



For more information please contact
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What makes successful applications?

The Criteria for funding projects include:

- Alignment to the objectives of the SIF
- Scale of opportunity that will be enabled (e.g. size of external investment being sought or breadth of impact on the innovation environment at Oxford)
- A named academic lead and a professional services lead
- Built on strong partnerships
- Demonstrating significant and quantifiable economic or social benefits
- Aligning with key societal challenges or enabling themes such as Net-zero, levelling up, equality, and social inclusion
- Clarity of potential outcomes
- Ideas that are well socialised with their divisions and academic panel members before they are submitted.
- Ideas that have engaged with the SIF secretariat (RS) at all stages of the process.

Activities that can be funded under the Scheme

The scheme will support the direct costs associated with project development activities such as:

- developing strategic high impact and high value partnerships
- economic evaluation of projects, including developing models to project the impacts and outcomes of projects e.g. Value for Money, CBR, GVA, or jobs created
- acquisition of specialist skills required to complete a full business case, e.g. project costings, quantifying environmental, archaeological, social or economic impact of the project
- activities that may strengthen partnerships involved in the project, e.g. enabling cultivation of complex or specialist partnership with an SME who may not have resources or with an international partner
- preliminary enabling/piloting/preparatory activities e.g. a short term survey that will strengthen the case being made, or engagement of certain key participants to the projects

Common reasons for rejection

- Poor fit with the objectives of the SIF
- Lack of clarity on the impact of the funding
- Lack of focus – too many areas
- Need to involve other Divisions – Exploiting a Pan University opportunity
- Lack of consultation with Division/Department
- Asking for inadequate/Too much funding for bid proposed.
- Poor strategic fit with institutional/Divisional objectives

* Highly dependant on each project, and there is an expectation that each will suggest their own measures of success not limited by these lists



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