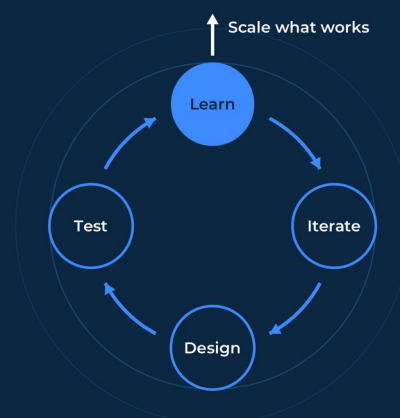


IGL · RESEARCH TO IMPACT LAB

Impact Accelerator 2026

Maximise the impact of your knowledge exchange and commercialisation programme

Now accepting applications for the fully funded November cohort



About the Accelerator

Universities and research institutes produce research with huge potential for economic and societal impact. **Are you developing or running a programme to support knowledge exchange and research commercialisation?** Before you scale it, learn how to maximise its impact through experimentation.

We work with you to embed experimentation in your organisation and build your team's capability to evaluate in a more agile, systematic and evidence-informed way. Through structured, hands-on support, we help you develop a theory of change and success metrics for your programme, then choose the right way to test it. You'll learn how to evaluate using experimental logic, how to apply experimental methods and, where numbers are too small for a randomised experiment, which other methods you can use to build evidence on your programme.

The Accelerator is part of IGL's [Research to Impact \(R2I\) Lab](#), a global alliance of policymakers, innovation leaders and researchers using experimentation, data and evidence to change how research turns into impact.

Programmes you could bring

01 Entrepreneurial training for researchers	02 New models of licensing or collaboration with industry	03 A toolkit to simplify spinout terms or build investment readiness
04 A funding programme with wraparound support	05 Testing how AI tools can augment human expertise in knowledge exchange	06 Something entirely new that needs the right approach to test whether it works

NEW FUNDING?

Launching a newly funded programme?

If your organisation or partnership has funding, or is applying for funding, to pilot new collaborations or models, such as a shared technology transfer office (TTO), the Accelerator can help you build evaluation in from the start. We'll support your team to think through **how to evaluate your programme**, including its theory of change, success metrics and ways to test what works, so you can learn as you go, show funders the difference your programme makes and build the case for continued support.

What you'll get

Three months of expert guidance to design, test and evaluate your programme, and the skills to build experimentation into how your organisation works.

6 Expert workshops Sessions covering programme design, theory of change, evaluation and experimental design, outcome measures, implementation and analysis.	5 One-to-one support Tailored sessions with IGL experts to apply each stage of the Accelerator to your own programme.	 A global cohort Learn alongside peers from around the world, share progress and exchange best practices that last beyond the programme.
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Plus: connect with the [IGL Research Network](#) of 300+ experimental researchers, and draw on the [Experimental Ideas Handbook](#) with 100+ ideas for university–industry collaboration.



The most important lesson I'm taking back to my team is the value of piloting new initiatives and examining problems from multiple perspectives, with a constructive, critical guide throughout. This helped challenge our thinking, identify blind spots, reduce risks and improve programme design and decision-making.

— A national innovation agency · Past Impact Accelerator participant

Programme schedule

11 Nov 2026	WORKSHOP 1	Kick-off
18 Nov 2026	WORKSHOP 2	Understanding the challenge Programme ideation, objectives and impact
25 Nov 2026	OFFICE HOUR 1	Tailored one-to-one support on your programme
02 Dec 2026	WORKSHOP 3	Mapping the path to impact Theory of change
09 Dec 2026	OFFICE HOUR 2	Tailored one-to-one support on your programme
16 Dec 2026	WORKSHOP 4	Designing the right experiment Evaluation design, randomised experiments, outcome measures and piloting
Winter break		
13 Jan 2027	OFFICE HOUR 3	Tailored one-to-one support on your programme
20 Jan 2027	WORKSHOP 5	Implementing successful experiments Recruitment, compliance, attrition, risk management and analysis
27 Jan 2027	OFFICE HOUR 4	Tailored one-to-one support on your programme
03 Feb 2027	WORKSHOP 6	Final presentations
10 Feb 2027	OFFICE HOUR 5	Tailored one-to-one support on your programme

All sessions are online · Workshops are held 14:00–16:00 UK time / 15:00–17:00 CET, and office hour slots will be released closer to the date.

Who can apply

Teams that design or deliver programmes supporting knowledge exchange and research commercialisation, including:

Technology transfer offices	University knowledge exchange teams	Corporate open innovation teams
Innovation and funding agencies	Accelerators and venture builders	Others where research meets impact

We welcome programmes covering **any form of knowledge exchange**, formal and informal, not just technology transfer. The Accelerator is **global** and open to organisations anywhere in the world.

Partnerships are welcome too. A group of universities or organisations planning a new programme together can apply as one team. The Accelerator works best when **two to three people from each participating organisation or partnership** attend the sessions.

Key details and how to apply

Dates: 11 Nov 2026 to 10 Feb 2027 · **Format:** online · **Team size:** two to three people · **Deadline:** 30 Oct 2026

Fully funded programme

Supported by **Coefficient Giving**, this edition of the Accelerator is available at no cost to participating teams. This is to enable more teams to test novel ideas and build the evidence base to accelerate knowledge exchange and commercialisation. Places are limited, so we encourage you to apply early.

Join the November 2026 cohort · Rolling applications until Friday 30 October 2026

Apply now →

Questions? Read the **FAQs** or contact Apoorva Srikanth at apoorva.srikanth@nesta.org.uk

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