Welcome
ECR Funding Opportunities

Jasmine Harvey
Portfolio Manager, ICT
Agenda

1 Overview of UKRI and EPSRC
2 ICT Theme Overview and Priorities
3 Funding Opportunities
4 Application and Peer Review Process
5 Q&As
Overview of UKRI and EPSRC

Strategic Priorities
UK Research and Innovation

HM Treasury

Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy

UK Research and Innovation

Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council

Science and Technology Facilities Council

Innovate UK

Research England

Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council

Economic and Social Research Council

Medical Research Council

Natural Environment Research Council

Arts and Humanities Research Council
UKRI Strategic Objectives

Our strategic objectives provide the framework for how we will achieve our vision and realise our principles through world-class:

**Impacts**

Focussing the UK’s world-class science and innovation to target global and national challenges, create and exploit tomorrow’s technologies, and build the high-growth business sectors of the future.

**Securing the UK’s position as a globally leading research and innovation nation with outstanding institutions, infrastructures, sectors and clusters across the breadth of the country.**

**Advancing the frontiers of human knowledge and innovation by enabling the UK to seize opportunities from emerging research trends, multidisciplinary approaches and new concepts and markets.**

**Delivering the government’s vision for the UK as an innovation nation, through concerted action of Innovate UK and wider UKRI.**

**Make the UK the most attractive destination for talented people and teams from the UK and around the world.**

**A world-class organisation**

Making UKRI the most efficient, effective and agile organisation it can be.

**People and careers**

**Places**

**Innovation**

**Ideas**

**A world-class organisation**
EPSRC’s Strategic Priorities

**Discovery Led Research**
- **The Physical and Mathematical Sciences Powerhouse**: curiosity driven discovery, with boundless potential
- **Frontiers in Engineering and Technology**: unleashing our productivity potential
- **Digital Futures**: the future of communications, computing and the internet
- **Engineering Net Zero**: decarbonising our economy and society, creating an alternative energy future and developing truly circular economies
- **Al, Digitalisation and Data – Driving Value and Security**: powering transformative change and the next industrial revolution
- **Transforming Health and Healthcare**: improving quality of life through innovative technological solutions
- **Quantum Technologies**: realising the transformative impact of this technology across business, government and society

**Mission Inspired Research**
- **An Effective Ecosystem for Engineering and Physical Sciences**

**International**
- **Talent and Skills**
- **Place**
- **World Class Infrastructure**
- **Impact**
- **Business Engagement**
ICT Theme and Priorities
EPSRC operate challenge themes to address and deliver impact against the most pressing challenges of the moment. We continually review these challenges, and the strategic outcomes we seek. We have reflected on our theme landscape, the external landscape, priorities and policy drivers. As a result, we are now making some changes.

We will be closing Digital Economy and Digital Twins as separate themes, whilst mainstreaming the Digital Economy approach, embedding appropriate user involvement, interdisciplinary working and true co-creation with potential users of research in all our digitally facing research.

We will establish a new theme that will come into operation in April 2022 to coincide with the new financial year. The new theme, entitled ‘Digital Security & Resilience’ (DS&R) will put a spotlight on digital technologies relevant to the security, defence, and resilience of the UK. The research supported would aim to create a more secure and resilient digital society, that is robust and prepared to withstand shocks and challenges in an increasingly interconnected digital world.
A new EPSRC theme entitled 'Digital Security & Resilience' (DS&R) will put a spotlight on digital technologies relevant to the security, defence, and resilience of the UK. The research supported would aim to create a more secure and resilient digital society, that is robust and prepared to withstand shocks and challenges in an increasingly interconnected digital world.

We will do this by:

• Developing EPSRC’s strategy for digital security and resilience, and for specific topic areas falling under that remit, such as cyber security and digital twinning.

• Building communities, networks, and capacity to deliver national capability in specific digital security and resilience topic areas.

Broadly, the Digital Security & Resilience theme’s investments will fall in two areas:

1. Research to promote and improve the security and resilience of digital technologies.

2. Research into digital technologies that would be developed to promote and improve the security, defence, and resilience of the UK, and the security and resilience of its organisations, systems, infrastructure, and society.
Cross-ICT Priorities

Next Generation Computing
- New and emergent ideas and technologies
- Neuromorphic and quantum computing
- Future Internet
- Creative industry and technology

Sustainable ICT
- Reduce energy and resource consumption across digital systems
- Driven by low-powered design – “Better Chips for a Better Future”
- Sustainable Digital Society

Future Communications Systems
- Development of future communication systems (inc. networks, satellite, wireless, wired technology)
- Bolstering the UK’s communications sovereign capability
- Human centred / user co-created

People at the heart of ICT
- Enabling the pipeline of interdisciplinary, human centred, user co-created ideas in ICT.
- Towards an equitable digital society.

AI and Data Science
- Future intelligent technologies and data enabled decision making.
- Beyond a data driven economy.

Digital Security & Trust
- Enabling safe and secure ICT infrastructure and technology - including verifiability and trust of network intelligence, native security and trust, physical layer security, etc.
Funding Opportunities
EPSRC Funding opportunities

We will be covering:

1. Open Fellowship (Plus)
2. New Investigator Award
3. Standard Grant
4. Discipline Hopping Grants
5. Network Grants
6. Programme Grants
7. Overseas Travel Grants
8. Daphne Jackson Fellowship
Funding Options

Purpose of my grant

Doctoral training
Research focused
Develop as a future leader
Develop collaborations

New academic?
Have applied to EPSRC before?

Fellowships
Network grant
Overseas travel grant

New Investigator Award
Standard grant
Discipline Hopping
Programme grant
EPSRC Open fellowship

Apply for a fellowship focusing on any topic in the EPSRC portfolio.

You must have either:
• a PhD
• at least four years’ experience in a relevant field by the start of your fellowship

Any career stage
- No rules on years of post-doctoral experience or need to hold academic position
- No prior EPSRC funding requirement

Encourage applications from candidates:
• following non-standard career path
• moving back into research after career break or other breaks
Open fellowships

Supports academics establish or further develop themselves as leaders of the future

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Open Fellowships</th>
<th>Research grants</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Personal award</strong></td>
<td>For Principle investigator with option for one or more Co-investigators</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Can be applied for without holding an academic position</td>
<td>Investigators must be academic employees (lecturer or equivalent) of an eligible organisation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Institutions are required to offer a <strong>high level of support</strong> to fellows</td>
<td>Institutions <strong>may or may not</strong> offer additional support</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Allows for <strong>personal development</strong> to expand current role and responsibilities and <strong>enhance leadership</strong></td>
<td>Normally focussed on research deliverables</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fellows are expected to act as ambassadors and advocates of their research area</td>
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</table>

**Flexibility** to undertake **training**

**Flexibility** to allocate time to **drive research culture change** in non-technical areas

**Flexibility** for fellow to **transfer** award to another institution

Significant time commitment required (50%+)

Can **reduce other responsibilities** for the fellow within their host institution (e.g. teaching and administration)

Grant is bound to the recipient institution

Grant contributed to the investigators’ salaries but it’s not usually 100%

Investigators named on research grants usually have other administrative loads within their institutions

Supports academics establish or further develop themselves as leaders of the future

Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council
Open fellowship

No need to be in receipt of EPSRC funding, but you need to:

- *Demonstrate* you have acquired **skills and expertise** for delivering the research
- *Identified* areas for **continued professional development** to expand or enhance your career
- *Committed* to implementing good practice in creating an **inclusive** research environment
- *Advocate* for EPSRC and will **influence** policy makers and other stakeholders on the importance of your research area
Open fellowship: **Plus Component**

Add the **Plus** component, if you want to:

• spend 20-50% of time to create **positive change** in the research community. Examples include but not limited to:
  - Equality, Diversity and Inclusion
  - Responsible Research and Innovation
  - Public Engagement
  - Policy

• champion an area or topic aligned to EPSRC aspirations to deliver improvements in **research culture**
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Resource Package</th>
<th>Open Plus</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Duration</td>
<td>Up to 5 years</td>
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<tr>
<td>Salary</td>
<td>50-100% fte</td>
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<tr>
<td>Travel &amp; Subsistence</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Additional research staff</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Visiting Researchers</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Equipment</td>
<td>Yes – in line with current EPSRC guidelines for equipment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Consumables</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Access to facilities</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Identified training and development needs</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time and resources to address community issues</td>
<td>Yes (only with Plus component)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

We will award 80% of the full economic costs of the project, funding for equipment varies based on value, details can be found here: [https://epsrc.ukri.org/research/facilities/equipment/process/](https://epsrc.ukri.org/research/facilities/equipment/process/)
Open PLUS fellowship – 3 stage assessment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>At Review</th>
<th>At Prioritisation Panel</th>
<th>At Interview Panel</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Research Quality</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Applicant and Partnerships</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Importance</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Resources and Management</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Fellowship vision and delivery</td>
<td></td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Leadership</td>
<td></td>
<td>✓</td>
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<tr>
<td>Team Leadership</td>
<td></td>
<td>✓</td>
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<tr>
<td>Continued Professional Development</td>
<td></td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Community Champion</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>✓</td>
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- Check out blank Reviewer forms on our website to get more detail on what exactly is assessed under each of these criteria [Reviewer forms and guidance notes – UKRI](#)
New Investigator Award

To support **early career academics**, begin to establish their research group

To establish an individual’s **research independence**, specifically for those who have not received a significant grant

In addition to a program of high-quality research, host institutes are expected provide resource to **support career progression**
# New Investigator Award

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Eligibility</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>– Not previously led an academic research group</td>
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<tr>
<td>– Not been recipient of a significant grant</td>
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<tr>
<td>– Applying to EPSRC as PI for the first time – see website for exemptions</td>
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<tr>
<td>– Projects should be self-contained and comprise a single research vision</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Flexibility</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>– Been Co-I previously, please contact us to discuss eligibility</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>– Previously in industry and transitioning to academia</td>
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<tr>
<td>– No closing date</td>
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<tr>
<td>– No funding or duration caps</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
What is different in a NIA to a standard grant?

- NIA proposal should cover how the research and activities proposed contribute to career development both in terms of:
  - Resources requested
  - Support from host
What is different in a NIA to a Standard Mode grant?

• NIA proposal should cover how the research/ activities proposed contribute to career development both in terms of:
  - Resources requested
  - Support from host

• What is not equal to “good support”?  
  - PhD provision
  - Generic training package
  - Lacking student/ PDRA support

• Think about “good support” in terms of:
  1. Mentoring
  2. Training
  3. Workload
  4. Support

• Make request to the host
Standard Grants

• Supports a wide range of research programmes

• Key features:
  - No closing date
  - No fixed value
  - No fixed length
  - No constraint on the field of research, permitted it is within EPSRC remit
Standard Grants

Activities funded via this route:

• feasibility studies
• instrument development
• project-specific equipment
• collaborative projects that cross different disciplines
• High-risk or high-return research proposals, embracing new concepts or techniques, are particularly encouraged. Risk management is important.
• Justify all resources requested
Discipline Hopping Award

• The scheme encourages researchers with **ICT expertise to use their research skills in a new discipline.**

• Alternately, researchers with other expertise are encouraged to **learn ICT research skills and apply them in their home discipline.**

• You should have a proven track record of research in your home discipline and wish to **develop skills and collaborations with other disciplines** or users.

• You must show how you will use interdisciplinary research and collaborative development to **benefit the ICT research community.**

• Further details on the UKRI funding finder: [https://www.ukri.org/opportunity/epsrc-discipline-hopping-in-ict/](https://www.ukri.org/opportunity/epsrc-discipline-hopping-in-ict/)
## Other opportunities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scheme</th>
<th>Supports</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Daphne Jackson Fellowship</td>
<td>Academic staff returning after career break</td>
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<tr>
<td>Network grant</td>
<td>The creation of new interdisciplinary communities and topics</td>
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<tr>
<td>Overseas travel grant</td>
<td>• Travel to start or develop international collaborations</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Not for conferences</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Can ask for funds for:</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• International travel and subsistence</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Can cover salary and indirect costs of PI</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Still eligible to apply for NIA in future</td>
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</table>
Application and Peer Review Process
Submitting a Proposal

Assessment Criteria:

▪ Look at funding guidance and eligibility requirements:
  https://www.ukri.org/opportunity/

▪ Reviewer forms and guidance notes available:

Remit check:

https://epsrc.ukri.org/funding/applicationprocess/basics/remit/remitqueries/
Questions?
Thank you