

## Web Science Institute Stimulus Fund Projects 2022-23 (February – July 2023)

### Project Proposal Guidance and Application Form

#### Scheme Outline

The Web Science Institute has been granted £80,000 for its Stimulus Fund for 2022-23. This is funded from the Higher Education Innovation Fund (HEIF) allocated to the University by HEFCE, and is designed to stimulate and pump-prime Knowledge Exchange activities. These include collaborative projects with business, industry, local government, public sector or charitable organisations, community bodies, and the wider public. Projects may involve:

- 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
- Projects focusing on Equality, Diversity and Inclusivity (EDI)

Proposals should aim to align with the [University Strategy](#), the [Knowledge Exchange & Enterprise Strategic Plan](#), and/or the [Civic Strategic Plan](#). **All research and teaching stimulus projects must involve collaboration with an external non-academic partner.**

This Call for WSI Stimulus Fund projects should involve interdisciplinary socio-technical projects **in the areas of Web Science, Data Science and/or Human-Centred AI**. We welcome applications from all disciplines, particularly those led by Early Career Researchers. Projects may run for up to six months between **1 February 2023** and **31 July 2023**. Successful projects will be awarded funding normally within a range of £5k to £15k.

Please complete the Project Proposal application form by 5.00 pm on **Thursday 1 December 2022** and submit to Alison Tebbutt ([A.M.Tebbutt@soton.ac.uk](mailto:A.M.Tebbutt@soton.ac.uk)). 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 non-academic partner collaboration, including a statement of support
- Approximate timeline for completion and spend out by 31 July 2023
- Budget request and justification

### **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.
- For research or teaching stimulus projects, the proposal should identify how the non-academic partner will provide input and contribute to the collaborative project.
- Alignment with relevant University Strategic Plans.
- 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.
- Actual expenditure must be fully completed by 31 July 2023.
- Produce a final report for the WSI Directors by 15 September 2023. 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.

Please use [Worktribe](#) for all costings, and include the information below:

“Project Title”                      Please include the text “WSI Stimulus Fund (Dec 22)” as this will assist with reports on applications

“Project Type”                      93: Internal Competition

“Project Activity Type”          Internal Selection

**WSI Stimulus Fund 2022-23  
Project Proposal Application Form**

**Deadline: Thursday 1 December 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)	
<b>Project proposal, including Knowledge Exchange activities, outputs and outcomes (max 750 words, additional information can be included in the appendix)</b>	

**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
- Projects focusing on Equality, Diversity and Inclusivity (EDI)
- Other: *please state*

**Which University Strategic Plan(s) does the project align with and how?**

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

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

*For Research and Teaching projects, please include a statement of support from a non-academic partner.*

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

**Approximate timeline for completion and spend out by 31 July 2023**

**Budget request and justification** (Costings can be obtained via [Worktribe](#))