DEVELOPING IDEAS
GUIDANCE NOTES

This programme provides resources to explore research ideas and partnerships at an early stage of formulation with a view to establishing research collaborations around a particular theme.

Scheme Objectives:
The Developing Ideas scheme is designed to facilitate 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 Warwick researchers 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.

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.

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.

Eligibility:
Applications should specify a Principal Applicant who must be a permanent (including probationary) member of academic staff 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, in consequence the application should demonstrate the potential for wider attendance/collaboration that will be generated through the award.

The group 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.

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.
1. **Speculative Meeting**

Intended to offer a forum for an 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. To concentrate discussion, it is advised that numbers do not exceed 15 participants. 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 and cover lunch / refreshments for the participants. In special circumstances, travel expenses for external participants may be sought.

2. **Research Network**

Intended to provide initial funds for starting new or developing 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 long-term such 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 stated objective(s)
- Suitability of proposed activity to achieve objective(s)
- Strength of case for conducting the project via interdisciplinary or multidisciplinary collaboration rather than within established department, research centre or GRP structure
- Impact of anticipated outcomes e.g.
  - Speculative Meetings (purpose, critical mass, next steps)
  - Networks (sustainability, joint activity)
  - Residential Fellowship (value added)
- Conveys added value of IAS funding

**Deadlines:**
From 2016/17, applications are invited 3 times a year. Deadlines are set out in the table below and applications should be submitted by midday (12pm) on the day of the deadline.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Term 1 Week 4</th>
<th>Term 2 Week 5</th>
<th>Term 3 Week 1</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2016/17</td>
<td>Friday 28th October</td>
<td>Friday 10th February</td>
<td>Friday 28th April</td>
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Funding decisions will be announced 5 weeks after the submission of the application.

**Duration of Award:**
Awards can only be held within a single financial year (between 1 August – 31 July), check offer letter for confirmation of valid award period.
All expenditure must be recorded in the University accounts (SAP) by 31 July in the same academic year in which the award is valid. It is the responsibility of the award holder to ensure that expenditure has been appropriately recorded. The award holder’s department will be responsible for any over expenditure and/or late claims.

**Further Information:**
The ‘How to Apply’ guidance document provides further information on completing the form. Applications should be submitted by email to IAS@warwick.ac.uk.