ESRC Celebrating Impact Prize 2023
Application guidelines

Version: 6 December 2022

Summary
The ESRC Celebrating Impact Prize is an annual opportunity to recognize and celebrate the success of ESRC-supported researchers in achieving and enabling outstanding economic and/or social impact from excellent social science research. All finalists have a film professionally made about their work and its impact, and winners are awarded £10,000 to spend on further knowledge exchange, public engagement or other impact related activities.

To apply, researchers (individually or in a team) complete an online form which is reviewed by academics, engagement and knowledge exchange experts and research users. Shortlisted applicants, along with a non-academic supporter, are invited to attend an interview with the Prize Panel, after which the finalists will be decided and the winners announced at our awards ceremony. The categories for 2023 are:

- Outstanding Business and Enterprise Impact
- Outstanding Early Career Impact
- Outstanding International Impact
- Outstanding Public Policy Impact
- Outstanding Societal Impact

Key dates
Applications open: 6 December 2022
Applications close: 16 February 2023 at 16:00 (GMT)
Interviews for shortlisted candidates: 9-11 May 2023
Media Training for Finalists: w/c 26 June and 3 July 2023
Awards ceremony: 15 November 2023

Who can apply
We welcome applications from ESRC-funded researchers, ESRC studentship-holders, researchers working with ESRC data resource investments and researchers funded by cross-UKRI programmes where ESRC is a named partner. Please see below and our FAQ guide for full guidance on eligibility on applying for the Impact Prize awards. All applicants must have met all conditions of their ESRC funding to date.

Researcher eligibility
You must fulfil **one or more** of the following four requirements:
- You (for an individual application) or, if a team application, the lead applicant and the majority of team members, are currently, or have previously been, funded by the ESRC:
  - All research funded by the ESRC including current and previous directly ESRC-funded researchers, ESRC centres and large investments, ESRC data infrastructure investments, ESRC resource investments and current and previous ESRC Fellows are eligible
  - Applicants (or the majority of team members, including the lead applicant) need to be named PI or Co-I on the research award(s) that the impact is linked to
  - Applications must include any relevant ESRC grant reference numbers or studentship numbers

- Applicants who list multiple ESRC research awards must show a direct link between all awards cited in the application and the relevant impactful activities
- Please note that non-academic research partners may be part of a team application and do not count towards the overall total in terms of the need for the majority of team members to be in receipt of ESRC-funding
- Alternatively, if your research involves impact arising from secondary analysis of data that has been generated or curated by an eligible ESRC-funded data resource investment (see Annex 1 for full list):
    - Applications must be submitted jointly with the ESRC-funded data investment and the researcher(s) who made use of the data
    - Please note the secondary analysis must be at least 50 percent social science; i.e. within ESRC's disciplinary remit. The use of data generated or curated by the ESRC-funded investment must be central to the research
    - Applications must demonstrate how the impact directly relates to both the ESRC-funded data collection/ generation and provision, and its use by the researcher, emphasising the value and contribution of each stage to the impact submitted
- Researchers funded through delegated sources (for example, small grant awards funded from an ESRC Centre or Network/Network+) would need to jointly apply with the PI from the ESRC funded investment (for example the PI from the ESRC Centre or Network which funded their project)
- If your social science research has been funded by another UKRI Council through an eligible programme of interdisciplinary research where ESRC has been a partner on the programme:
    - If you are unsure if this applies to you, please contact us before applying with the name of the programme or investment
    - Researchers funded through this means would need to apply with a letter of support from the PI of the grant if that is someone different to the applicant
    - Please note that applicants must demonstrate how their research has been part of an interdisciplinary programme and how the impact directly relates to the social science research that they have undertaken
    - Applicants must emphasise their value and contribution to the social science impact

If you are unsure whether you are eligible, please read the FAQs.

Impact eligibility
- Applicants must be able to demonstrate the link between the research supported by the ESRC and the impact they include in the application
- Applicants must clearly demonstrate the relevance between their research impact and the category description as outlined in the "Categories" section
- Applicants should carefully consider which category is most appropriate for their submission. In consultation with applicants, ESRC may reassign a submitted application to a more appropriate category
- Applicants must be able to demonstrate impact in the category they are applying under.

Multiple submissions
- Applicants are limited to one application per category, with up to a maximum of three distinct applications in total
- In the case of multiple submissions, each submission should relate to different impacts

Resubmissions
- Previously unsuccessful Celebrating Impact Prize applicants may only re-submit an application where the impact achievement has substantially changed since the previous application. A new form with updated information, including new letters of support, must be submitted
- Previous winners and finalists may submit new applications, as long as these are substantially different from the previous successful application

Categories
Applicants should enter the category that is most appropriate for the impact they are submitting and should carefully consider both who has benefited and the context of the changes in economics, practice, thinking or capacity that their research has helped to bring about. There are five ESRC Celebrating Impact Prize categories in 2023:

- **Outstanding Business and Enterprise Impact**
  This category recognises outstanding examples of social science research helping to bring about changes within a business, including social enterprises, or industry sector. These changes could be in practice, thinking, capacity, products, processes or services, and can benefit employees, businesses or industry sectors. For example, the benefits could emerge from research contributing to innovation or direct change in practice or management structures, or through supporting the use of new skills and training activities, or though the development and launch of a new service. This category includes impact with for profit businesses including start-ups and social and community enterprises and can include trading and commercial arms of not-for-profit enterprises.

- **Outstanding Early Career Impact**
  This category recognises early career social science researchers who have achieved outstanding impact in any of the above categories. Applications to this category are invited from early career researchers who are current or former ESRC doctoral students.
  Category-specific eligibility
  - This category is only open to current ESRC-funded doctoral students and those that have completed their ESRC doctoral studentship funding and are able to demonstrate that they meet the definition of an early career researcher:
    - For the purposes of this call, an early career researcher is someone who has not yet made the transition to being an independent researcher
    - Applicants to this category who have completed their ESRC-funded doctoral studies will need to articulate why they should be considered an early career researcher based on their individual circumstances, and this will be considered by reviewers
    - This category only allows individual applications, not joint or team applications

- Early career researchers holding a different type of ESRC funding are eligible to apply to the other categories

- **Outstanding International Impact**
  This category recognises outstanding examples of social science research helping to bring about change in practice, thinking or capacity within business/enterprise, public policy, or societal sectors across multiple countries.
  <u>Category-specific eligibility</u>
  - Benefits to individuals, organisations and/or nations must have occurred across multiple countries and must include at least one country beyond those where the research was conducted
  - Where an impact has occurred only in the same country/ies where the research was undertaken, applicants should apply to the appropriate category above

- **Outstanding Public Policy Impact**
  This category recognises outstanding examples of social science research helping to bring about changes in practice, thinking or capacity within public policy at the local, regional, national or international government level that have benefited individuals, organisations or sectors involved in designing, delivering or using public services. For example, the benefits could emerge from research contributing to direct changes in policy, or to changes in how decision-makers view issues, or the development of more effective and efficient practice by professionals or users of public services.

- **Outstanding Societal Impact**
  This category recognises outstanding examples of social science research that has made a contribution that benefits a specific group of the public or society more widely. This can include helping to bring about changes in practice, thinking or capacity development. For example, the benefits could emerge from researchers working with local or community groups, charities or other social engagement.

Assessment criteria and process
The Prize Panel will consider both the commitment and the initiative of the applicant in supporting the impact of social science research, and the significance of their achieved impact. All applications will be judged against the following criteria, in addition to any category specific criteria:
- Demonstrable link between ESRC support, the research undertaken, and the impact achieved
- The extent and significance of the impact from the beneficiaries' point of view
- The researcher(s) playing an active and leading role in making the impact happen
- The potential for other researchers to learn and to be inspired
- How well the researcher(s) responded to challenges including failures, opportunities, and changes of plan

In addition, if an application is a resubmission, there must be clear evidence of a substantial additional or different achievement to that previously considered for a prize.

Applications will be assessed against the Prize criteria through peer review by academics, engagement and knowledge exchange experts and research users. Shortlisted candidates will

then be invited to an interview by the Prize Panel, along with a non-academic supporter who can help describe the impact of their work. The interviews will take place on 9-11 May 2023. All finalists will be invited to attend media training and will have a professional video made about their work and impact.

All finalists are also expected to attend a high-profile awards ceremony on 15 November 2023, where the winners are announced.

Use of prize money
All category winners will be awarded £10,000 to be spent during the following 12-month period to further knowledge exchange, public engagement or other impact related activities to promote economic and social impacts of research. During these 12 months ESRC will also contact winners and finalists where opportunities are identified for them to contribute to ESRC events or activities.

Winners will be expected to report to ESRC on how the prize money is being used and will be asked to report on any further impact generated. The prize will only be payable to eligible research organisations, not individuals. For joint or team applications, prize money will be paid to the lead applicant's institution and they will be responsible for its appropriate distribution across the winning applicants.

Completing the application form
Applications for all categories are via self-nomination only. Applications must be submitted by 16:00 (GMT) on 16 February 2023. The application form is available at Survey Monkey and contains the following sections and questions below. As you <u>cannot</u> draft and save partial responses, we recommend drafting your responses in a Word document first before copying and pasting these into the online application form.
Please find the application form here: <u>Celebrating Impact Prize 2023 application form</u>
Applicants are advised that it is preferable to use a browser other than Internet Explorer to access Survey Monkey.

<u>Useful links</u>
- <u>You can see examples of previous Prize winners</u>
- <u>Examples of impact from ESRC-funded research</u>
- <u>Impact toolkit</u>

- **Section 1: Applicant(s) contact details**
Please enter the details of the applicant, or lead applicant in the case of joint/ team applications. Please note this individual will be the primary contact for team entries, including the shortlisting process, press and all communication and publicity, but the application is made on behalf of all co-applicants. Please enter details for any co-applicants where relevant. For team applications, it is recommended that you add a team name.

- **Section 2: Application details**
- Application title: please enter a title that reflects or describes the impact you are submitting. This title may be used by ESRC for promotional purposes. 10 words maximum limit
- Prize category: select from one of the options provided. If you select 'Outstanding Early Career Impact' you will be asked whether your ESRC-funded doctoral studies

are completed and if so to explain how you meet the definition of Early Career Researcher for this call

- Previous applications: you should indicate whether or not you have previously applied to the ESRC Celebrating Impact Prize. If yes, you must provide details of all previous applications including year, prize category and the outcome. You must also describe clearly here how the current application involves substantial additional or different achievement to any previous application

- **Section 3: ESRC research and support**
- ESRC research funding: enter details of all ESRC research funding which is directly linked to the application, including grant or studentship reference numbers, titles of project and/or names of ESRC investment (centre/programme etc), as applicable. Details of more than one award can be provided where these are directly relevant to the application. This information will be used to check your eligibility to apply. For non-ESRC funded researchers applying jointly with ESRC-funded data investments, enter the ESRC-funded data investment details here
- ESRC-funded data resources: please indicate if you have made use of any ESRC-funded data resources in the conduct of this research activity, selecting from a list. If yes, you will be asked to provide details in *Section 5*
- Other ESRC support: please indicate if any ESRC non-research funding is linked to the application. This includes awards such as Networks, support from ESRC Impact Acceleration Accounts, communications and public engagement support, or support from ESRC funded knowledge brokers or intermediaries. If yes, you must provide details (150 words max)
- UKRI Interdisciplinary programmes: please indicate if your research has been funded by another UKRI Council through an eligible programme of interdisciplinary research where ESRC has been a partner on the programme. If yes, you must provide further details, including the grant reference and programme title and the lead Research Council (150 words max)
- Other UKRI support: please indicate if a UKRI-funded activity is linked to the application. If yes, you must provide details (150 words max)

- **Section 4: Impact achieved**

This is the main section of the form and provides key information that reviewers and Panel members will use to assess your application. Please ensure you write clearly and accessibly, and address the specific questions posed in the application form and under the category you are applying to.

- **Summary of non-academic impact**: please provide a succinct summary of the non-academic impact of your ESRC-supported research. You should refer to the [ESRC definition and typology of impact](#) in describing the nature of the impact. You must clearly articulate how this impact is directly linked to the ESRC research or data resource investment cited in *Section 3*. Where applicants are part of a UKRI interdisciplinary programme where ESRC is a named partner, applicants must demonstrate how the impact directly relates to the social science research component (300 words max)
- **Extent and significance of the impact for beneficiaries**: Please describe and evidence the extent and significance of the impact for non-academic beneficiaries. Clearly explain who has benefited from the changes in practice, thinking or capacity. Please include any economic impact your research has helped to bring about, evidence how your beneficiaries or yourself have achieved

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this, and describe the significance of this benefit from your beneficiaries' perspective (300 words max)

- **Your actions**: please describe the specific actions you took as an individual, joint collaboration, or team, to enable this impact to happen, showing how you played an active and leading role. For joint applications, please ensure you clearly describe the respective contributions of all applicants. Where applicants are part of a UKRI interdisciplinary programme where ESRC is a named partner, applicants must emphasise their value and contribution to the social science impact (300 words max)
- **Challenges and how they were addressed:** please describe any challenges encountered in your work, including failures, opportunities, and changes of plan, and how you responded to them (300 words max)
- **Sharing learning with others**: Please describe how you are sharing the lessons learned - from the process of achieving impact and any challenges - with others (300 words max)

- **Section 5: Underpinning research**

In this section you should provide an accessible account of the specific ESRC-supported research underpinning the impact described above.

- **Research question(s) and background**: summarise the question(s) the research underpinning your application sought to address, and why this was important (150 words max)
- **Research approach and methodology:** summarise how your underpinning research was conducted, and the research approaches and methodologies used, including where appropriate any innovative approaches (150 words max)
- **Research findings:** summarise the main findings of your underpinning research (200 words max)
- **For applicants as part of a UKRI interdisciplinary programme where ESRC is a named partner:** summarise the social science element as part of the interdisciplinary programme (150 words max)
- **ESRC-funded data resources**: please indicate which (if any) ESRC-funded data resources were used in this research. Please briefly explain how this ESRC-funded data resource was used (150 words max)
  For joint applications between ESRC-funded data resource investments and non-ESRC funded researchers, please clearly explain the significance of the data resource's contribution to the secondary analysis and findings and describe the specific benefits the provision or curation of this data resource generated (200 words max)
- **Peer-reviewed publication of findings:** please indicate whether your underpinning research has been published in a peer-reviewed journal article or other peer-reviewed output.
  - If yes, you must provide details of relevant peer reviewed publication(s) and at least one link to an open access copy. If this is not available, please upload a PDF copy later in your application. Only where neither of these options is possible, you may provide the full reference for the publication(s)
  - If you do not have a peer-reviewed publication, please provide an explanation and provide further details to non-academic publications in the "Additional links" section below

- **Additional links:** you may provide links or information to any non-academic open access publication presenting your underpinning research, where this supports your application
- **Other prizes**: please provide details of any prizes, awards, or other markers of scientific esteem which the research underpinning your application has received (150 words max)

- **Section 6: Supporting documentation**

Please upload or provide the following supporting documentation. Supporting documents must be submitted in PDF or Word (.doc / .docx) format. For multiple attachments, please merge into a single PDF before uploading:
- Letter of endorsement from at least one non-academic individual or organisation (on headed paper). The letter should explain the stakeholder's relationship to the nominee and how the nominee's research has been used, or has influenced their work. An assessment of the importance of the researcher's work on the users/beneficiaries/sector should also be included. The letter must be specific to this application and substantiate the impact of the research, not just endorse the applicant. Generic letters of endorsement will not be considered by the Panel
  - Letters of endorsement can be submitted on headed paper or by email. Endorsements that have been submitted by email to the applicant must be dated within six months of the application submission date, and include the sender's name, role, organisation and contact details in the body of the email. They must also include consent that ESRC can contact the individual issuing the support to verify origin.
  - It is possible to upload multiple letters. **Please note the combined total of all letters of endorsement should not exceed 15 pages.**
  - Generic letters of endorsement will not be considered by the Panel
- Letter of support on headed paper or by email from your Head of Department or equivalent. Letters of support must state that they support all contents of the application and clearly explain the reasons why they think you should receive an ESRC Celebrating Impact Prize. Early Career applicants may submit a letter from their local Doctoral Training Partnership coordinator.
  - If you are applying as the Co-I of an ESRC-funded Centre, please submit an additional letter of support from the PI of the Centre.
  - For joint applications, please submit letters of support relevant to all applicants
  - For joint applications between non-ESRC funded researchers and ESRC-funded data resource investments, additional letters of support are required from both the data resource and the researcher's Head of Department or equivalent
  - **For applications from social science researchers from UKRI interdisciplinary programmes:** applicants applying under this eligibility criteria must submit an additional letter of support on headed paper or by email from the PI of the programme. This should include the name of the UKRI programme and an outline of the social science contribution to the programme and how it has led to the impact submitted. The letter must be specific to this application and substantiate the impact of the research, not just endorse the applicant
- Web link to your latest online biography

- Peer reviewed publication: where available (see *Section 5* above) please upload a copy of at least one peer reviewed publication associated with the underpinning research

Terms and conditions

By submitting the form, you declare that the application has been completed fully and correctly at the time of submission, and that you and any nominees accept the terms and conditions:
- The named lead contact will be the individual approached for all communications and publicity relating to the application
- The named lead contact's details (name, phone number, email address) may be shared with third parties working on publicity directly relating to the competition. Where third parties are given access to your personal data, we will ensure that your personal data is not used for any other purposes
- Applicants must be available to attend the interview for shortlisted candidates on 9-11 May 2023. ESRC will provide shortlisted candidates with one week's notice of the date and time of their interview.
- If selected as a finalist, applicants will:
  - work with the ESRC in a timely manner to develop publicity material for use during and after the prize ceremony
  - keep the results under the embargo outlined by ESRC
  - attend the media training (can be one or two team members)
  - attend the high-profile award event on 15 November 2023
- Should the award event take place in person the venue will be London-based. Reasonable travel costs incurred will be reimbursed as per the UKRI travel and subsistence guidelines and must be previously agreed with ESRC
- Any photos, video and quotes taken from the event and application process can be used in any ESRC literature or promotional activities
- If asked, during the following 12-month period winners and finalists will endeavour to attend events with ESRC to promote impact and engage with other identified opportunities to support ESRC activity
- For winning team applications, the prize money will be paid to the lead applicant's institution and they will be responsible for its appropriate distribution across the winning applicants
- Winners and finalists agree to comply with any reporting and evaluation activity associated with the Prize in a timely manner on request from ESRC
- Winners and finalists will keep the ESRC informed of any changes in contact details and of any press releases that are issued related to the impact for the next five years

Data Protection

All personal data provided to ESRC, as part of UK Research and Innovation, in connection to the Celebrating Impact Prize will be processed in accordance with current UK data protection legislation. Further information on how we use personal data, and how you can exercise your rights as a data subject, can be found in the [UK Research and Innovation privacy notice](#).

Contact us

For more information contact the ESRC Celebrating Impact Prize team:

- Email: impact@esrc.ukri.org

Annex 1 - ESRC-funded data resource investments

1. Administrative Data Research UK (ADRUK - Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland Centres)
2. Born in Bradford (BiB)
3. British Election Study
4. Business and Local Government Data Research Centre
5. Centre for Longitudinal Studies incl:
    a. 1958 National Child Development Study
    b. 1970 British Cohort Study
    c. Millennium Cohort Study
    d. Next Steps (Longitudinal Study of Young People in England)
    e. COVID Social Mobility and Opportunities Study
6. Centre for Longitudinal Study Information and User Support (CELSIUS)
7. CLOSER, Cohort and Longitudinal Studies Enhancement Resource
8. Consumer Data Research Centres at Leeds and UCL
9. English Longitudinal Study of Ageing
10. European Social Survey
11. HateLab, Cardiff
12. Health Data Research UK
13. Healthy Ageing in Scotland Survey
14. Human Rights and Big Data Technology
15. Generations and Gender
16. Integrated Census Microdata
17. International Social Survey Programme (ISSP)
18. Longitudinal Linkage Collaboration
19. National Centre for Research Methods
20. National Survey of Sexual Attitudes and Lifestyles (NATSAL)
21. Northern Ireland Election Study
22. Northern Ireland Longitudinal Study Research Support Unit
23. Scottish Election Study
24. Scottish Longitudinal Study Development and Support Unit
25. Skills and Employment Survey
26. Social Data Science Lab (previously Collaborative Online Social Media Observatory (COSMOS)
27. Software Sustainability Institute
28. Understanding Society (UK Household Longitudinal Study formerly The British Household Panel Survey)
29. Urban Big Data Centre
30. Welsh Election Study
31. Workplace Employment Relations Survey