ESRC Celebrating Impact Prize 2024
Frequently Asked Questions

Who can apply?

The competition is open to all researchers supported by the ESRC at [eligible research organisations](). Applicants must have received, or currently hold, ESRC research funding, ESRC doctoral studentship funding, or be applying jointly with an eligible ESRC-funded data resource investment. For team or joint entries, the lead contact and majority of the named individuals must meet the above requirements.

Can I apply if my impact isn't linked to ESRC funding?

No. The impact must be demonstrably linked to ESRC research or doctoral studentship funding, or to an eligible ESRC-funded data investment you are applying in partnership with. You may also have received funding from other sources which has supported activity linked to the impact, but there must be a direct link between the ESRC funding and the impact submitted. You can cite more than one ESRC award in your application.

Applications are welcome from social science researchers who are in receipt of UKRI-interdisciplinary research funding where ESRC has been a named partner of the programme. If you are unsure if this applies to you, please contact us before applying with the name of the programme or investment.

I've used data from an ESRC-funded data investment – can I apply?

If your research was directly funded by ESRC you are eligible to apply on that basis. We ask all applicants about their use of our data investments and we would ask you to provide details as appropriate. You do not need to contact or inform the ESRC data investments whose resources were used in the conduct of your research, although you are welcome to submit a joint application with the data investment if both parties wish to pursue this.

If your research was not funded by ESRC you may still be able to apply jointly with the associated ESRC-funded data investment. Joint applications can be submitted for impact arising from secondary analysis of data that has been generated or curated by eligible ESRC-funded data resource investments. Applications must be submitted jointly with the ESRC-funded data investment and the researcher(s) who made use of the data; researchers cannot apply without the explicit engagement of the data investment. A list of eligible ESRC-funded data investments is provided in Annex 1 of the Application Guidelines.

The secondary analysis does not need to have been funded by ESRC but 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 will

be expected to 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.

Can ESRC IAA funded projects/PIs apply?

Applicants who have solely received ESRC IAA funding and have not received ESRC research or doctoral studentship funding related to the impact submitted are **not** eligible to apply. Where relevant, applicants should include in their submission information how any IAA-funded activity they have undertaken has supported the achievement of the impact submitted.

I have received funding for an application for the ESRC Festival of Social Science. Can I apply for the Impact Prize?

Applicants who have solely received ESRC Festival of Social Science funding and have not received ESRC research or doctoral studentship funding are **not** eligible to apply. Where relevant, applicants may include in their submission information how any Festival-funded activity they have undertaken has supported the achievement of the impact submitted.

I have received a KTP which was part-funded by ESRC. Am I eligible to apply for the Impact Prize?

A KTP alone with no other ESRC funding associated would **not** be sufficient for the eligibility criteria. However, if you have received other ESRC research grant funding or ESRC doctoral studentship funding and are able to demonstrate a clear link between the impact and the ESRC research grant or doctoral funding in the application, then you would be eligible to apply.

My research was funded through an ESRC call that involved other funders as well – can I apply?

If ESRC was the lead funder on the call, you are eligible to apply, even if other funders were also involved. If you are unsure about whether this applies to your funding, please contact impact@esrc.ukri.org for guidance.

My research was funded through another UKRI council call that involved ESRC as a partner – can I apply?

Applications are welcome from social science researchers who are in receipt of UKRI-interdisciplinary research funding where ESRC has been a named partner of the programme. If you are unsure if this applies to you, please contact us before applying with the name of the programme or investment. If you are applying under this eligibility – please make sure you also respond to all questions that relate to UKRI interdisciplinary programme.

I was part of an ESRC-funded grant but I was not directly funded by ESRC, can I apply?

If you are a researcher not directly funded by us, but you have achieved impact as part of an ESRC-funded project team – you are eligible to be part of a team application. Please note that the lead applicant must be an ESRC-funded researcher and the majority of the named individuals in the application must meet the eligibility criteria.

My research was funded through GCRF or ISCF – can I apply?

Applications are welcome from social science researchers who are in receipt of GCRF or ISCF funding, where ESRC has been part of the programme. If you are applying under this eligibility – please make sure you also respond to all questions that relate to UKRI interdisciplinary programme. If you are unsure if this applies to you, please contact us before applying with the name of the programme or investment.

I received ESRC funding but am not based in the UK – can I apply?

Yes, but please note that prize funds can only be paid to and held by an organisation eligible to receive UKRI research council funding. More information on eligibility for research council funding is available [here](#).

Does the category 'Outstanding Early Career Impact' only apply to candidates that have been awarded ESRC doctoral studentships?

Yes. The category 'Outstanding Early Career Impact' only applies to candidates who have been awarded ESRC doctoral studentship funding. Applicants must demonstrate why they should be considered an early career researcher based on their individual circumstances

However, early career researchers holding a different type of ESRC funding are eligible to apply to the other categories.

How are you defining Early Career Researcher for this competition?

For the purposes of this scheme, an early career researcher is someone who has yet to make the transition to being an independent researcher. Early career researchers may have participated in research projects as co-investigators or research staff but not had the opportunity to lead a research project in their own right. In contrast, independent researchers will have taken the lead for both the intellectual leadership and conduct of research as well as managing the project and team funded to deliver it.

Applicants to the Outstanding Early Career Impact category who held ESRC doctoral funding but have completed their doctoral studies will be asked to briefly explain why they should be considered to be an Early Career Researcher based on their individual circumstances. This should reflect their research experience, whether within academia or not. This will be considered by reviewers in determining eligibility for this category.

Please note, supervisors of an Early Career Researcher are not eligible to apply to this category. Supervisors who are funded by ESRC are welcome to apply to one of the other categories.

I have received ESRC funding for a post-doctoral fellowship – am I eligible?

A post-doctoral studentship alone with no other ESRC funding associated would not be sufficient for the eligibility criteria. However, if you have received other ESRC research grant funding or ESRC doctoral studentship funding and are able to demonstrate a clear link between the impact and the ESRC research grant or doctoral funding in the application, then you would be eligible to apply.

The application has only one lead contact name. Does this mean that if the application is successful the prize will be awarded to the named person only and not to the rest of the team?
For joint or team applications, the lead applicant will be the primary contact for ESRC in the competition and subsequent communications, press and publicity activity. However, all joint applicants will be recognised as winners by ESRC at the ceremony and in case studies and other publicity material.

Can I nominate someone else for the Prize?
Only self-nominations are permitted to the competition. If you know someone who you think should apply, please encourage and support them to do so.

Can I submit multiple applications?
Yes, although you can only submit one application per category, and three in total per year. Applications must be distinct, and each submission should relate to different impacts.

Can I resubmit a previously unsuccessful application?
Yes, you may resubmit with updated information and a clear statement of how this application differs substantially to your previous submission. You will need new letters of support.

Several of my supporting documents are strictly 'confidential' (e.g. from the UK Government). They are therefore not available for public usage. How would I explain this?
All information submitted will be shared with reviewers, although not put into the public domain. If there is any information which is particularly sensitive please ensure you flag this in your application within the free text boxes, so that reviewers and ESRC will be aware of the particular situation.

Is it acceptable to include hyperlinks in the application?
Hyperlinks are allowed within the application, although we cannot guarantee that reviewers will click into them. Applications will be assessed as standalone documents, so ensure you include all key information in the main submission. The only exceptions are for peer review publications and online CVs, for which hyperlinks are specifically requested.

Who should the letters of endorsement be addressed to?
Address your letters of support to the ESRC. Letters must be specific to this application; generic letters of endorsement will not be considered by the panel.

Can I provide more than one letter of endorsement?
You may provide more multiple letters of support. Letters of endorsement and other supporting documentation and filed must be sent to us via email to impact@esrc.ukri.org, including your submission details (lead applicant name and category).

Before sending your letters of endorsement, please merge all letters into a single PDF before sending this. Supporting documents must be submitted in PDF or Word (.doc / .docx) format. Please note the page limit for letters of endorsement is 15 pages.

Please make sure you submit all letters of endorsement and any other supporting documentation requested as part of your application to impact@esrc.ukri.org by 22 February 2024 before 16:00 (GMT), and we will add them to your application.

I am having problems obtaining my letters of endorsement by the deadline. Is it acceptable to submit the application and send the letters in separately at a later date?

Please contact impact@esrc.ukri.org for further advice as soon as possible **before** the closing date. Without prior approval from ESRC, letters of endorsement submitted after the deadline will not be accepted.

My research hasn't yet been published in a peer reviewed output – what can I do?

We know that not all research linked to applications, particularly from early career researchers, may have been published in a peer reviewed journal or other peer reviewed source. For the purposes of this competition, we consider a doctoral thesis that has been passed by an awarding panel to be a peer reviewed output. If you are unable to provide any peer reviewed outputs, you can provide a link to any other open access publication related to the underpinning research. If no publicly available output is available at all, you should explain clearly in your application why that is the case.

I haven't received a confirmation that my application has been received.

You will receive an email acknowledgement confirming receipt of your application two working days after your submission. If you do not receive this email, please check your spam folder before contacting impact@esrc.ukri.org

When is the closing date?

Completed forms must be received no later than **22 February 2024** at **16:00 GMT**.

When will I find out if I've been shortlisted?

Virtual interviews will take place on 20-22 May 2024. Shortlisted applicants will be notified by e-mail no later than one week before the interview date. The date and time of the interview along with a zoom link will be provided to shortlisted applicants. We recommend all applicants keep these dates free until they are notified if they have been shortlisted.

What does the interview stage involve?

Shortlisted applicants will be invited to attend a virtual panel interview on 20-22 May 2024. Panel members are selected by ESRC based on relevant experience and expertise. The interview is an opportunity for the panel to raise any queries arising from the application, specifically, but not exclusively, in relation to the impact of the research. Interviews will last for approximately one hour, and applicants will be expected to bring a non-academic supporter who can help describe the impact of their work. No formal presentation will be required. Full details will be communicated to shortlisted applicants when they are notified of their selection.

What can I use the Prize funds for?

A prize of £10,000 is awarded to the winners of each category. Funds will be paid to via a Purchase Order, and will be held by the relevant associated research organisation to be spent on activity that furthers research impact within the social sciences at the discretion of the prize winner. This includes, but is not limited to, knowledge exchange, public engagement, or other impact related activities to promote economic and social impacts of research. It may be used to pay for staff time, as well as travel and subsistence, and other directly incurred costs where appropriate.

ESRC will request updates on how the prize funds are being used to further research impact and reserves the right to recoup funding not used within 12 months of being awarded.

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.

I have a question that isn't answered here

Please contact the Impact Prize team at impact@esrc.ukri.org