**Industrial Strategy Challenge Fund (ISCF) Partnership Development Fund**

 **Overview**

The ISCF is a substantial £4.7bil, the largest injection of innovation funding in forty years. All funded projects revolve around the four Grand Challenges:

1. [Artificial Intelligence and Data](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/industrial-strategy-the-grand-challenges/missions#artificial-intelligence-and-data)
2. [Ageing Society](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/industrial-strategy-the-grand-challenges/missions#ageing-society)
3. [Clean Growth](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/industrial-strategy-the-grand-challenges/missions#clean-growth)
4. [Future of Mobility](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/industrial-strategy-the-grand-challenges/missions#future-of-mobility)

Under each Grand Challenge, there are numerous sub-challenges which are released in waves. [Wave Three](https://innovateuk.blog.gov.uk/2019/02/05/industrial-strategy-challenge-fund-wave-3-shortlist/) challenges are the most recent to be announced. There are still opportunities to apply for Wave One and Wave Two funding and you can [find out more details on all of the live challenges here](https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/industrial-strategy-challenge-fund-joint-research-and-innovation).

**About the ISCF Partnership Development Fund**

RIO is delighted to be managing this new fund which will be used to develop external partnerships. Edinburgh Napier has been awarded [SFC UIF](http://www.sfc.ac.uk/funding/university-funding/university-funding-innovation/university-innovation-funding.aspx) funding to help position staff to successfully access more ISCF funding. Ultimately, this fund will build on our excellent research and institutional business engagement activities, resulting in the submission of more high-quality ISCF applications.

This fund is open to all academic staff members who have salary support in place until 31st July 2019.

Please note, RIO can support academics to find appropriate partners for a specific project if you do not have any current relevant contacts.

**ISCF Partnership Development Fund Activities**

All partnerships must specifically focus on one of the ISCF challenges. It is also important to demonstrate how your partnership and collaboration could result in an ISCF funding application in the future. Also, if relevant, interdisciplinary working is welcomed since this is a key criteria for ISCF funding (i.e. joint submission with a faculty from a different discipline).

We anticipate that the kind of activities that could be undertaken through this fund will be diverse and want to provide flexibility in how it is used. We would be delighted to see applications that focus on the following activities (but not limited to):

* Exploring **new** industry collaborations such as initial introductory meetings
* Deepening **current** relationships with industry partners
* Workshops or brainstorming sessions for **project development** for ISCF funding application

Thus, relevant associated costs will most likely include travel, accommodation, subsistence and catering for UK-based activities. Other justified costs will be considered and please get in touch to discuss further.

The fund will not cover direct buy-out of time, consultancy fees, estates or indirect costs, any partner costs, research assistance or PhD fees.

**Application Process**

Applications can be made at any time by completing and submitting the application form below to Georgina Jamieson: RIO’s Knowledge Exchange Manager, g.jamieson@napier.ac.uk by **1st July 2019**. Any other enquiries or requests for support to secure partners should also be directed to Georgina.

Please use font size 12 and ensure the application does not exceed one A4 page. A decision will be delivered via email within two weeks of submission.

Funding will be allocated on a first-come-first-serve basis but **please note all funding must be spent and activity completed by 31st July 2019**. Award recipients will be required to submit a 200 word maximum end of activity report two weeks after the activity has taken place. This should detail expenditure, outcomes and planned next steps.

**Application Form**

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| **Lead Applicant and Co-Applicant Details (Name, Title, Department)?** |
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| **What company are you engaging with?**  |
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| **Is this a new or existing contact?**  |
|  |
| **What grand challenge and specific challenge will your partnership focus on?** |
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| **Activity Statement and Timetable: What and when is your planned activity?** |
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| **Project Summary: What specific project would you like your partnership to focus on?**  |
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| **Opportunities Statement: What is the long-term purpose of your partnership?** |
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| **Budget Total and Justification of Resources?** |
|  |
| **Will your activity be completed by 31st July 2019 (Yes or No?)** |
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