

Responsible Research and Innovation in IAA Projects

1.1. Introduction:

Consideration of Responsible Research and Innovation (RRI) is an important component of UKRI IAA awards. This guidance is intended to support project planning and longer-term engagement with non-academic stakeholders.

Our working definition of RRI:

RRI is a process that aims to enable positive societal impact by addressing potential unintended or negative impacts and mitigating associated risks.

It encourages exploring the perspectives of research users, partners and stakeholders, and meaningfully incorporating them into the design of projects.

RRI requires ongoing consideration of power dynamics and open dialogue around community needs—including social, cultural, economic and physical sensitivities—to ensure equitable and mutually-beneficial collaborations.

RRI does not exist in isolation; it is inherently linked to good research culture and considerations of ethics, EDI, PPI and sustainability.

1.2. General advice:

Be specific: rather than simply referring to institutional or external policies and processes, indicate how these will be applied in your project.

1.3. Considering unintended or negative impacts and associated risks:

Questions to consider	Potential approach
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Have you taken steps to determine unintended or negative impacts associated with this project?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Number and list potential unintended or negative impacts in the RRI section of your application.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Have you considered how you'll mitigate associated risks?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Acknowledge risks within your work packages and include mitigations.

1.4. Considering research users, project partners and stakeholders:

Questions to consider	Potential approach
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Have you taken active steps to explore the perspectives of your partners, stakeholders or intended users of the product or service that your project will develop?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Explain how you've engaged with them in the development of this project and how their views are represented in the design of your project plan.

1.5. Considering power dynamics and community needs:

Questions to consider	Potential approach
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Who holds the power in this project? (e.g. are there disparities in terms of the resources available, financial contributions, or Global North/Global South dynamics)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Explain how power dynamics may affect your partners' ability to raise issues or flag concerns about the project and factor these issues into your communication strategy.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Are there social, cultural, economic or physical sensitivities to consider with regards to project partners, stakeholders or intended users?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Demonstrate that your project is aware of these issues and explain how it will adapt to (potentially changing) community needs.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Are the in-kind contributions of your partners recognised?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ensure that both cash and in-kind contributions are acknowledged.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Who will own the outputs and Intellectual Property (IP) generated through this project?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Discuss openly with project partners from the outset, especially with commercial projects.

1.6. Additional resources:

- Advice on RRI is available from your [local IAA team](#)
- To discuss matters relating to IP, please contact the [UofG IP&C Team](#)
- [UofG Research & Innovation Services: a short guide to RRI](#)
- [UKRI Guidance on RRI](#)
- [TAS RRI prompts and practice cards](#)
- [Orbit RRI training](#)