

EPSRC fellowships: postdoctoral

Opportunity status:	Open
Funders:	Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC)
Funding type:	Fellowship
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Opening date:	N/A
Closing date:	14 December 2020 16:00 UK time

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Start application

EPSRC fellowships help postdoctoral researchers with the greatest potential to develop world-leading research that will meet UK and global priorities.

A fellowship offers support, flexibility and freedom for you to:

- develop high-quality research ideas and outputs
- raise the profile of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) and EPSRC
- gain the experience you need to help you move to the next stage of your career.

Your project must fit one of our strategic priority areas.

We will award 80% of the full economic costs of the project, and your organisation must agree to find the balance.

[Open all](#)

Who can apply

Research grants are open to UK higher education institutions, research council institutes, UKRI-approved independent research organisations and NHS bodies with research capacity.

[Read the guidance on institutional eligibility.](#)

You can apply if you have a PhD or equivalent research experience by the start date of your fellowship.

There are no eligibility rules about how many years of postdoctoral experience you need or whether you are currently in a permanent academic position.

We encourage applicants who have taken a non-standard career path after their first degree. We also welcome applications from candidates who want to move back into research after a career break or any other type of break from active research.

There are no restrictions on nationality.

For more information, read our [fellowship application guide](#).

We will not accept uninvited resubmissions of projects that have been submitted to UKRI or any other funder.

What we're looking for

We're looking for aspiring individuals who need support to develop a new and outstanding piece of world-leading research and progress their career to the next level.

Your research project must reflect [our strategic priorities](#) and focus on areas where growth is needed most.

An EPSRC fellowship will help to position you and your research topic within a wider academic field. It will also develop your leadership skills by helping you to establish or extend a research group.

Research organisations may wish to show their commitment to applicants by providing additional support and resources as evidenced in the [host organisation statement](#).

You can apply for up to three years for a postdoctoral stage award. We will also allow fellowships over shorter periods. You can spend between 50% and 100% of your time on a fellowship.

If you want to work part-time, you can hold your EPSRC fellowship part-time as well, at a minimal level of 50%. In these circumstances, the duration of your fellowship can be extended pro rata.

We will fund 80% of the full economic costs of your project. You may request funding for:

- equipment and other items needed to carry out the project
- costs related to impact
- travel and subsistence.

We will not fund costs for additional researchers on postdoctoral fellowships or individual items of equipment over £10,000 (including VAT).

If you are a research organisation

We expect eligible research organisations to submit the best candidates for these fellowships.

If you are a research organisation, you must:

- make sure that your candidate's proposals are aligned to one of our fellowship priority areas
- help applicants identify how they fit the aims and outcomes of their career stage
- make sure your applicants have chosen the most relevant resource packages for their career stage and proposed project.

Find details of current fellows

We invest in people with leadership potential at all career stages, helping them to lead excellent research projects.

Read more about the inspiring scientists and engineers who are [our current fellows](#) and find out how taking part in a fellowship has influenced their careers.

Find examples of projects we have funded by searching for 'fellowship' in our [online portfolio](#).

How to apply

The things you must do before you start your application for a fellowship:

- look at which [strategic priority area](#) within the Capability and Challenge themes are open for applications. If you are not sure, contact the relevant portfolio manager or theme fellowship coordinator
- read the aims and outcomes for individual career stages to help you and your research office decide which level to apply for
- read the [fellowship application guide](#).

You must apply using the [Joint Electronic Submission system \(Je-S\)](#).

We are always open for applications for fellowships.

When applying, select 'New document', then:

- council: EPSRC
- document type: fellowship proposal
- scheme: EPSRC fellowship

- call/type/mode: EPSRC fellowship – postdoctoral.

Your application should include the following attachments:

- a case for support (nine pages, with two on your track record and seven on the scientific case)
- a work plan (one page)
- a host organisation letter of support (two pages)
- justification of resources (two pages)
- CVs (up to two A4 sides each) for the principal investigator and visiting researchers
- letters of support from all project partners included in the Je-S form (no page limit)
- technical assessments for facilities listed as needing one in the Je-S guidance (no page limit)
- a cover letter (no page limit) – this is a mandatory attachment and will not be seen by peer reviewers
- other attachment – this can be used for a document that does not fit under any of the headings above. Reviewers and panel members will not see this attachment
- a list of publications (no page limit).

You should attach your documents as PDFs to avoid errors and use single-spaced 11 Arial or similar sans serif typeface.

We recommend you start your application in good time. You can save completed details in Je-S at any time and return to continue your application later.

When you submit the application, it will first go to your host organisation for review.

See the [Je-S handbook](#) for full advice on completing applications.

You can find more details about the application process in our:

- [fellowship application guide](#).
- [fellowship frequently asked questions \(PDF, 115KB\)](#).

We will fund 80% of the full economic costs of your project. You may request funding for your salary, equipment and other items required to carry out the project, costs related to impact, and travel and subsistence.

See our guidance on [completing your application](#).

How we will assess your application

Your application is assessed by peer review. It will be sent electronically to at least three reviewers, including at least one nominated by you. You will have the opportunity to respond to reviewer comments if your application gains enough support.

The proposal, reviewers' comments and your response will then go to a panel that will score it against our assessment criteria and rank it with other proposals. Panels are organised by theme and meet at different times of the year.

Our assessment criteria at the review stage:

- research quality (primary criterion)
- national importance (secondary major criterion)
- applicant and partnerships (secondary criterion)
- resources and management (secondary criterion)
- fellowship vision
- research leadership
- communication and ambassadorship
- personal development.

Find out more about:

- the assessment process in [our guidance for reviewers](#)
- assessment timescales in the [EPSRC fellowships framework application guidance \(PDF, 585KB\)](#).

At the prioritisation panel, the panel will assess the application against:

- research quality (primary criterion)
- applicant and partnerships (secondary major criterion)
- national importance (secondary criterion)
- resources and management (secondary criterion).

Following the prioritisation panel, we will invite successful candidates to interview.

Interviews will take place around six weeks after the prioritisation panel meeting. An interview panel will assess your application against the criteria below:

- fellowship vision
- research leadership
- communication and ambassadorship
- personal development.

Contact details

If you need any further general information about applying for a fellowship, email researchcareers@epsrc.ukri.org.

If you are not sure if your research fits within the remit of this funding opportunity or if you have specific questions about our theme areas, you should [contact the relevant portfolio manager or theme fellowship coordinator](#).

Additional info

EPSRC occasionally offers other fellowship opportunities, some of which are in partnership with external organisations or with other UKRI research councils. These fellowships may have different eligibility, application and review processes.

Check our [Funding finder](#) for details of the latest funding opportunities across UKRI.

Supporting documents

- [EPSRC fellowship guidance for applicants](#)
- [EPSRC fellowship frequently asked questions \(PDF, 115KB\)](#)
- [Equality impact assessment](#)

Find out more about:

- [resubmissions](#)
 - [repeatedly unsuccessful applications](#)
 - [equipment](#)
 - [use of animals \(PDF, 34KB\)](#)
 - [responsible research and innovation](#)
 - [ethical considerations](#)
 - [equality, diversity and inclusion](#)
 - [other EPSRC funding options](#)
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Related content

[Available fellowship priority areas](#)

[How to write and prepare a proposal](#)

[Reviewer assessment guidance](#)

[List of portfolio managers and theme fellowship coordinators](#)

[List of current fellows](#)

[Submit a remit query](#)

NOTE This is the first phase of our new website – let us know if you have [feedback](#) or would like to [help us test new developments](#).

