

## Remit

The EPSRC supports basic, strategic and applied research and postgraduate training in engineering and the physical sciences. The Council aims to advance knowledge and technology, and provide trained engineers and scientists, to meet the needs of users and beneficiaries, notably industry.

### Programme Areas

The nine EPSRC programmes are split into three areas:

- Science, Chemistry, Physics, Mathematics.
- Engineering: general engineering; engineering for the environment, infrastructure and healthcare; engineering for manufacture.
- Technology: information technology and computer science; materials; life sciences interface.

The programme areas include core disciplines plus generic technology-based activities. Programmes are interdependent and work together in certain cross-cutting areas, mainly via managed programmes.

### Programmes

EPSRC has programmes divided into the following:

- [Chemistry](#)
- [Engineering](#)
- [ICT](#)
- [Infrastructure and Environment](#)
- [innovative manufacturing](#)
- [Life Sciences Interface](#)
- [Materials](#)
- [Mathematical Science](#)
- [Physics](#)

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Some programmes, run through EPSRC are carried out on behalf of Research Councils UK. These are:

- [Energy](#)
- [e-Science](#)
- [Basic Technology](#)

Some activities are not led by a specific programme, owing to their breadth of coverage or for other organisational reasons. Further Information is available via the following link.

- [Cross EPSRC activities](#)

### Sample of Available Funding Opportunities

The following list gives a sample of opportunities available although it should be stressed that the EPSRC do issue direct calls throughout the year which are available via the [current funding opportunities](#) page on the EPSRC website.

- [Responsive mode funding](#). Can be used to support a wide variety of proposals, including feasibility studies, instrument development, and equipment to support a number of research projects, overseas travel grants and visiting researchers, and long-term proposals to develop or maintain critical mass. Responsive mode funding is very flexible, with the scale of projects supported ranging from small travel grants to multi-million pound research programmes. High risk/high return research proposals, embracing new concepts or techniques, are particularly encouraged.
- [First Grant Scheme](#). The purpose of the First Grant Scheme is to assist new academics to apply for research funding at the start of their careers. There is no submission deadline, and while grants go to the same panel meetings as responsive mode proposals, they are only assessed against other First Grants.
- [Platform grant scheme](#) is a flexible mechanism of providing underpinning funding to well established, world leading research groups. This scheme is used by the Engineering, Materials and Information and

# Research and Commercial Services

Communication Technologies Programmes to provide stability and flexibility to world leading research groups. Platform grant funding allows groups to retain key staff, undertake feasibility studies, longer term research and network internationally.

- [Portfolio partnerships](#) provide long-term support for top research teams. Grants are made by consolidating a group's existing portfolio of EPSRC grants.
- [Science and innovation awards](#) are large, long-term grants in strategically important research areas missing or 'at risk' in the UK. Funding for staff in a research group with commitment from the host research organisation to continue support after the end of the grant.
- [Interdisciplinary research collaboration](#) for internationally-recognised centres of excellence in different research areas. Funded through large, long-term grants and generally involve several universities together with industrial partners.
- [Workshops and Schools](#). Provide funds for workshops or schools to stimulate research, or to train postgraduate students. Requests for complete or partial funding of an event are subject to peer review. Applications must be discussed with the appropriate [Programme contact](#) before applying.
- [Networks](#). The main objectives of Networks are to create new interdisciplinary research communities and topics, by developing interaction between the research community and appropriate science, technology and industrial groups. The aims are to: Transfer experimental techniques, models and scientific insights and to promote mobility between academe, universities and industry.
- [Visiting Researchers](#). Support is available for salary costs and travel subsistence for scientists and engineers of acknowledged standing, either from within the UK or abroad, to visit the investigator's organisation.
- [Overseas Travel Grants](#) are for international travel and subsistence. They give academic researchers the flexibility to visit recognised non-UK centres for short periods of time in order to study new techniques and to initiate or foster international collaboration. In addition to travel and subsistence, under full economic costing Principal Investigators can request funds to cover their salary costs for the time spent on the grant. Funds may not be requested through this route solely for the purpose of conference attendance or to support sabbatical absences.
- [Follow-on-Fund](#). aims to increase the level and accelerate the rate of commercialisation of ideas arising from the research community. This is achieved by providing funds to enable projects to be brought to a stage where commercial opportunities can be secured. EPSRC participates in the Follow-on Fund with BBSRC, NERC and PPARC. The Fund will provide financial support at the very early or pre-seed stage of turning research outputs into a commercial proposition. The idea or concept must have a clear potential for

commercial application; however, it will be before a full laboratory demonstration of the idea, pre-production and prototype and the availability of commercial funds for development. The Fund will not support 'blue sky' research, nor applied research for companies, but supports the development and examination of a concept to establish its commercial feasibility and scientific and technical merit.

## Fellowships

A small number of Research Fellowships are awarded each year, giving outstanding individuals at different stages of their careers the freedom to pursue their research interests full-time.

- [Senior Research Fellowships](#) are awarded to outstanding academic scientists and engineers to allow them to devote themselves full-time to personal research. Fellowships are full-time for up to 5 years.
- [Advanced Research Fellowships](#) are awarded to outstanding young researchers. Fellows are expected to devote themselves to full-time research for the period of the award (up to 5 years), with the expectation that they will have established an independent research career of international standing by the end of their award.
- [Postdoctoral Fellowships](#) in the areas of mathematical sciences, theoretical physics and the life sciences interface are made each year. The aims are to help talented young researchers to establish an independent research career, normally shortly or immediately after completing a PhD.
- [Royal Academic of Engineering/EPSRC Research Fellowships](#) enable outstanding researchers from all branches of engineering to establish an independent research career, normally shortly or immediately after completing their PhD
- [William Hodge Fellowships](#) EPSRC and "Institut des Hautes Etudes Scientifiques" annually offer 2 one-year fellowships under the name of Sir William Hodge, the eminent British mathematician. The fellowships enable young mathematicians or theoretical physicists to spend time at the IHES which is located in Bures near Paris.

## Further Information

Further information is available via EPSRC's [Funding Guide](#), the links above or by visiting the EPSRC website at <http://www.epsrc.ac.uk/>