

## **MRC Proximity to Discovery: Industry Engagement Award**

### **Expected governance standards**

Institutions are expected to allocate funds transparently, and will be required to be able to explain the rationale behind the decisions made

### **Assessment criteria**

Applications will be assessed using the following criteria:

- Environment/expertise: does the institution provide a suitable environment for collaboration with industry? Will they provide expertise to develop relationships appropriately? Do they have a convincing strategy for engaging with industry? Do they have a track record of success in this area?
- Use, impact and governance: is the proposed use likely to make a significant difference, beyond what the institution already achieves? Will the university contribute additional funding or specialist advice/expertise? Does the proposed governance give confidence that the funding will be selectively allocated and managed to best effect? Are decision-making mechanisms based on high-quality expertise and experience and are they transparent?
- Knowledge exchange: is there a plan to harness the learning achieved through people exchanges.
- Novelty: are the proposed uses creative and are they considering new ways of building relationships with industry.
- Complementarity to existing funding, will an award build on or enhance successful portfolio funding already received such as CiC.

### **Expectations and Reporting requirements**

The provision of a Proximity to Discovery award is expected to lead to increased interactions with and understanding of industry as demonstrated by research collaborations, joint funding applications, licencing of IP and successful knowledge exchange etc. Institutions will be required to report to the MRC on the projects awarded and their outcomes. Any potential renewal will be dependent on performance.

### **Contact**

If you have any queries about this scheme, please contact:  
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