



# IMPACT ACCELERATOR

Powered by LSE ■

100X  
Research  
Grants  
*Autumn 2024*

# Table of Contents

<b>Purposes of this Document</b> .....	<b>3</b>
<b>Background to 100x Impact Accelerator and 100x Impact Accelerator Research Grants</b> .....	<b>4</b>
<b>100x Impact Accelerator Impact Areas &amp; Research Grant Streams</b> .....	<b>5</b>
Impact Areas.....	5
Research Streams .....	6
Social Venture Partnership .....	7
Accelerator Impact .....	7
Impact Ecosystem.....	7
<b>100x Impact Accelerator Research Grants</b> .....	<b>8</b>
Grant Details.....	8
Eligibility Details .....	8
Application Details.....	10
Details for Successful Applicants .....	13

# Purposes of this Document

The purposes of this Research Strategy document are:

- To provide background on how 100x Impact Accelerator Research Grants fit into the overall landscape of 100x Impact Accelerator
- To set out the themes and research Streams that apply to 100x Impact Accelerator Research Grants
- To provide key grant, eligibility, application and selection process details for 100x Impact Accelerator Research Grants

# Background to 100x Impact Accelerator and 100x Impact Accelerator Research Grants

Established in 2022, 100x Impact Accelerator identifies, invests in, and accelerates the most promising social ventures that are addressing the world's most pressing social problems. Based in the Marshall Institute at the London School of Economics, and anchored with a £50 million philanthropic gift, 100x Impact Accelerator aims to leverage the research within the LSE to identify critical gaps and levers in the social sector, and then find ventures with solutions to those problems.

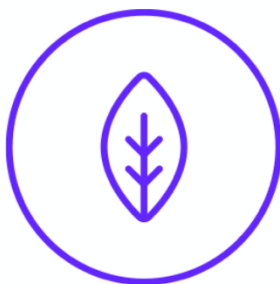
Uniquely, 100x Impact Accelerator aims to be for the social sector what Y-Combinator - a top-tier venture Accelerator known for producing financial unicorns - is to the private sector. The aim is to create 'social unicorns' - organisations creating positive impact on the scale of billions. This will only be achieved by pairing social ventures not only with philanthropically-backed capital and LSE's research, but also with connections to world leaders, policy practitioners, and decision-makers who can help redefine how these ventures think about scale and impact.

From the initial £50 million gift to establish 100x, an annual allocation of up to £500,000 has been designated for the first 10 years to support evidence- and evaluation-based research at the LSE in the form of Research Grants. These Grants will directly connect 100x with the wider LSE community and foster collaboration between LSE researchers and social ventures working to solve the world's toughest problems. Further details on these Grants can be found throughout the remainder of this document.

# 100x Impact Accelerator Impact Areas & Research Grant Streams

## Impact Areas

100x Impact Accelerator currently focuses on eight themes, chosen to encompass a wide spectrum of social challenges while aligning with the knowledge and expertise of the LSE community.



CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENT



HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE



REFUGEES AND COHESION



PARTICIPATORY AND EQUITABLE ECONOMIES



HAPPINESS AND WELLBEING



DEMOCRACY AND POLARISATION



EDUCATION



NEW FRONTIERS

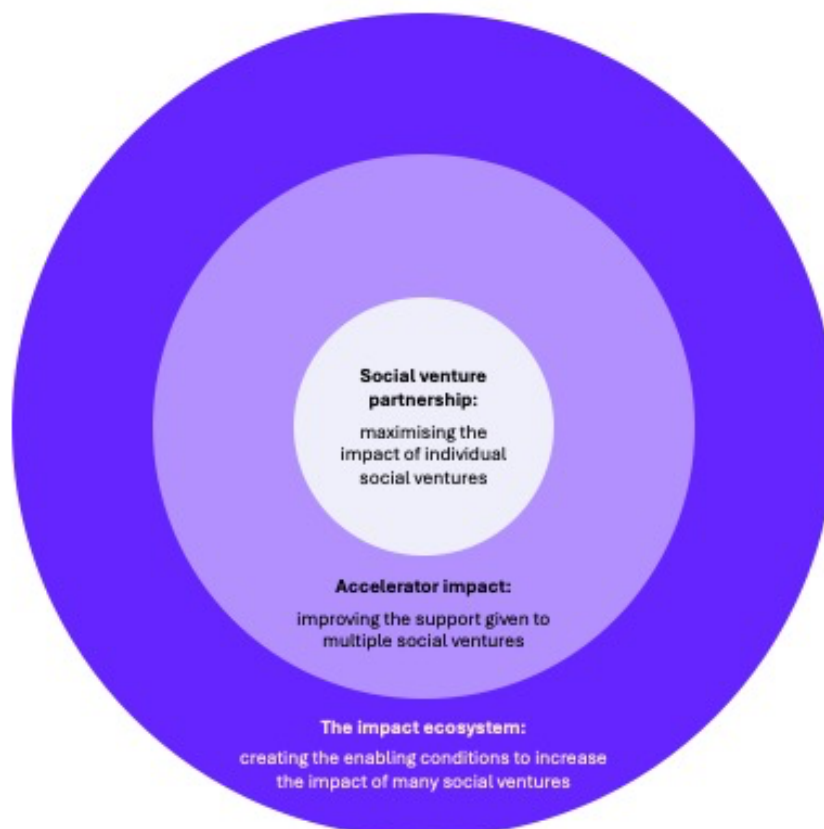
We have taken a broad approach in establishing these themes, aiming to cast a wide net over potential social unicorns. As our understanding of global issues evolves, these themes may shift, be added to or replaced over time to reflect emerging priorities.

LSE research funded by 100x Impact Accelerator under the *Social Venture Partnership* Stream or *Impact Ecosystem* Stream will need to identify with one of these focus themes in order to be eligible. More information on eligibility criteria is given in the '100x Impact Accelerator Research Grants' section of this document.

## Research Streams

The 100x Research Grants Scheme offers three distinct Streams to which LSE researchers can apply for funding. These Streams enable research - at different levels - of economic and social action that supports the impact of social ventures. The *Social Venture Partnership* Stream encourages research that directly engages with individual organisations within the 100x accelerator programme. The *Accelerator Impact* Stream provides grants to research projects that investigate the work of 100x Impact Accelerator or similar innovative actors as they seek to enable cohorts of impact-first ventures to take their impact to scale. The *Impact Ecosystem* Stream addresses the broader ecosystem in which impact-first ventures operate. It supports research into the policy, practice and theory of the impact economy, focusing in particular on practice and policy implications that can drive social and environmental impact in this emerging field of economic activity.

### 100x Impact Accelerator: Research Streams



Preference will be given to the *Social Venture Partnership* Stream, but all applications with a focus on social ventures, impact accelerators, and/or the impact economy will be carefully considered by the Selection Committee.

## *Social Venture Partnership*

This Stream offers funding to conduct research working directly with one of the 100x cohort ventures to test the effectiveness of their intervention, provide evidence that can evolve the working hypothesis of the venture, or identify and evaluate ways to improve. Please note that only social ventures already linked with 100x will be eligible for inclusion in this Stream.

There are two ways in which a project scope can be generated:

1. 100x social ventures outline their research needs and/or interests; LSE researchers can then work with the venture to develop a project idea. Details of venture research prompts can be downloaded from the [100x Impact Accelerator Research Grants webpage](#) or can be provided on request by emailing [research@100ximpact.org](mailto:research@100ximpact.org)
2. LSE researchers can generate their own innovative project ideas that may advance the impact or mission of the selected venture whose work aligns with the researcher's area of expertise, which they should then discuss with the venture prior to submitting an application.

The 100x Impact Accelerator [Portfolio page](#) provides details on all 100x cohort ventures.

## *Accelerator Impact*

This Stream offers funding to conduct research to understand and further the effectiveness of 100x Impact Accelerator or similar actors. The work of 100x raises a set of research questions about the process of scaling social change and social purpose organisations.

Examples of topics include:

- The impact of 100x's activities upon the social ventures within the programme.
- The contribution of 100x to the wider ecosystem of support and capacity-building for impact-first organisations.
- Differences and similarities between accelerating an organisation for social impact and accelerating it for profit.
- Modelling the trajectories to scale of different types of impact-first organisations.

## *Impact Ecosystem*

The Impact Ecosystem Stream offers the opportunity to undertake research into the wider operation of impact-first organisations and the structures within which they work. The Stream is broadly defined and might include, for instance:

- Organisational and governance structures of impact-first organisations.
- Financial mechanisms and tools.
- The role of government, policy and regulatory frameworks.
- Utilisation of technology by impact-first organisations.
- Hybrid approaches that combine business mechanisms with social purpose.
- Campaigning work.

Research proposals should also identify with one of the [100x Impact Areas](#) as well as relate to the impact economy.

# 100x Impact Accelerator Research Grants

## Grant Details

### *Minimum and maximum value of each grant*

Applicants can apply for between £15,000 and £100,000 for each project. Applications with a total budget below £15,000 or above £100,000 will not be considered.

### *Maximum length of grant period*

Each 100x Impact Accelerator-funded research project is expected to be completed within 12 months of the official start date. The official start date must be by the end of June 2025.

## Eligibility Details

### *Who is eligible to apply?*

Any academic or research staff member in salaried employment at the LSE, or PhD student enrolled in active study at the LSE, for the duration of the grant period can apply for a 100x Impact Accelerator Research Grant.

### *Are staff costs eligible to be charged to these grants?*

Directly incurred (DI) research staff costs, including hourly paid research staff costs, are eligible to be charged to 100x Impact Accelerator Research Grants. Directly allocated (DA) and professional service staff costs are not eligible. Grants cannot be used for buy-outs or PFRs.

### *Can venture staff time be charged to these grants?*

As the project is a benefit in kind to the venture and the LSE researcher will be leading the work, it is expected that venture staff time will not be charged to 100x Impact Accelerator Research Grants. If there are exceptional circumstances that mean that without buying out the venture staff time the project could not go ahead, then venture staff time can be included in the budget and a clear supporting case for this should be included in the budget justification section of the proposal.

### *Can the funds be used to host an event?*

Funds can be used towards hosting an event that relates to the project, but the majority of the Grant should be used for original research that fits within one of the three Research Streams outlined.



### *Can the funds be used to pay for travel?*

Funds can be used to pay for travel that specifically relates to and supports the progress of the project, but the reasons why the travel is necessary should be clearly stated in the application.

### *Can the funds be used to attend a conference?*

Funds can be used to cover conference registration and associated travel costs where the work and findings of the 100x Impact Accelerator-funded project are being presented, but the majority of the Grant should be used for carrying out the original research that is being presented. The Grant cannot be used to cover conference attendance for any other work not funded by 100x Impact Accelerator. 100x Impact Accelerator should be acknowledged in the presentation, and a copy of the conference details and presentation abstract should be shared with [research@100ximpact.org](mailto:research@100ximpact.org) in advance of the event.

### *Can the funds be used to ‘top up’ an existing research project?*

100x Impact Accelerator Research Grant funds can be used to fund work that relates to and complements an existing research project, but funds should be allocated to a distinct, specific aspect of the work that reflects the Stream applied to.

### *Can an unsuccessful application be resubmitted another year?*

Unfortunately, only new applications can be considered by the Selection Committee, unless the Committee specifically invites a resubmission.

### *Can a member of the Selection Committee apply for a grant?*

Yes, members of the Selection Committee are eligible to apply for a grant, however they will be required to recuse themselves from consideration of their application.

### *Can funds be used for research projects involving ventures that are not part of the 100x programme?*

100x Impact Accelerator Research Grant funds can only be used for research involving ventures already linked with the Accelerator.

# Application Details

*How do I submit an application, what needs to be included, and when is the deadline? [Staff]*

In order to apply for a 100x Impact Accelerator Research Grant, you will need to complete an application providing the following:

- application form detailing the project aims and proposed plan of action
- applicant cv(s)
- alignment with one of the Research Streams
- a budget forecast
- a data management plan
- Head of Department or Centre/Institute Director sign-off
- ethical approval confirmation

Application forms and budget templates will be available from 01 November 2024. Data Management Plan templates can be found on [DMPOne](#). Ethics Review Applications can be submitted through '[My Research](#)'.

Guidance on budget figures can be provided by Kevin Randall ([K.Randall@lse.ac.uk](mailto:K.Randall@lse.ac.uk)).

Head of Department/Centre Director/Institute Director sign-off can be in the form of an email (submitted in pdf format) or as a letter (submitted in pdf format). This should confirm whether overheads are to be covered by the grant funding or by the Department/Centre/Institute, and that appropriate working space will be made available within the Department/Centre/Institute for any staff included in the grant, as 100x will not provide workspace.

Guidance on Data Management Plans can be found on the [LSE's Data Management webpages](#).

Guidance on Ethics Review Applications for research and academic staff can be found on the [LSE's Research Ethics webpages](#).

Completed applications (including all documents listed above) will need to be submitted to [research@100ximpact.org](mailto:research@100ximpact.org) by 11:59pm on 31 January 2025.

## *How do I submit an application, what needs to be included, and when is the deadline? [PhD student]*

In order to apply for a 100x Impact Accelerator Research Grant, you will need to complete an application providing the following:

- application form detailing the project aims and proposed plan of action
- applicant cv(s)
- alignment with one of the Research Streams
- a budget forecast
- a data management plan
- supervisor statement of support
- ethical approval confirmation

Application forms and budget templates will be available from 01 November 2024. Data Management Plan templates can be found on [DMPonline](#). Ethics Review Applications can be submitted through '[My Research](#)'.

Guidance on budget figures can be provided by Kevin Randall ([K.Randall@lse.ac.uk](mailto:K.Randall@lse.ac.uk)).

The supervisor statement of support can be in the form of an email (submitted in pdf format) or as a letter (submitted in pdf format). This should confirm that appropriate working space will be made available within the Department/Centre/Institute, as 100x will not provide workspace.

Guidance on Data Management Plans can be found on the [LSE's Data Management webpages](#).

Guidance on Ethics Review Applications for student researchers can be found on the [LSE's Research Ethics webpages](#).

Completed applications, budget forecasts, Data Management Plans and Ethics Review Application approvals will need to be submitted to [research@100ximpact.org](mailto:research@100ximpact.org) by 11:59pm on 31 January 2025.

## *How will the successful projects be selected?*

The 100x Impact Accelerator Research Selection Committee considers all applications individually against the established selection criteria prior to meeting in late February 2025 to decide collectively on which projects will receive funding.

Applications are then considered on both the significance of the project's contribution to the field, and the value for money that the proposal represents. Applicants need to have explained clearly what the project aims are, the method(s) that will be used to undertake the research, how the project supports the particular Stream – and, in the case of *Social Venture Partnerships* and the *Impact Ecosystem* Streams, the thematic focus specified – and how the output of their research is linked to the aims of 100x Impact Accelerator. Applications that do not do this are unlikely to be approved.

Applications that do not make clear why large budget items (such as overseas trips) are essential to the successful completion of the project aims may either be rejected or awarded reduced funding from that which was requested.

*When will application decisions be announced?*

We aim to notify all applicants by the end of March as to whether or not their proposed project will receive a 100x Impact Accelerator Research Grant.

## Details for Successful Applicants

### *What will be required of successful applicants?*

- At the point of award, a short summary of the project's aims will be required to feature on the 100x Impact Accelerator Research Grants webpage.
- Confirmation of the official project start date to [research@100ximpact.org](mailto:research@100ximpact.org) within 30 days of the award date. All awarded projects are required to start by the end of June 2025.
- Serving for one year (from September 2025) as a 100x Research Affiliate, including being listed on the Marshall Institute Affiliate webpage and attending and participating in the monthly Impact Meetup event series.
- Notification to [research@100ximpact.org](mailto:research@100ximpact.org) of any publications that result from the work, including a copy of the publication. Financial support of the project by 100x Impact Accelerator should be acknowledged in all publications.
- At the end of the project, a summary of the key conclusions (<200 words) will be required in order to replace the previous project aims statement on the website. At least three photographs or videos relevant to the project that are produced during the grant period should also be submitted. These may be used on the 100x website or social media channels when reporting on the project. The researcher is responsible for gaining consent for such media to be used by both themselves and 100x Impact Accelerator at the time of producing the photographs and/or videos.
- An end-of-project summary report will be due within 60 days of the project end date. A template for this will be provided to the Project Lead and Academic Manager for the host Department/Centre/Institute one month before the project end date.
- An end-of-project financial report will be due within 60 days of the project end date. A template for this will be provided to the Project Lead and Academic Manager for the host Department/Centre/Institute one month before the project end date.
- At the end of the project, any unspent funds must be returned to 100x Impact Accelerator.
- Engagement with 100x cohort social ventures, including at least two hours of direct (in-person or online) time with ventures, at the discretion of 100x needs.

### *Will costed and/or no-cost extensions be permitted?*

Where unforeseen and unavoidable circumstances have negatively impacted project progress, it is possible that a no-cost extension may be granted. These will be considered on an individual project basis, and requests must be received by the end of January 2026, regardless of project start date. Costed extensions will not be possible for any 100x Impact Accelerator Research Grant.

### *When will the funds be paid to the recipient's host Department/Centre/Institute?*

Funds will be paid to a dedicated project account – set up by Kevin Randall – ahead of the project start date, providing that the start date is confirmed within 15 working days following receipt of award confirmation. If the start date is not confirmed within that timeframe, the funds will be paid into a dedicated project account as soon as possible.