ARC Accelerate Express

Application Form Preview

Submit your application via MS Forms: ARC Accelerate Express: Application Form 2026 Cohorts – Fill in form

Applicant profile summary If you are applying as part of a team, please select one lead person as your point of contact. Information on co-founders and other team members can be entered in the optional section on co-founders/other team members below. Please get in touch with the ARC team if you have any questions (hello@arcaccelerator.io).	
Question	**Answer format and word limit, where applicable**
First name	[text]
Last name	[text]
Email address	[text]
Research organisation	[text]
Please indicate how you meet the eligibility criteria. Applicants must have a PhD or similar research or innovation experience. For further information, please visit the ESRC research funding guide and check if you are eligible for research and innovation funding.	[tick box: o I have a PhD o I don't have a PhD, but I have similar research or innovation experience o other]
Faculty/academic school	[text]
Please select your research discipline. If it is not part of the listed options, please add it in the "Other" field below.	tick box
Have you attended the ARC Discover workshops?	[tick box: o yes o no o other]
Have you attended the ARC Launch workshops?	[tick box: o yes

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	o no o other]
Have you applied for previous rounds of ARC Accelerate in 2023, 2024 or 2025? *Past applications do not affect application outcomes, and we are only recording this information or monitoring purposes.*	[tick box: o yes o no o other]
Do you have co-founders or other team members?	[tick box: o Yes o No]
Please enter the names of your co-founders or other team members, their role or job titles, and which organisations they are based at & their email addresses.	[text]
Venture proposal These questions are designed to help us understand your venture idea, assess its impact potential, and assess your commitment to commercialisation. Please be assured that we are not expecting these answers to be final, as the programme is designed to help you refine your ideas. In fact, it is likely that your idea and your plan on how to progress the idea will change during the programme.	
What is the name of your project or idea? A provisional one is fine.	[text]
What is your venture proposal?	[text; **max. 75 words**]
Who are the various stakeholders of your project? Please outline the (potential) beneficiaries, users and customers. *List all three groups as a heading below and add your description next to it. Keep your answer as succinct as possible (max. 20 words for each)* ***Guidance*** *ARC would suggest the following distinction between beneficiaries, users and customers:* • *Beneficiaries: anyone whose quality of life is improved by your product or service, whether or not they are aware they are benefitting* • *Users: anyone who actively 'uses' your product or service to achieve some benefit for themselves or another* • *Customers: anyone who transacts or exchanges value with you to obtain your product or service* ***NB:*** *The three groups might overlap.*	[text; **max. 20 words for each**]

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How do you know people need what you are offering? Have you spoken to any potential users or beneficiaries about it so far? If yes, who have you spoken to and what have you learned from these conversations?	[text; **max. 150 words**]
What is the research base of your project/venture? Please keep your answer concise and do not include references.	[text; **max. 200 words**]
Development stage/maturity of the project In this section, we are trying to find out your project's maturity and at what stage of the commercialisation process it is. We are also interested in any market validation activities you have undertaken, who you have spoken to about your idea, and what you have learned from these conversations.	
In the last 12 months, what, if any, activity other than research have you done to advance your idea?	[text; **max. 100 words**]
At what stage of development/maturity is your idea?	[tick box: o at the idea stage (pre-product/service), no further development yet o a working version (prototype/pilot), but not yet tested with users o a working version (prototype/pilot) that has been tested with at least one potential user or customer o a tested product or service (e.g., you have run a trial workshop) o a market-ready product or service already in use (i.e., it is "live"/available, or you have sold work) *o* growth (paying customer, public, traction)]
What have you done to test and validate potential customers' willingness to pay? If you have spoken to customers about it, please explain what you have learned from these conversations. If you	[text; **max. 150 words**]

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haven't spoken to customers, please outline who you would like to speak to next.	
If you had to secure a paying customer in the next 6 months, who would you target first and why? In addition, what, if anything, would you need to do in order to get your product or service ready? Please lay out each step.	[text; **max. 150 words**]
What are you looking to gain from the programme?	[text; **max. 100 words**]
Intellectual property and ethical implications Please be aware that neither UKRI nor ARC take ownership of any intellectual property (IP). All participants are subject to the IP policy of their own institution. We are only asking a question about IP to clarify the research underpinning your venture idea and to prevent unauthorised attempts to commercialise IP.	
Describe the source and ownership of your IP and any dependency your project may have on other people or organisations.	[text; **max. 100 words**]
If applicable, please briefly summarise any ethical implications of your project.	[text; **max. 100 words**]
Support To get the most out of this programme, we ask that a member of staff from your institution's Technology Transfer Office or Innovation/Knowledge Exchange/Enterprise Office joins you throughout the sessions. They will be able to provide invaluable support through 1:1 guidance between sessions, act as a sounding board for your ideas, help you identify external stakeholders and signpost you to other internal resources. **Please provide the name and email address of your Technology Transfer Officer (TTO) or an equivalent member of staff below, if known. If you have not yet contacted your Technology Transfer/Innovation/KE/Enterprise Office, please do so as soon as possible and ask them to contact hello@arcaccelerator.io.**	
TTO first name	[text]
TTO surname	[text]
TTO email address	[text]

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