Eligibility

Can SMEs participate in the RAI UK Impact Accelerator as a sole lead applicant, or do they need to partner with a lead academic institution for this call?

Non-academic organisations, including UK businesses, third sector, or government bodies, are eligible to take part in a supporting role, requesting funding up to 30% of the total project budget. Proposals must be led by researchers at a university or other organisations normally eligible to receive UKRI funding.

Are local authorities eligible either to lead or support proposals?

Non-academic partners, including local authorities, can take part in supporting roles, requesting funding up to a maximum of 30% of the total cost of the project.

Scope

How broad is the scope for this funding call?

The call is designed to be open to all multidisciplinary proposals that deliver impact from existing responsible AI research, regardless of application area or sector. We are looking for clear routes to impact and will look to fund a variety of projects to deliver different types of impact.

Funding available

Can private sector SMEs recover 100% of their costs?

Yes, we are permitted to fund non-academic partners as co-applicants up to a maximum of 30% of the total cost of the project, and such partners may claim 100% of their costs.

Can government-funded organisations request funding for staff?

We can cover incremental costs for the research, including temporary staff, but we are not able to cover the salaries of permanent employees in government agencies.

Linked to the rule on allocating 30% of the budget to non-academic co-applicants, are there any restrictions on using budget to pay service providers?

Non-academic organisations named as co-applicants can receive up to 30% of the total budget. There is no maximum amount that can be paid to subcontracted service
providers via your organisation, although this would need to be carefully justified as an appropriate use of resource. As a co-lead on the proposal, regardless of any role as a service provider, we would not expect to provide more than 30% of the overall budget to a non-academic organisation.

**Partnering with RAI UK & future calls**

*Can we formally join RAI UK as a partner?*

We will soon be establishing a process to bring new partners on board. Details will be released via the website and prospective partners are encouraged to sign up to the RAI UK mailing list via the website (rai.ac.uk/get-involved) for updates about the programme.

*We are looking for partners to work with for this call. Can you help to connect us with potential collaborators?*

At this point, we have not collected any indications of intent to submit, so are unable to assist with brokering consortia formation. In the coming months we will be organising a range of events, workshops, and roundtables designed to connect the AI ecosystem in the UK. We recommend signing up to our mailing list and joining these events to connect with researchers and other stakeholders.

*Will there be further rounds of the RAI UK Impact Accelerator?*

While we do not have firm plans for subsequent rounds of the Impact Accelerator at this point, we do anticipate running a similar call in the future.