

## SIA FUNDING SCHEME: APPLICANT GUIDANCE

### FUNDING SCHEME

The University has four Strategic Investment Areas (SIAs) - Assistive Technology; Animation, Simulation & Visualisation; Sustainability, Low Carbon Technology & Materials Science; and Medical Science. These are existing areas of expertise which will grow further our institutional performance to achieve the goals set out in [BU2025](#).

The SIAs have defined scope and priorities for investment and BU engages with external opportunities and partners to create a robust academic footprint and external profile in each of the SIAs by building on BU's existing strengths.

In order to accelerate activity, two funding calls are held each year where Expressions of Interest (EOIs) for internal, pump-primed research projects may be submitted from staff across the institution in any of the SIAs; typically these calls are in June and December. The scheme will consider applications that would not be funded externally.

### COMPLETING THE EOI FORM

Eols must articulate concepts that advance fundamental research in line with the [scope](#) defined for each of the SIAs and the focus given for the call where applicable (see [EOI webpage](#)).

The Eol is intended to capture your idea for research/ vehicles which will enable significant strategic growth and acceleration of research income, outputs and impact. Eols are required to clearly align to at least one of the SIAs and support the delivery of [BU2025](#).

Please use the form to provide a clear, succinct summary of your idea, no more than two sides of A4 in length and please ensure you do not use personal pronouns in your submission. Your completed Eol should be submitted as a PDF to [SIA@bournemouth.ac.uk](mailto:SIA@bournemouth.ac.uk) by 5pm 18.07.19.

### REVIEW PROCESS

Applications undergo a multi-stage peer review. As part of Stage 1, all EOIs will be submitted to the relevant SIA Steering Group who will review and determine which applications should be recommended for further review.

Those recommended by the SIA Steering Groups to progress will be submitted for consideration by the Research Performance Management Committee (RPMC) under Stage 2 and if supported will be sent to the University Leadership Team (ULT) as part of Stage 3. Please see the [EOI webpage](#) for the stages of approval.

## ASSESSMENT OF APPLICATIONS

Expressions of Interest will be categorised by the relevant SIA Steering Group as one of the following:

- I. Novel initiative that advances fundamental research to enable strategic growth.
- II. Underpinning enabler of activity to support strategic growth across all thematic areas.
- III. Incremental disciplinary based advancement.
- IV. New application of existing fundamental research.

Given the strategic emphasis defined within BU2025, only those categorised as I will have the potential to be prioritised. Support will be provided for fostering those categorised as II, III and IV by Research Development & Support.

Also as part of Stage 1, the SIA Steering Group give each application a score out of 20, based on the criteria outlined below which are equally weighted, with each criterion carrying a total possible score of 5:

- The clarity and appropriateness of the applications Technology Readiness Levels / basic research component (scored out of 5): Whether the proposal is specified at an appropriate stage of TRL<sup>1</sup>.
- The development of adjunct disciplinary/inter-disciplinary critical mass at a senior academic level (scored out of 5): Whether the proposal will support the growth of critical mass at all stages of the academic career and in particular at senior level in opening-up new academic endeavours for the University aligned to the SIAs.
- The potential for external funding, based upon disciplinary Research & Knowledge Exchange (RKE) income norms and/or alignment to industrial strategy challenges (scored out of 5): Whether the proposal would support RKE activity which is then likely to be funded externally and whether the activity would align BU to address the industrial strategy challenges.
- The potential for medium/long-term development of national/international policy and resultant policy impact (scored out of 5): Whether the proposal is likely to result in policy impact beyond the short term.

The scoring matrix is as follows and any application scoring less than 15 will not be recommended for consideration by RPMC:

5	Excellent	The proposal demonstrates excellence.
4	Good	The proposal has considerable merit and future potential.
3	Satisfactory	The proposal has merit but is not of a consistently high quality and/or is limited in future potential.

<sup>1</sup> See for example, [European Commission](#) or [EPSRC](#) guidance on TRLs.

2	Fair with some weakness	The proposal has merit but notable limitations.
1	Weak	The proposal is below satisfactory.

Finally as part of Stage 1, the SIA Steering Group will also be asked to select one of the following recommendations for each application:

- A. Proposal aligns to the scope of the SIA and is sufficiently well articulated for the proposal to be to be considered by RPMC+.
- B. Proposal requires further refinement and/ or could be clustered with other similar proposals.
- C. Proposal requires further refinement and alternative mechanisms for support should be sought.

### **NOTIFICATION OF OUTCOME**

Applicants will be notified by email as to the outcome of the EOI submission within five working days of the ULT meeting where these are reviewed and applicants will be given the date of this meeting upon submission.

### **FURTHER GUIDANCE**

Should you require any further guidance on the SIA Funding Scheme process, please email [SIA@bournemouth.ac.uk](mailto:SIA@bournemouth.ac.uk). If you wish to discuss the scope of the SIAs, please contact the relevant Conveners as detailed on this [webpage](#).