



EPSRC - Equality Impact Assessment

Question	Response
1. Name of policy/funding activity/event being assessed	Host an International Summer School in Quantum Technologies
2. Summary of aims and objectives of the policy/funding activity/event	<p>The opportunity is for UK academics to host a summer school for PhD students in the field of Quantum Technologies.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •The summer schools should connect with institutions in Canada and the USA and invite students from these countries to attend as well as UK-based students. •The purpose is to facilitate international engagement and collaboration between the UK, the US and Canada. It is hoped that this will encourage further future summer schools to be hosted alternately in each of these countries, forming long-term partnerships in Quantum Technologies between the UK and North America. •There is a strong strategic drive to forming close partnerships with North America because both the US and Canada are global leaders in Quantum Technologies alongside the UK. International summer schools are a highly effective way of sharing resources to draw upon a wider talent pool, attracting essential skills and knowledge to the UK and initiating strong international partnerships which can form the basis of larger future research programmes. •Because these awards will be very small, the intention is to fund off-Siebel via purchase order. This will mean 100% FEC and an expert panel rather than postal peer review. We still intend to advertise the opportunity via the funding finder. <p>£100,000 is available to fund summer schools to take place in 2023.</p>
3. What involvement and consultation has been done in relation to this policy? (e.g. with relevant groups and stakeholders)	Alignment with National Quantum Technology Programme international strategy, consultation within the EPSRC Quantum Technology team, and consultation with the NQTP Strategic Advisory Board.
4. Who is affected by the policy/funding activity/event?	UK, US and Canadian Quantum Technology research community and PhD students.

<p>5. What are the arrangements for monitoring and reviewing the actual impact of the policy/funding activity/event?</p>	<p>If successful, organisers are required to provide a report to the EPSRC upon completion of the summer school. The report should include student feedback and aggregated student diversity data. The report will be used to inform future funding opportunities, and a template will be provided.</p> <p>There are no plans for specific follow-on funding after this call, but the theme strategy may evolve in response to developments in the QT international landscape (either as a result of this call or due to circumstances outside of it).</p> <p>The assessment process has been designed to ensure unconscious bias is minimised and managed.</p>
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As a funder of research, EPSRC remains committed to attracting the best potential researchers from a diverse population into research careers. For policy changes, funding activities and events EPSRC will aim to:

- Select venues that are accessible and where possible accommodate any specific requirement in our planning and organisation of an initiative to support wider participation. This includes for applicants, reviewers, panel members and staff. Included in the interview invitation letter is a request for any access issues to be notified.
- All participants in the process are asked to inform staff if they have any additional needs to enable attendance or participation.
- Offer support for people with caring responsibilities, further details are available [here](#).
- Clearly communicate the timeline and key milestones for funding activities, advertise these widely to reach the largest possible audience.
- Support and encourage panel members to follow best practice in taking positive steps to safeguard funding decisions. Staff will work closely with the Panel Chair(s) to agree approaches that are designed to minimize opportunities for bias and improve transparency of the decision making process. This includes managing environmental conditions, such as providing appropriate breaks.
- Support flexible working of stakeholders.
- Ensure diversity of peer review assessment and interview panels. Staff will adhere to a mixed panel policy and endeavor to achieve the minimum 30% for the underrepresented gender on the panel.
- Abide by the principles of peer review
- Provide EPSRC staff with tailored unconscious bias training for Peer Review processes and clear guidance for assessors.
- Handle personal sensitive information in compliance with General Data Protection Regulation 2018.

Protected Characteristic Group	Is there a potential for positive or negative impact?	Please explain and give examples of any evidence/data used	Action to address negative impact (e.g. adjustment to the policy)
Disability	Potential Negative Impact	For applicants – all information provided is in a written format.	Application form produced in black and white and in line with

		<p>International travel can represent a barrier for those with disabilities.</p> <p>There may be differences in accessibility standards and provision in international countries.</p>	<p>EPSRC formatting guidelines.</p> <p>Funding is available through the call to support costs associated with selecting accessible venues or means of transport.</p> <p>Highlight EPSRC guidance on support for carers or caregivers when travelling.</p>
Gender reassignment	Potential negative impact	Gender specific language within communications.	Gender neutral language will be used throughout call documentation.
Marriage or civil partnership	No known positive or negative impact		
Pregnancy and maternity	Potential negative impact	<p>Travelling nationally or internationally may impact investigators or staff members who are pregnant or on parental leave.</p> <p>Pregnant women are unable to travel by aeroplane during latter stages of pregnancy.</p> <p>Additional requirements for those with caring responsibilities or pregnancy for application/ panel meetings.</p>	<p>We will encourage applicants to explore options to build and maintain international collaboration that reduce the need to travel and make clear that associated resources can be requested.</p> <p>Highlight EPSRC guidance on support for carers or caregivers when travelling.</p> <p>EPSRC have considered the time frames for this activity and it will remain open for the longest time possible. The application requirements themselves are considerably shorter</p>

			<p>than standard EPSRC processes, in line with the scale of the awards.</p> <p>Additional care requirements could occur if individuals are required to participate in panel meetings on what would normally be a non-working day or work extended hours on a normal working day. It is an individual's responsibility to check with EPSRC and confirm what costs can be reimbursed prior to attendance at a panel. Further details on the support EPSRC will offer for those with caring responsibilities can be found here.</p>
Race	No known positive or negative impact.		
Religion or belief	Potentially negative impact	Participation could be affected by coincidence with religious holidays	EPSRC endeavours to select meeting dates that are cognisant of major holidays.
Sexual orientation	No known positive or negative impact		
Sex (gender)	No known positive or negative impact		
Age	Potential negative impact	Mature students participating in the summer schools are more likely to be affected by caring responsibilities	Highlight EPSRC guidance on support for carers or caregivers when travelling.

<p>Additional aspects (not covered by a protected characteristic)</p>	<p>COVID 19 Pandemic</p>	<p>Potential applicants may be limited by other factors, including but not limited to caring responsibilities, quarantining or isolation and shielding, which may limit the time they have to respond to this call</p>	<p>Highlight EPSRC guidance on support for carers or caregivers when travelling.</p> <p>EPSRC have considered the time frames for this activity and it will remain open for the longest time possible. The application requirements themselves are considerably shorter than standard EPSRC processes, in line with the scale of the awards.</p>
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Additional comment: EPSRC recognises that we are in an unprecedented situation as a result of COVID-19. There is awareness that this situation is rapidly evolving, and we will do our best to accommodate any changes as they occur.

Evaluation:

Question	Explanation / justification	
Is it possible the proposed change in policy, funding activity or event could discriminate or unfairly disadvantage people?	Several risks have been identified that could potentially have a negative impact on the applicants, however, the proposed mitigating actions address these such that the call is not expected to unfairly disadvantage any applicants.	
Final Decision:	Tick the relevant box	Include any explanation / justification required
1. No barriers identified, therefore activity will proceed .		
2. You can decide to stop the policy or practice at some point because the data shows bias towards one or more groups		
3. You can adapt or change the policy in a way which you think will eliminate the bias	✓	Possible risks and biases associated with the call have been identified and mitigation has been put in place. ED&I aspects will be considered throughout the lifetime of the scheme and this EIA will be reviewed accordingly.
4. Barriers and impact identified, however having considered all available options carefully, there appear to be no other proportionate ways to achieve the aim of the policy or practice (e.g. in extreme cases or where positive action is taken). Therefore you are going to proceed with caution with this policy or practice knowing that it may favour some people less than others, providing justification for this decision.		

Will this EIA be published* Yes/Not required (*EIA's should be published alongside relevant funding activities e.g. calls and events:	Yes
Date completed:	15/06/2022
Review date (if applicable):	

Change log

Name	Date	Version	Change
Joseph Westwood	When published	1	