks. Applicants should identify the research question(s) and programme of activities that will provide a focus for the group’s interaction. Continuation funding may be requested on an annual
basis as part of the annual report. However, it is expected that in the networks will become self-sustaining. **Up to £1500 is available for new applicants and £500 for those seeking on-going support from the IAS.**

**Review Criteria:**

- Clarity and significance of proposed activity
- Suitability of proposed activity to achieve scheme objectives
- Strength of case for interdisciplinary or multidisciplinary collaboration
- Impact of anticipated outcomes and potential future
  - Speculative Meetings (purpose, critical mass, next steps)
  - Networks (sustainability, joint activity)
- Additional value of IAS funding

**How to submit an application:**

Applications can be submitted at any time by completing the application form available at the scheme website. This should then be submitted electronically through the Online Submission System.

Upon receipt of the application form, it will be sent to at least 3 reviewers from different faculties. The feedback will then be collated and a funding decision taken. Applicants can expect the funding decision to be made within 4 weeks.

**Duration of Award:**

Awards will be for a maximum of one year. If expenditure is planned across more than one financial year (1st August – 31st July) a breakdown of the costs in each financial year must be given in the application.

**Further Information:**

For any further queries please contact IAS@warwick.ac.uk