



Engineering and Physical Sciences
Research Council

Quick Reference

ICT Discipline Hopping

Call type: Invitation for proposals

Submit any time

How to apply: Single stage application process

Assessment Process: Full proposals will undergo postal peer review, followed by a panel meeting, resulting in a rank ordered list.

Key Dates: Open call – apply any time.

Additional information:

EPSRC's ICT team provides funds to encourage researchers to pursue an immersive experience in other disciplines or user environments, providing the researcher with new skills and allowing them to develop a multi-disciplinary approach to their work.

Contacts:

For call-specific enquiries, please ict.theme@epsrc.ukri.org

For remit and other questions, please contact the most relevant portfolio manager. A list of ICT contacts can be found here:
(<https://epsrc.ukri.org/research/ourportfolio/themes/ict/contacts/>)

ICT Discipline Hopping - New

Call type: Invitation for proposals

Closing date: Open call – apply any time

Related themes: [ICT]

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Summary

This call allows researchers to pursue an immersive experience in other disciplines or user environments, providing the researcher with new skills, and allowing them to develop a multi-disciplinary approach to their work.

Applicants may have a background in ICT and propose to use their ICT skills in a new discipline. Alternatively, applicants may have other expertise and learn ICT skills to apply them to their own discipline.

Proposals are accepted at any time and will be assessed in standard panels throughout the year.

Proposals can be between 3 and 24 months in length. The pattern of work for the discipline hop should be appropriate for the researcher and the proposal and the researcher is expected to immerse themselves in the discipline they are hopping into.

Background

This call allows researchers to pursue an immersive experience in other disciplines or user environments, providing the researcher with new skills , and allowing them to develop a multi-disciplinary approach to their work.

Applicants may have a background in ICT and propose to use their ICT skills in a new discipline. Alternatively, applicants may have other expertise and learn ICT skills to apply them to their own discipline. **The objectives of the call are:**

1. To provide the researcher with the opportunity to broaden their skills and their research perspective.
2. To allow these skills to be used by the researcher to pursue their research in new and cross-disciplinary areas.
3. To increase cross-disciplinarity and co-creation within ICT by developing collaborations and the sharing of ICT based ideas and approaches with other communities.

Examples of reasons to carry out a discipline hop may include:

1. To gain the skills and knowledge required to allow you to open up a new cross-disciplinary research area or answer a specific cross-disciplinary research question.
2. To explore the feasibility of co-creating a project.
3. To learn a new technique, tool or methodology which you can then apply to your own research.

To address the objectives of the call, applicants may want to consider:

- Why you have chosen to engage with this research area at this time.
- The skills you will gain and how they will be applied to your research in the future.
- The suitability of the host site and the collaboration(s) in place for gaining these skills.
- How this may lead to future collaborations, co-creation and cross disciplinary research.

For more information about EPSRC's portfolio and strategies, see our website: <https://epsrc.ukri.org/research/ourportfolio/>

Funding available

Proposals can be between 3 and 24 months in length. The pattern of work for the discipline hop should be appropriate for the researcher and the proposal and should be fully justified.

For example - You may find it appropriate to hop into another department at a local university for one day a week for 12 months, or travel across the UK, or abroad for a 3 month period full time.

Whatever pattern of work is chosen, for the time spent on the discipline hop, the researcher is expected to immerse themselves in the discipline they are hopping into and a move of location or department would be expected for this time.

Resources requested will primarily include:

- PI salary
- Travel and subsistence while away from the home institution
- A CoI at the host institution to provide the necessary training and guidance

The award will need to be held by the investigator's home institution and estates and indirect costs, if applicable, should be calculated at the home institution's rates.

Under standard FEC rules, we can pay 80% of the cost of the PI salary (including estates and indirect costs subject to the normal restrictions on payment of estates costs during periods of absence) for the time spent on the discipline hopping activities. EPSRC can not pay any replacement salary costs; these should be covered by the HEI from the funding source that would have met the salary cost of the PI for that period covered by the discipline hopping award.

It is the responsibility of the organisations involved to put any necessary collaborative agreements in place before the award begins. The terms of any collaboration agreements must not conflict the Research Councils' terms and conditions.

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

The long term strength of the UK research base depends on harnessing all the available talent and the Research Councils have together developed the ambitious RCUK Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Action Plan: <https://www.ukri.org/files/legacy/skills/action-plan-edi-2016/>

In line with the RCUK Diversity Principles, EPSRC expects that equality and diversity is embedded at all levels and in all aspects of research practice. We are committed to supporting the research community in the diverse ways a research career can be built with our investments. This includes career breaks, support for people with caring responsibilities, flexible working and alternative working patterns. With this in mind, we welcomes applications from academics who job share, have a part-time contract, need flexible working arrangements or those currently committed to other longer, large existing grants. Please see our Equality and Diversity webpages at <https://epsrc.ukri.org/funding/equalitydiversity/> for further information.

Equipment

Equipment over £10,000 in value (inc. VAT) is not available through this call.

Eligibility

For information on the eligibility of organisations and individuals to receive EPSRC funding, see the EPSRC Funding Guide: <https://epsrc.ukri.org/funding/applicationprocess/fundingguide/>

A list of eligible organisations to apply to EPSRC is provided at:

<https://www.ukri.org/funding/how-to-apply/eligibility/>

Any industrial partner would have to be based in the UK in order to take part in this scheme.

How to apply: Submitting an application

You should prepare and submit your proposal using the Research Councils' Joint electronic Submission (Je-S) System (<https://je-s.rcuk.ac.uk/>).

When adding a new proposal, you should select:

- Council 'EPSRC'
- Document type 'Standard Proposal'
- Scheme 'Discipline Hopping Awards'
- On the Project Details page you should select the 'Discipline Hopping in Information and Communication Technologies' call.

Note that clicking 'submit document' on your proposal form in Je-S initially submits the proposal to your host organisation's administration, not to EPSRC. Please allow sufficient time for your organisation's submission process.

Guidance on the types of support that may be sought and advice on the completion of the research proposal forms are given on the EPSRC website (<https://epsrc.ukri.org/funding/applicationprocess/>) which should be consulted when preparing all proposals.

Guidance on writing an application

The application should consist of:

- Case for support – including:
 - Up to 2 A4 pages covering the track record of the applicant and their suitability for the hop at this time in their career.
 - Up to 6 A4 pages covering the objectives of the call and how your discipline hop will address these objectives.
- Justification of resources (1 page A4)
- Diagrammatic work plan (1 page A4)
- CV of applicant (2 pages A4)
- Host organisation statement – A letter from the host organisation stating that they agree to host the applicant and that any necessary arrangements are in place. (1 page A4)

- Head of Department letter – confirming that the host department agrees to the discipline hop and that arrangements are in place to manage any EPSRC grants affected by the hop. (1 page A4)

Further guidance on completing the Je-S form can be found at <https://je-s.rcuk.ac.uk/Handbook/pages/GuidanceonCompletingaStandardG/EthicalInformation.htm>. Other relevant guidance includes: EPSRC’s policy on animal use in research (<https://epsrc.ukri.org/about/standards/animalresearchpolicy/>) and the Responsible Innovation Framework (<https://epsrc.ukri.org/research/framework/>).

Please note that on submission to EPSRC **all** non-PDF documents uploaded onto Je-S are converted to PDF, the use of non-standard fonts may result in errors or font conversion, which could affect the overall length of the document.

For advice on writing proposals see:

<https://epsrc.ukri.org/funding/howtoapply/preparing/>

Assessment

Assessment process

Applications submitted to this call will follow the standard mode peer review process. EPSRC will seek the opinion of expert reviewers in the research area you currently work and the area you propose to hop into. If at least two of the reviewer’s comments are strongly supportive the proposal will proceed to a standard mode panel. The principal investigator will have the opportunity to respond to the reviewer’s comments at this point. Panel members will be asked to rank discipline hopping in a specific list separate from other and make a recommendation for funding.

Assessment criteria

Applications for discipline hopping awards will be assessed based on how the applicant and his/her proposed work aims to meet the objectives of the call.

Objectives of the call:

1. To provide the researcher with the opportunity to broaden their skills and their research perspective.
2. To allow these skills to be used by the researcher to pursue their research in new and cross-disciplinary areas.

To increase cross disciplinaryity and co-creation within ICT by developing collaborations and the sharing of based ICT ideas and approaches with other communities. Researchers are asked to address these by considering:

- Why they have chosen to engage with this research area at this time.
- The skills they will gain and how they will be applied to your research.
- The suitability of the host site and the collaboration(s) in place for gaining these skills.

- How this proposal may lead to long term-innovative research or future collaborations.

Guidance for reviewers

Please read the call documents before providing your review.

(<https://epsrc.ukri.org/funding/assessmentprocess/review/formsandguidancenotes/standardgrants/>)

Proposals should be assessed on their ability to meet the objectives set out in the 'assessment criteria' section of this document.

Applicants are also advised to consider the points set out in the 'guidance on writing an application' section.

Please be aware that the objectives of this call are not primarily about answering a research question, and in your assessment you should consider how the applicant has addressed the objectives of the call, including the gaining of new skills and potential cross disciplinary and co-creation opportunities.

Also, it is expected that applicants will be familiar enough with current literature in the area they are hopping into to articulate why their proposal will be able to address a novel research question in this area, however they may be not be experts in the area.

General information about the EPSRC peer review process and guidance for reviewers can be found at:

<https://epsrc.ukri.org/funding/assessmentprocess/review/>

Guidance for reviewing standard grants can be found here:

<https://epsrc.ukri.org/funding/assessmentprocess/review/formsandguidancenotes/standardgrants/>

Moving forward

Submissions to this call will count towards the Repeatedly Unsuccessful Applicants Policy. Further information about the policy can be found at:

<https://epsrc.ukri.org/funding/howtoapply/basics/resubpol/rua/>

Contacts

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Change log

Name	Date	Version	Change
A	April2018	1	Call relaunched
Lorna Friis	Feb 2020	1.1	Pathways to impact refs removed

Je-S attachments Check List

Standard:

Attachment Type	Maximum Page length	Mandatory/Optional	Extra Guidance
Case for Support	8 pages	M	Comprising up to two A4 sides for a track record, and six A4 sides describing proposed research and its context.
Workplan	1 page	M	
Justification for Resources	2 pages	M	
Project Partner Letters of Support	No page limits	M if project partners are detailed in the proposal	Must be included from all named project partners. Must be on headed paper, and be signed and dated within six months of the proposal submission date.
Host Institution statements	No page limits	M	Must be included for the institution the PI is hopping from and the institution(s) the PI is hopping to, providing evidence that the PI has the required support for the move.

Please ensure you adhere to the above attachment requirements when submitting your proposal. Any missing, over length or unnecessary attachments may result in your proposal being rejected.