

**WSI Stimulus Fund Projects 2021-22  
(February – July 2022)  
Project Proposal Guidance and Application Form (v2)**

**Scheme Outline**

The Web Science Institute has been granted an £80,000 Research Collaboration Stimulus Fund for 2021-22. This is funded from the Higher Education Innovation Fund (HEIF) allocated to the University by HEFCE, and is specifically designed to stimulate and pump-prime Knowledge Exchange with business, industry and external partners, including local government, public sector or charitable organisations. Projects may include, for example:

- Developing and maturing new technologies, ideas and inventions
- Co-creation of innovation
- Translation of research
- Commercialisation for social good initiatives
- Activities which contribute to levelling up and supporting the University's civic agenda
- Placements and secondments
- CPD and external skills development

All HEIF-funded projects must involve intrinsic collaboration with an external non-academic partner. This Call for WSI projects should involve interdisciplinary socio-technical projects in the areas of Web Science, Data Science and/or Human-Centred AI.

Projects may run between **1 February 2022** and **31 July 2022**. Successful projects will be awarded funding normally within a range of £5k to £15k.

We welcome applications from all disciplines, particularly those led by Early Career Researchers. You can find details of previously funded projects here:

[https://www.southampton.ac.uk/wsi/research/research\\_collaboration\\_stimulus\\_fund.page](https://www.southampton.ac.uk/wsi/research/research_collaboration_stimulus_fund.page)

Please complete the Project Proposal application form and submit to Alison Tebbutt ([A.M.Tebbutt@soton.ac.uk](mailto:A.M.Tebbutt@soton.ac.uk)) by 5.00 pm on **Thursday 20 January 2022**. All projects should meet the criteria set out above. Awards will be made within 2 weeks of the application closing date.

**Project Proposals**

University staff members are invited to submit applications, and may participate in more than one application. The following information should be provided:

- Investigators and Academic Unit/Faculty affiliation
- Short CVs of investigators
- Project proposal
- Statement of collaboration between disciplines
- Statement of external partner collaboration, including a statement of support
- Approximate timeline for completion and spend out by 31 July 2022
- 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 Human-Centred AI.
- Fit with the HEIF criteria to stimulate and pump-prime **Knowledge Exchange with non-academic partners**. Note that the proposal should identify how the non-academic partner will provide input and contribute to the collaborative project.
- Interdisciplinary nature of the project.
- Impact and future collaboration potential.

### **Project Conditions and Reporting**

Awardees will be required to:

- Provide a mid-project update for the WSI Directors. This update must include a review of the budget spent to date, a progress summary and projected Knowledge Exchange outcomes.
- Spend all allocated funds by 31 July 2022.
- Produce a final report for the WSI Directors by 16 September 2022. This report must include a review of impact of the project, its Knowledge Exchange outcomes and a proposal for further external collaboration that involves at least one non-academic partner.
- Present at a WSI networking event. Awardees may also be invited to present at other interdisciplinary activities.
- Include an acknowledgement 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

Indirect costs or PI time are not eligible.

**WSI Stimulus Fund 2021-22  
Project Proposal Application Form**  
**Deadline: Thursday 20 January 2022**

**Investigator Details:**

Principal Investigator**:	
Academic Unit & Faculty:	
Email:	
Co-Investigator(s)**:	
Academic Unit & Faculty:	
Email(s):	

**\*\* Please include short CVs (max 2 pages per person) in the appendix**

**Project Details:**

Project Title:	
Project start date:	
Project end date:	
External Partner(s)	

**Project proposal (max 750 words, additional information can be included in the appendix)**

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**Which Knowledge Exchange activities does your Stimulus Project align with? Select as appropriate:**

- Developing and maturing new technologies, ideas and inventions
- Co-creation of innovation
- Translation of research
- Commercialisation for social good initiatives
- Activities which contribute to levelling up and supporting the University's civic agenda
- Placements and secondments
- CPD and external skills development
- Other: *please state*

**Statement of interdisciplinary collaboration (max 250 words)**

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**Statement of external partner collaboration (max 500 words)**

NB A statement of support should be included in the appendix

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**Further collaboration plans following successful completion of this project**

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**Approximate timeline for completion and spend out by 31 July 2022**

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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 Alison Tebbutt at [A.M.Tebbutt@soton.ac.uk](mailto:A.M.Tebbutt@soton.ac.uk) by  
5.00 pm on Thursday 20 January 2022*

*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](#).