

GtR+ Secondary Data Analysis

Fund Overview

The Department for Science, Innovation and Technology (DSIT) has enhanced [Gateway to Research \(GtR\) data](#) by linking it with other datasets, including OpenAlex and Companies House. The dataset is henceforth referred to as GtR+.

In collaboration between DSIT, Innovate UK, and the IRC, this call invites proposals that leverage the GtR+ dataset, potentially linked with other datasets, to address key questions about the UK innovation system. The aim is to generate actionable insights for innovation strategy, policy and support, helping to maximise benefits of the UK's economy, society and environment. Applicants are encouraged to make full and creative use of the dataset to explore both the economic and non-economic outcomes of UKRI-funded innovation.

Projects commissioned under this fund should contribute to:

- informing innovation policies, strategies and decision-making through robust evidence
- helping improve support for innovation in universities and businesses
- producing evidenced based insights for Innovate UK and DSIT policymakers about what works, where and why within the innovation system

Projects commissioned under this fund should:

- Align with the [IRC's aims and objectives](#)
- Illustrate their strategic importance for Innovate UK and DSIT.

This fund is not seeking to support applications where there is a clear alternative UKRI funding scheme.

Deadline for applications: 12pm 22 October 2025

To apply, please [complete this form](#), attach short CVs (maximum 2 pages) for all members of the research team, and submit to info@ircaucus.ac.uk.

For all enquiries, please contact info@ircaucus.ac.uk.

Data Description

The GtR+ dataset is a valuable resource for understanding UKRI-funded projects and tracking their impact. It includes detailed information on project titles, abstracts, funding amounts, lead organisations, and researchers, as well as outcomes such as publications and patents. DSIT have recently undergone a process of enhancing this dataset by correcting errors, linking to OpenAlex and Companies House, and labelling projects and individuals, with the aim of better understanding how R&I is funded by UKRI.

GtR+ builds on GtR data by adding publicly available metadata. Four of the most important additions are:

- 1) **People** – We have linked the named individuals associated with projects to OpenAlex, allowing bibliometric analysis.
- 2) **Organisations** – We have disambiguated and categorised organisations based on sector (public, private, academic, third sector), added a country label, and enriched with external reference IDs. This means we added company numbers for businesses, charity numbers for charities, ROR IDs for research-performing organisations, and more.
- 3) **Funder/ programme** – We have replaced the original funding_org field with three new fields that distinguish between funder, delivery body, and programme name (i.e. Innovate UK delivers programmes funded by other government departments, such as the Create Growth Programme, which is funded by DCMS).
- 4) **Subject/ tech** – We have labelled projects based on three different taxonomies. Two taxonomies cover traditional academic disciplines/fields ([CWTS](#)/[OpenAlex](#) taxonomies), while the other covers emerging technologies.

New, added variables are marked with an asterisk (*) in the following schema.

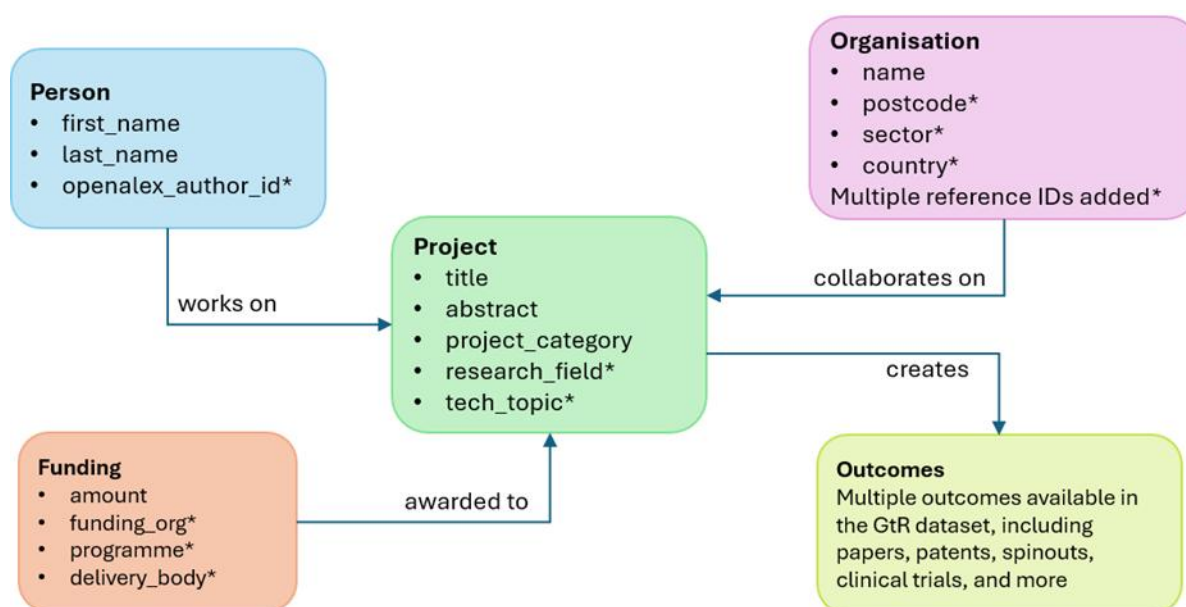


Figure 1. Gateway to Research Plus (GtR+) Schema

Note: funding_org and postcode are both available in the original GtR dataset but have been enhanced in GtR+.

More information on the variables collected and the data structure can be found in the [data dictionary](#).

The GtR+ dataset will be shared with successful applicants via a download link.

Funding Themes

This call aims to explore the potential of the GtR+ dataset to address questions about, and contribute to improvements in, the UK innovation system to maximise benefits for the UK's economy, society and environment. Applicants are encouraged to make full use of the dataset to investigate **innovation-related** questions¹.

This section highlights key areas of interest for DSIT and Innovate UK stakeholders, but applicants are welcome to submit proposals outside these themes if they demonstrate novel thinking. Such proposals should provide clear evidence of how the project will be of value to Innovate UK and DSIT.

This call welcomes proposals that employ novel analytical techniques or explore questions that were previously unquantifiable. Applicants are also encouraged to incorporate additional data sources, particularly those that are currently untapped or underutilised. While these elements are not mandatory, their inclusion is encouraged to showcase the potential applications and versatility of the GtR+ dataset.

Theme 1: Collaboration and Innovation Dynamics

- Uncover and understand patterns, enablers and barriers in public-private and academic-industry collaboration.
- Investigate the lifecycle of R&I projects and the role of collaboration and engagement with external partners.
- Explore the role of researchers transitioning into industry and their subsequent impact on R&I.

Example research questions:

- How can we identify missed opportunities for collaboration across academia and industry?
- Are there systematic differences between outcomes of awards with private/public sector collaborations, and those that do not?
- What factors influence the timing and quality of external engagement in research projects?
- What factors affect follow-on private investment? E.g. the size or type of funding, public-private partnerships etc.
- What distinguishes projects or researchers that successfully secure follow-on funding?
- What is the return on public investment in terms of private sector uptake of innovation?

¹ The dataset contains data from across UKRI, but this call is specifically asking researchers to focus on innovation-related questions.

Theme 2: Regional and Local Impact

- Assess how UKRI funding affects regional economies and innovation ecosystems.
- Examine the interplay between UKRI funding and other public investments (e.g. transport, housing).
- Evaluate the role of local government partnerships in amplifying research impact.

Example research questions:

- Should UKRI adjust any aspects of its approach to regional innovation support to better reflect regional strengths or needs?
- Do investments with a regional focus create more or different regional impacts than nationally focused ones?
- Does co-investment from local government enhance the impact of UKRI-funded projects?
- What are the enablers or barriers to impact? I.e. How do impacts differ according to the local characteristics and economic conditions of the region?
- What complementary (non-R&I) investments are needed to maximise research impact?
- Is there any evidence that UKRI-funded research leads to high impact innovation overseas which could have been retained in the UK with the appropriate support (i.e. the UK 'misses out' on some of the impacts of UKRI-funded research)?

Theme 3: R&I Directionality and Sectoral Growth

- Determine whether UKRI funding steers firms or regions toward specific domains or technologies.
- Explore sectoral specialisation and innovation trajectories resulting from public investment.

Example research questions:

- Does UKRI funding lead to sectoral specialisation in firms or regions?
- How does public investment shape the innovation focus of firms over time?

Theme 4: Non-Economic and Societal Impacts

- Investigate the broader societal benefits of UKRI funding for innovation, including:
 - Environmental sustainability and climate resilience
 - Public health outcomes
 - Inclusiveness and equality (e.g. gender, regional, socio-economic)
 - Talent development and skills formation
 - National security and resilience

Example research questions:

- What are the environmental, health, and inclusiveness outcomes of UKRI-funded innovation?
- How does UKRI funding contribute to national security and resilience?
- What role does UKRI funding play in developing talent and skills across the UK?

Application

To apply, please [complete this form](#), attach short CVs (maximum 2 pages) for all members of the research team, and submit to info@ircaucus.ac.uk.

Please clearly and concisely articulate:

- How the proposal will address questions about, and contribute to improvements in, the UK innovation system to maximise benefits for the UK's economy, society and environment.
- The methodological approach.
- The intended outputs, outcomes and impacts and how they are of value to Innovate UK and DSIT – demonstrating alignment with published DSIT, Innovate UK or broader government priorities or strategies is helpful here.

Funding Available

The GtR+ Secondary Analysis Funding Call has up to £50,000 available (100% fec). Projects can seek up to a maximum of £10,000 (100% fec). The IRC will fund 80% of the full economic cost.

We expect to fund a minimum of five projects.

The maximum duration of any project is 6 months.

Timetable

Activity	Date
Q&A Webinar – with DSIT and Innovate UK Book your place here.	3 September: 13:00 – 14:00 <i>This will be recorded and available on the IRC website after the event.</i>
Call opens	1 September 2025
Call closes	12:00 pm 22 October 2025
Review Panel	Mid November 2025
Decision communicated	Mid-Late November 2025
Cohort Webinar <i>Webinar with successful applicants</i>	Early December 2025
Projects start	1 January 2025
Projects must end by	1 July 2026

Project Expectations

Outputs

Each funded project will be required to produce the following:

- **(Where applicable) Coding scripts:** to contribute to a bank of reusable code to sit along the dataset.
- **A research report:** a comprehensive account of the project's aims, methods, findings, and conclusions.
- **A non-technical summary:** a 2–3-page summary highlighting the objectives, findings, actionable insights, and potential impacts of the project.

These outputs will be formatted in IRC branding and published on the IRC website. They should be written for an informed but non-specialist audience, and should use accessible, jargon-free language appropriate for a non-academic audience. All project outputs will undergo a light-touch internal review conducted by the IRC Core Team before they are published on the IRC website, ensuring they align with the IRC's strategic objectives and communication standards.

Applicants are welcome to produce additional output types, such as toolkits, proof of concepts or frameworks.

Engagement with DSIT and Innovate UK Stakeholders

As part of the funding, successful applicants will be expected to attend a meeting with DSIT and Innovate UK stakeholders at the start of the project and another at the conclusion of the project.

- **Start-of-project:** This session will bring together each funded project, alongside representatives from the IRC, Innovate UK, and DSIT. The project will be asked to give a short (5 minute) overview using a standard template, which will be followed with questions, guidance and discussion with stakeholders. This meeting is intended to give DSIT and Innovate UK an opportunity to meet the researchers, learn more about the project, and provide guidance to ensure the project is aligned with their evidence needs and will therefore have maximum impact.
- **End-of-project:** Toward the end of the funding period, researchers will be invited to share their early findings with the IRC team, Innovate UK and DSIT stakeholders. This session has an aim of 1) deciding on and co-developing outputs and 2) dissemination and impact activities.

Ahead of these meetings, project teams will meet with the IRC's Knowledge Exchange and Impact Manager, as well as the Communications Manager, to help prepare for the discussions.

Post-Project Broader Engagement

While the primary focus of these projects is to generate actionable insights, applicants are encouraged – but not required – to contribute to wider communication and dissemination activities, with support from the IRC's Communications & Engagement Manager, and Knowledge Exchange & Impact Manager.

Optional activities may include:

- Producing a short blog, infographic, or social media posts content to accompany the final output, with support from the IRC's Communications and Engagement Manager.
- Sharing insights and outputs through the applicants' own institutional channels, social media, and networks.
- Participating in webinars to share findings the IRC network and wider stakeholders from UKRI and DSIT through webinars (e.g. thematic panels or spotlight sessions).
- Condensing research findings into accessible, actionable formats (e.g., infographics, presentations, videos, policy briefs, case studies, or other formats) aimed at targeted stakeholder groups within the wider research and innovation system, developed in collaboration with the IRC's Knowledge Exchange & Impact Manager.

Application Process

This competition will be carried out in accordance with the principles of Peer Review upheld by UKRI: <https://www.ukri.org/apply-for-funding/how-we-make-decisions/>

Submission of applications will be a one-stage process. Following eligibility checks, applications will be reviewed by a panel comprising representatives from the IRC, Innovate UK and DSIT. Applications will be scored against the criteria below.

All applications will be treated as strictly confidential and seen for the purpose of review only.

Outputs, outcomes and impacts	<p>The proposal clearly articulates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project outputs: How answering the proposed research questions will produce evidence-based, actionable insights for Innovate UK and DSIT policymakers about what works, where and why within the research and innovation system • Expected short-term outcomes: The anticipated improvements in the innovation system through better informed policies, strategies and decision-making • Expected longer-term outcomes: The intended outcomes and impacts of those improvements and how those link to Innovate UK, DSIT, or broader government strategies and goals.
Methodology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposal clearly articulates the proposed methodological approach and is feasible given the scope of the call.
Research Team	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relevant expertise of lead applicants and other collaborators.

Delivery & Grant Conditions

Project Delivery Requirements

- **No extensions will be granted:** All projects must be completed within the agreed timeline. Applicants should plan accordingly to ensure delivery by the stated end date.
- **Staff must be in place at project start:** Recruitment of key personnel during the project period is not permitted. All necessary staff must be identified, contracted, and ready to begin on day one.
- **Final invoices deadline:** All project-related invoices must be submitted by 30 September 2026. Costs submitted after this date will not be reimbursed.

Terms and Conditions

Successful applicants will receive a Grant Award Letter which includes the terms and conditions for this call set out in the IRC Disbursement Agreement. Applicants are advised to

get these terms reviewed and approved by their university legal/contracts teams first before applying since these terms are non-negotiable and cannot be changed once an award is made. Once the award is made no negotiations or changes to the Disbursement Agreement will be accepted.

The IRC will only make successful awards to those applicants that indicate their acceptance of the template Disbursement Agreement at the date of application. Additionally, any applicant considers the template Disbursement Agreement to be binding and in circumstances where the applicant cannot agree to the terms of the Disbursement Agreement then no bid for a research award should be made.

A copy of these terms and conditions are [available here](#).

Eligibility

This competition will be carried out in accordance with [UKRI Eligibility requirements](#); [ESRC funding rules](#) and [Principles of full economic costing](#).

- The Principal Investigator must be a member of the [IRC Network](#).
- Any UK organisation that is eligible to receive UKRI funding. Before applying for funding, [check the eligibility](#) of your organisation.
- Every funded project shall have a named Lead University/Lead Research Organisation. This organisation may apply independently or may include other Project Partners in its application.
- Funding shall be awarded only to the Lead University/Lead Research Organisation. Oxford Brookes will contract with the Lead University/Lead Research Organisation only. Any subsequent distribution of funding to Project Partners shall be the responsibility of the Lead University /Lead Research Organisation.
- Each project shall have a named Principal Investigator (PI). The PI shall be employed continuously by the Lead University (i.e., their post will outlast the project). The PI shall be considered the key contact for the award, taking responsibility for delivery, budget, and reporting. The PI must be from the organisation that will administer the grant. The PI will take intellectual leadership of the project and manage the research. All named investigators are responsible for ensuring that successful proposals are undertaken and completed in the manner specified.
- An individual as Principal Investigator can lead on only one bid at any one time. You may support others as a co-investigator, if you have the capacity to do so without detriment to the project you lead.
- Early career researchers (ECR), (including post-doctoral researchers and new/probationary lecturers) are eligible to participate and are encouraged to do so and may act in role of PI. Where an ECR is the primary actor, it is requested that a senior individual is also included in the project to help oversee.
- Non-academic partners are welcomed and encouraged as part of submitted proposals. Please see the following links for further information:

- [Check if you are eligible for research and innovation funding](#)
- [ESRC research funding guide](#)
- Postgraduate students are not eligible to apply for funded projects.

We are committed to achieving equality of opportunity for all funding applicants. We encourage applications from a diverse range of researchers.

We support people to work in a way that suits their personal circumstances. This includes:

- career breaks
- support for people with caring responsibilities
- flexible working and alternative working patterns

Eligible Costs

Costings for this competition should be in accordance with [ESRC funding rules](#) and [Principles of full economic costing](#).

Applicants should ensure that their request is appropriate for the scope, ambition and expected impact, and can viably be spent within project timeline.

- **Directly Allocated staff:** Investigators
- **Directly Incurred staff:** Researchers
- **Other Directly Incurred costs:** project specific consumables, consultancy fees, and equipment costs
- **Estate and Indirect costs**

Funding for the flexible fund will be made at 80% full economic cost. If successful, applicants will receive 80% funding by the IRC on proposals submitted. The organisation in receipt of the devolved funding must make up the remaining 20%.

Where non-academic or international organisations are the recipients of an IRC flexible fund grant, they are eligible for funding at 100% full economic cost. However, the combined costs for applicants eligible for 100% full economic cost should not exceed 30% of the full economic cost of the grant.

Ineligible Costs

The following may not be requested under this Call:

- Associated studentships

Submissions

Deadline for applications: 12pm 22 October 2025

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