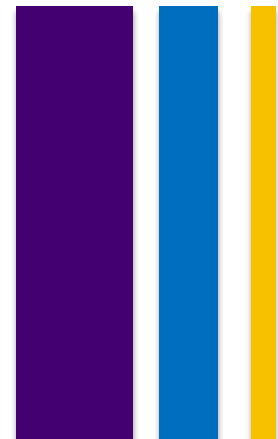




Funding opportunities for early career
researchers



■ ■ ■ EPSRC – who we are

■ ■ ■ Physical Sciences Theme

■ ■ ■ Funding opportunities



One vision.....

Our vision is for the UK to be the best place in the world to research, discover and innovate

Two goals.....

RESEARCH and DISCOVER

RESEARCH and INNOVATE

Three strategies.....

Balancing capability

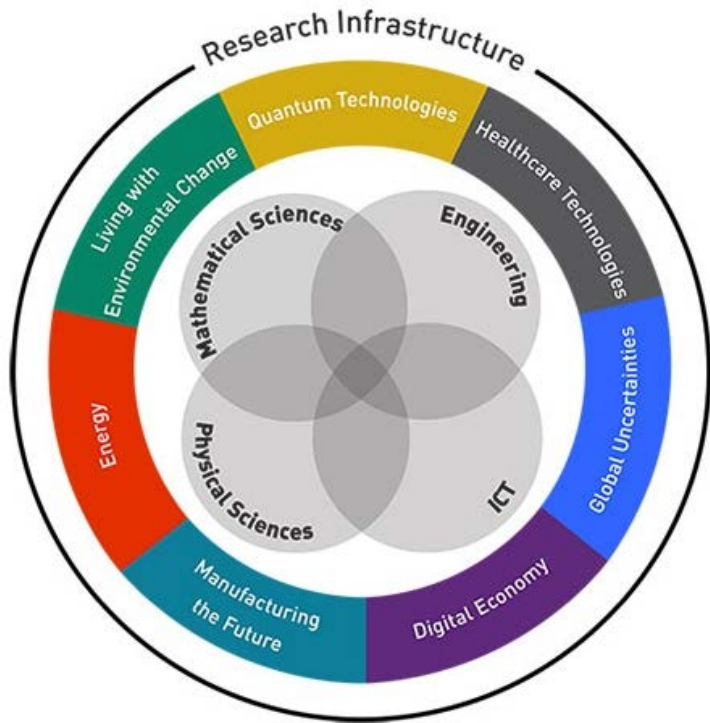
Building leadership

Accelerating impact





www.epsrc.ac.uk/ourportfolio



For EPS subjects, the UK is

2nd in the world

in terms of the proportion of the
top highly cited publications

115
Research
areas






Funding opportunities



 Fellowships

 First Grants

 Standard mode (including Overseas Travel Grants)





Fellowships



- Expected to hold a PhD or have equivalent research experience
- No eligibility rules based on number of years of post-doctoral experience
- No rules regarding whether you hold / do not hold a permanent academic position.
- Three career stages – Post-doctoral, Early Career and Established Career
- Assess your track record along with your host organisation to determine which career stage is most appropriate

For more information, please visit our fellowships webpage:

<http://www.epsrc.ac.uk/skills/fellows/>



- ■ ■ To provide support for aspiring or current world-leading individuals, delivering the highest quality research to meet UK and global priorities
- ■ ■ No closing date
- ■ ■ Assessed twice a year at Standard Panels (February and July)
- ■ ■ Successful applicants from panel are invited to an interview stage (March and September)



Tribute	Post-doctoral	Early Career
Research Excellence	Delivery of outstanding research and an indication of where the research contributes to delivering impact. Awareness of the international context of the research.	Has a track record of outstanding research and in delivering impact. Shows a strong awareness of the international context of the research and starting to show evidence of recognition in the community on an international scale.
Setting the research agenda	Has a clear vision of the contribution the applicant can make to their research area. Evidence of independence of (research) ideas.	Evidence of showing leadership within the research community and evidence of pushing the boundaries of the research area.
Strategic Vision	Shows an awareness of different research in other fields or across technology readiness levels, an aspiration to work across boundaries and/or to conduct high risk research and finding a network of independent contacts so that the applicant is getting positioned to do this.	Has some experience in identifying, exploring and developing research opportunities more broadly and across different interfaces. An awareness of how to position themselves to take up these opportunities and an ability to make decisions to deliver this vision.
Profile and Influence	Not strongly applicable at this career stage.	Shows potential and aptitude to act as an ambassador and advocate for a research field/theme and for research in general. Advising and influencing into policy making.
Inspirational Team leader	Can provide evidence of an aptitude to lead and inspire for example, through mentoring or self organisation of peers.	Has ability to lead and inspire their own research team. Ability to identify and maximise potential in others (or get the best out of people).
Communication and engagement skills	Demonstrates excellent communications and interpersonal skills and aspires to develop these across a broad audience.	Demonstrates excellent communications and interpersonal skills and aspires to develop these further across a broad audience.

■ ■ ■ Up to 3 years funding

■ ■ ■ Salary for PI only

■ ■ ■ No staff

■ ■ ■ Consumables, small items of equipment, T&S,
visiting researcher



■ ■ ■ Up to 5 years funding

■ ■ ■ Salary for PI and research staff

■ ■ ■ Consumables, equipment in line with current
EPSRC policy, T&S, visiting researcher



Areas open for fellowships

Postdoctoral fellowships

■ ■ ■ **Theoretical physics**

Early career fellowships

■ ■ ■ Analytical science

■ ■ ■ Catalysis

■ ■ ■ Chemical Biology and Biological Chemistry

■ ■ ■ Computational and Theoretical chemistry

■ ■ ■ Electrochemical Sciences

■ ■ ■ Functional Ceramics and Inorganics

■ ■ ■ **Graphene and Carbon-based Nanomaterials**

■ ■ ■ Materials for Energy Applications

■ ■ ■ **Quantum optics and information**

■ ■ ■ **Software development for Novel Physical Sciences Research**

■ ■ ■ Synthetic Supramolecular Chemistry

■ ■ ■ **Physical Sciences Grand Challenges**



Grand Challenge Areas (Early and Established Career)

- Emergence and Physics Far From Equilibrium**
- Quantum Physics for New Quantum Technologies**
- Nanoscale Design of Functional Materials**
- Understanding the Physics of Life**
- 'Dial-a-Molecule' - 100% Efficient Synthesis**
- Directed Assembly of Extended Structures with Targeted Properties**
- Systems Chemistry: Exploring the Chemical Roots of Biological Organisation**
- Utilising CO₂ in Synthesis and Transforming the Chemicals Industry**



- ■ ■ **Research Quality**
- ■ ■ **The Candidate (including qualities and experience)**
- ■ ■ **National Importance**
- ■ ■ **Research Environment**
- ■ ■ **Impact**
- ■ ■ **Resources and Management**
- ■ ■ **Fit to Strategic Priorities**

<https://www.epsrc.ac.uk/skills/fellows/peerreviewprocess/assessmentcriteria>





First Grants



- ■ ■ To help newly appointed academics get a grant early in their academic career
- ■ ■ Capped at £125k (100%fEC; EPSRC contributes 80%)
- ■ ■ Maximum two years duration
- ■ ■ Considered at panel with other First Grants
- ■ ■ No closing date



- Within **36 months** of first academic lecturing post in a UK university
- Completed PhD or equivalent within **10 years** of the time you submit proposal
- Hold University position that involves teaching and administrative responsibilities as well as research
- Applying as PI for the first time - except for overseas travel grant and unfunded EPSRC Fellowship applications



- ■ ■ **Quality**
- ■ ■ National Importance
- ■ ■ Impact
- ■ ■ Ability to Deliver
- ■ ■ Research Independence
- ■ ■ Resources and Management
- ■ ■ Level of University Support (Host Organisation Letter of Support)



- Flexible: from small travel grants to multi-million pound programmes
- Support wide range of activities:
 - Research projects
 - Feasibility studies
 - Instrument development
 - Equipment
 - Travel
 - Collaboration (including visiting researchers)
- Adventure and risk encouraged
- No closing dates



Meeting assessment criteria – standard grants

Criteria	Assessment	Weighting
Research Quality	Degree of excellence – novelty, timeliness, ambition, adventure, transformative aspects, appropriateness of methodology etc.	Primary
National Importance	How the research: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contributes to the health of other research disciplines • Addresses key societal challenges • Enables UK economic success or emerging industry • Establishes / maintains a world leading research activity • Complements other UK research activity • Relates to our research area(s) and strategic actions 	Secondary (Major)
Impact	In relation to the pathways to impact: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How realistic are the impacts identified for this work • Effectiveness of planned activities • Relevance / appropriateness of beneficiaries or collaborators 	Secondary
Resources and management	Effectiveness of planning and management, appropriate resources, viability of equipment access	Secondary
Applicant(s) ability	Ability to deliver the proposed project: track record, balance of skills.	Secondary

Physical Sciences Contacts:

<http://www.epsrc.ac.uk/research/ourportfolio/themes/physicalsciences/contacts/>

Preparing a Proposal

<http://www.epsrc.ac.uk/funding/howtoapply/preparing/>

Funding Guide

<http://www.epsrc.ac.uk/funding/howtoapply/fundingguide/>

Reviewer forms and guidance notes

<http://www.epsrc.ac.uk/funding/assessmentprocess/review/rev/>

Physical Sciences email address:

PhysicalSciences@epsrc.ac.uk