



**Engineering and  
Physical Sciences  
Research Council**

## **EPSRC are looking for new members for our Early Career Forum in Mathematical Sciences**

**Closing date: 17:00 11<sup>th</sup> March 2022**

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### **Key Dates:**

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Date</b>
Deadline for expression of interest	11 <sup>th</sup> March 2022
Shortlisting	Late March 2022
Inform Applicants of Outcome	Early April 2022
Next meeting of Early Career Forum	May 2022

### **Summary**

EPSRC is seeking applications from early career researchers to join our Early Career Forum (ECF) for the Mathematical Sciences Theme.

Our aim is to sustain core research capability across the breadth of mathematical sciences while promoting transformative and cross-disciplinary research, all of which has the potential for significant impact.

Engaging with early career researchers is a crucial part of achieving this aim, helping to set the direction for mathematical sciences research in the near future.

The Mathematical Sciences Early Career Forum acts as an informal advisory stream to EPSRC. Members are advocates for EPSRC within the community and provide a

broad perspective of the needs and views of the mathematical sciences community, offering opinion across the breadth of the Theme.

The Mathematical Sciences Theme considers it important that the Forum shapes its own agenda and activities, suggesting items of discussion and providing relevant insight and feedback to EPSRC from the community they represent.

We are looking to recruit up to 12 new members in this exercise, and we have a particular aspiration to maintain or improve the diversity of the Forum.

**This is not a call for a direct funding opportunity, but rather an application to become a member of the Mathematical Sciences Early Career Research Forum.**

## **Role and person specification**

Members are drawn from the breadth of the EPSRC Mathematical Sciences Theme stakeholder group. They are expected to bring a broad strategic view and to act as 'generous generalists'. Members are not expected to act as representatives of their own organisation, research area or sector, and are expected to adhere to the [Seven Principles of Public Life](#).

To recognise the range of career paths in mathematical sciences, there is no specific definition of "early career"; however, applicants should demonstrate why they consider it appropriate to describe themselves as such.

This opportunity is open to full-time and part-time academic staff and Fellowship holders, according to the normal eligibility rules for EPSRC funding. For information on the eligibility of individuals to receive EPSRC funding, see the EPSRC Funding Guide: <https://epsrc.ukri.org/funding/applicationprocess/fundingguide/>. In addition, this call is open to industrialists and from individuals working in the third sector and government organisations whose work is relevant to mathematical sciences.

## **Vacancies**

The Mathematical Sciences theme has vacancies open across the remit of Mathematical Sciences. The research areas included are:

- Algebra
- Continuum Mechanics
- Geometry & Topology
- Logic & Combinatorics
- Mathematical Analysis
- Mathematical Biology
- Mathematical Physics
- Non-linear Systems
- Number Theory
- Numerical Analysis
- Operational Research
- Statistics & Applied Probability

## **Essential**

- Being early career and holding a PhD and a permanent academic position or fellowship (full-time or part-time), based at a UK Higher Education Institution, or employed by a relevant business or organisation with an understanding of the processes required to deliver world class research activities in mathematical sciences, and/or the commercialisation of such research.
- A track record of outstanding work and/or research in mathematical sciences (within the scope of the [EPSRC Mathematical Sciences Theme](#)), and of delivering mathematical sciences impact.
- Evidence of credibility in the research community, including examples of leadership, exploring research opportunities, or positioning themselves to take up these opportunities.
- A willingness to help with two-way communication between EPSRC and stakeholder groups, and to act as an advocate for EPSRC and its activities.
- A willingness to devote sufficient time to the role.

## **Other**

- An appreciation of EPSRC processes and operations and an aspiration to develop this further.
- An ability to work flexibly and adapt to different ways of working.

## **Operation**

Appointments will be for three years.

Applicants should be willing to actively participate and contribute to the Forum's activities on a regular basis, including attending and hosting meetings during times when the current pandemic does not affect travel, and consultation by email. It is expected that ECF members will need to commit between 3-5 days to the role per year. Successful applicants should expect to take part in a range of both virtual and physical meetings including an induction meeting at the beginning of their term.

EPSRC currently reimburses expenses associated with attendance of Forum meetings e.g. meals, travel, accommodation.

## **Equality, Diversity and Inclusion**

We are committed to a policy of equal opportunities. Appointments to the Early Career Forum are made on merit. However, we are keen to see diversity in Forum membership, in terms of gender, race, disability and other protected characteristics and we welcome applications from candidates from a diverse range of backgrounds. The recruitment process will consider the balance across the forum and may, where candidates are of equal merit, prioritise candidates based on gender and/or ethnic minority underrepresentation.

The long-term strength of the UK research base depends on harnessing all available talent. EPSRC expects that equality and diversity is embedded at all levels

and in all aspects of research practice and funding policy. We are committed to supporting the research community, offering a range of flexible options which allow applicants to design a package that fits their research goals, career and personal circumstances. This includes career breaks, support for people with caring responsibilities, flexible working and alternative working patterns. With this in mind, we welcome applications from academics who job share, have a part-time contract, or need flexible working arrangements.

We are committed to ensuring that fairness is fully reflected in all our processes by advancing policy which supports equality, diversity and inclusion. Please see our Equality and Diversity webpages <https://epsrc.ukri.org/funding/equalitydiversity/> for further information.

## **Responsible Innovation**

EPSRC is fully committed to develop and promote responsible innovation. Research has the ability to not only produce understanding, knowledge and value, but also unintended consequences, questions, ethical dilemmas and, at times, unexpected social transformations. We recognise that we have a duty of care to promote approaches to responsible innovation that will initiate ongoing reflection about the potential ethical and societal implications of the research that we sponsor and to encourage our research community to do likewise.

Responsible innovation creates spaces and processes to explore innovation and its consequences in an open, inclusive and timely way, going beyond consideration of ethics, public engagement, risk and regulation. Innovation is a collective responsibility, where funders, researchers, interested and affected parties, including the public, all have an important role to play. Applicants are expected to work within the EPSRC Framework for Responsible Innovation given on the EPSRC website (<https://epsrc.ukri.org/research/framework/>).

## **Guidance on Journal-based metrics**

As part of our commitment to support the recommendations and principles set out by the San Francisco Declaration on Research Assessment (DORA; <https://sfdora.org/read/>), UKRI reviewers and panel members are advised not to use journal-based metrics, such as journal impact factors, as a surrogate measure of the quality of individual research articles, to assess an investigator's contributions, or to make funding decisions.

The content of a paper is more important than publication metrics, or the identity of the journal, in which it was published, especially for early-stage researchers. Reviewers and panel members are encouraged to consider the value and impact of all research outputs (including datasets, software, inventions, patents, preprints, other commercial activities, etc.) in addition to research publications. We advise our peer reviewers and panel members to consider a broad range of impact measures including qualitative indicators of research impact, such as influence on policy and practice.

## **Application process**

This is a single stage process, based on an Expression of Interest. Applicants must complete the online form. Applicants should apply electronically by 17:00 on 11<sup>th</sup> March 2022. We will not accept applications after this time.

Submissions to this call will not count towards the Repeatedly Unsuccessful Applicants Policy.

## Preparing an Expression of Interest (EoI)

Applicants should complete all sections of the Expression of Interest form. Applicants must provide responses under the following headings, each of which relates to at least one selection criterion:

- Demonstrating how your career history fits the “early career” stage.
- Evidence of a track record of outstanding work and impact in mathematical sciences
- Demonstrating credibility in the academic or industrial community, including evidence of potential leadership, networking and exerting influence
- Evidence of good communication skills and how you could use these to help with two-way communication between EPSRC and the early career mathematical sciences community
- Rationale for joining the Early Career Forum, including how you envisage using membership to increase the profile of UK mathematical sciences ‘research excellence’ and your capacity to devote the required time to the Forum.

## Selection process

Expressions of interest will be assessed against the specification criteria by an EPSRC panel. The following will be considerations when making appointments:

- Match to the essential criteria in the person specification, based on the evidence provided.
- **Out of applications meeting the essential criteria**, ensuring diversity of membership with a balance of expertise and a gender balance in line with our target.

EPSRC operates a policy of equality and fair treatment. We aim to ensure that all applications are treated fairly, regardless of gender, age, ethnic origin, disability or other protected characteristics. Individuals are asked to supply equal opportunities information for this reason. Other than gender and ethnicity (see above), these data will be separated from the application form before shortlisting and will only be used in anonymised, aggregated form for monitoring purposes.

Please be advised that the forum has continuing representation from the following universities:

- Imperial College London

- Loughborough University
- University of Bath
- The Open University

Therefore, applications from non-represented universities are particularly welcome. There will be no postal peer review of applications for this Forum. EPSRC reserves the right to reject proposals that it deems to be outside the scope of the call or wholly beyond the remit of EPSRC without reference to peer review, as well as those that do not follow the application guidelines above.

The outcomes of the selection process will be announced in early April 2022, with successful applicants invited to a meeting in May 2022. **Please note that EPSRC will not be providing feedback to unsuccessful applicants.**

## Contact

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## Change log

Name	Date	Version	Change
Nishtha Agarwal	18/01/2022	1.0	