

QAMSS Fund: Applicant Information Pack

Objectives of the QAMSS fund

The Quantum and Advanced Materials technologies for a Sustainable Society (QAMSS) fund will provide up to **£5000** for initiatives that **explicitly address** the objectives below:

1. **Raise Awareness:** Increase awareness among staff and students at the University of Cambridge about the significance of quantum and advanced materials technologies for addressing global challenges and achieving sustainability goals.
2. **Address Barriers:** Identify and address barriers hindering the development and implementation of quantum and advanced materials technologies, such as technological limitations, ethical concerns, policy constraints, and accessibility issues.
3. **Facilitate Implementation of Good Practice:** Support projects that aim to implement best practices in the field of quantum and advanced materials, including but not limited to responsible research conduct, ethical considerations, data management, and knowledge sharing.
4. **Promote Collaboration:** Foster interdisciplinary collaboration among researchers from different departments and disciplines within the University of Cambridge, as well as with external partners, to leverage complementary expertise and resources for advancing research and innovation in quantum and advanced materials.
5. **Support Early Career Researchers (ECRs):** Provide opportunities for early career researchers to participate in collaborative projects, receive training and mentoring, and contribute to the advancement of knowledge and expertise in the field of quantum and advanced materials technologies.
6. **Generate Impact:** Encourage projects that have the potential to generate tangible impact, whether through the development of new technologies, policy recommendations, societal engagement initiatives, or contributions to scientific knowledge and understanding.

Terms and conditions

All applications must:

- Address three or more of the objectives outlined above.
- Include at least 2 participants from different departments/disciplines within the University. The project lead can be a member of staff or a student, and must hold a contract or be enrolled on their course for the full duration of the project.
- Have clearly defined goal and milestones for the funding period, including establishing initiatives within the University.
- Be realistic and deliverable. Applicants must ensure that their project can be delivered by **15 September 2027. Reports are due by 15 October 2027.**
- Include a clearly defined evaluation plan specifying how the impact of the project will be monitored.

Selection Criteria

1. **Collaborative Partnerships:** Preference will be given to applications that establish new interdisciplinary collaborations partnerships within the University of Cambridge and potentially beyond, leveraging the expertise and resources of diverse stakeholders.
2. **Alignment with QAMSS Vision and Goals:** Applications should clearly demonstrate alignment with the vision and goals outlined by the QAMSS SRI, focusing on advancing quantum science, developing innovative advanced materials, addressing societal challenges, and fostering interdisciplinary collaboration.
3. **Innovation and Novelty:** Applications should introduce innovative approaches, methodologies, or technologies to address challenges related to quantum and advanced materials technologies, ensuring that the proposed projects contribute to advancing knowledge and understanding in the field.

4. **Feasibility and Sustainability:** The applications should be feasible within the scope of the microfunding available and have the potential for sustainability beyond the funding period, contributing to the long-term goals of QAMSS.
5. **Potential for Societal Impact:** Applications should demonstrate a clear understanding of the societal implications of quantum and advanced materials technologies, including ethical considerations, environmental sustainability, and social equity, and propose strategies to address these aspects.

Eligibility

University staff, students, and staff/student societies are welcome to apply including:

- Academic Staff, Researchers and Postdocs
- Academic-related and Assistant Staff
- Undergraduate and Postgraduate Students

Projects involving collaboration between students and staff are encouraged.

The project lead must hold a contract or be enrolled on their course for the full duration of the project.

Funding limitations

If successful, funding will be allocated to **a host institution and not directly to an individual**. Host institutions include **Cambridge University Departments, Faculties, Colleges or University Non-School Institutions**.

Reporting requirements

Successful applicants will be required to submit a **final report by 15 October 2027** outlining how the project met its objectives, and describing how the funds were spent.

How to apply

Please complete the Application Form and send it to coordinator@qamss.cam.ac.uk, together with a CV (2-page max) for each of the team members **by 9 October 2026**.

The selection committee will consist of three academics from three different departments. The winners will be announced by **20 October 2026**, and the teams will be required to give a 5 minute presentation at the **QAMSS Community Day in November 2026**.

Resources

Project management

The University's Personal and Professional Development (PPD) Team offers various courses related to project management via LinkedIn Learning. Booking links are provided below:

- [SMART Objectives](#)
- [Project Management](#)
- [GANTT Charts](#)
- [Introduction to the Principles of Risk Management at the University of Cambridge](#)
- [Stages of Problem Solving](#)
- [Team Working](#)

Project evaluation and monitoring impact

Applicants will be required to explain how they will evaluate their project and monitor their project's impact. The below resources provide guidance on how this can be done:

- [Indeed – A Guide to Project Evaluation](#)
- [Float – How to Evaluate and Measure the Success of a Project](#)
- [Sopact – Impact Measurement](#)

Ethics and data protection

Ethical approval may be required if your project involves gathering data or publishing content (e.g., journal articles) about your project. Please consider this when planning your project. More information about data protection regulation and gaining ethical approval can be found at the below links:

- [Data Protection Training \(Online PPD Course\)](#)
- [Information Compliance Team – Data Protection Quick Guide](#)
- [Research Integrity – Applying for Ethical Approval](#)