

Quick Reference

Please note that you must read the full Call document for guidance before submitting your proposal

Environmental Change Challenge Fellowships

Call type: Invitation for outlines

Closing date: 16:00 05 January 2017

Funding Available: There is up to £5 million available for this activity in the 2016-17 financial year to fund Postdoctoral and Early Career Fellowships.

How to apply: The application process for the LWEC Challenge Fellowship scheme is in two stages: the submission and assessment of Outline Proposals to form a shortlist of applicants who will be invited to submit full proposals, then the submission and assessment of full proposals by an expert panel who will also interview all applicants asked to submit a full proposal.

Assessment Process: Both Outlines and Full proposals will be assessed by expert panels – there is no postal peer review stage.

Key dates

| Activity | Date |
|---------------------------------------|------------------|
| Closing Date for Outlines | 05 January 2017 |
| Outline Panel | 26 January 2017 |
| Invitations to submit full proposals | 01 February 2017 |
| Closing date for Full Proposals | 01 March 2017 |
| Interview Panels | 11 April 2017 |
| Announcement of Successful Candidates | 30 April 2017 |

There is no requirement for an organisation to limit their number of submissions. There is no requirement for an institutional statement of support at the Outline Stage but a letter will be required at the Full Stage.

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Environmental Change Challenge Fellowships

Call type: Invitation for Outlines

Closing date: 16:00 05 January 2017

Related themes: Energy, Engineering, ICT, LWECC, Mathematical sciences, Physical sciences.

Summary

EPSRC is inviting Outline Proposals for EPSRC Challenge Fellowships in the LWECC theme, with a closing date of 05 January 2017. Fellowships are offered at both the Postdoctoral Fellowship and Early Career Fellowship level. Applications are sought that address the challenge question:

How can our cities, their hinterlands, linking infrastructure, rural surround and the regions they are in, be transformed to be resilient, sustainable, more economically viable and generally better places to live?

Background

EPSRC's Living With Environmental Change theme is keen to support the next generation of leaders in adapting to and mitigating climate change. This is a strategic activity focusing on a key challenge within the EPSRC LWECC theme and on bringing new thinking into the area.

A previous call was issued on this topic in 2015 and **eight** Fellowships funded:

(see <http://gow.epsrc.ac.uk/NGBOViewPanelROL.aspx?PanelId=1-2RXZNE&RankingListId=1-2RXZOG>)

The research required to answer this challenge requires a broad based, problem-directed and multidisciplinary approach. In this call the EPSRC are particularly interested in proposals that help fill research gaps in this area:

- Proposals that use an Engineering, Physical Sciences, Computer Sciences or Mathematics led approach to the challenge
- Proposals that address Energy related aspects of the challenge

The balance of the research described in the application should be within the remit of EPSRC. We thus would, particularly, like to encourage applicants from across the EPSRC research landscape to apply.

Eligible Fellowship Categories:

- Postdoctoral and Early Career Fellowships

Applicants should read the guidance for Fellowships on the EPSRC website:
<http://www.epsrc.ac.uk/skills/fellows/>

and note the following:

A **Fellowship** is a personal award and it enables you to devote most of your time and focus to the proposed research. A Fellowship is aimed to position yourself and your research topic within the wider academic field, develop your leadership by establishing or extending your research group and act as an advocate for the STEM disciplines in general and EPSRC specifically.

Key Challenge Areas

On 10 February 2015 a workshop entitled 'EPSRC in a changed LWEC' was held to advise on the role of the EPSRC in helping to provide the scientific knowledge and tools to help deal with the challenges posed by environmental change. The workshop focused on research priorities from an EPSRC perspective identifying where EPSRC can contribute to:

- Future research directions – what are the challenges?
- Skills needs – What are the needs and how can they be satisfied?
- Impact – Are there any challenges that are more urgent than others?

The following 'Challenge' emerged from discussion of the future skills needs in the LWEC theme:

How can our cities, their hinterlands, linking infrastructure, rural surround and the regions they are in, be transformed to be resilient, sustainable, more economically viable and generally better places to live?

A number of possible research themes that would contribute to answering this challenge were suggested and are listed below. (This is not meant to be an exhaustive list but is meant to help guide applicants to suitable areas.)

- Living in a 6 degrees C warmer world compared with other levels of warming – what would the climate be and how could a resilient infrastructure be developed
- Systems of systems approach – interactions, performance, KPIs, long term view, goal alignment, shocking the system
- UK cities system as a system of cities – decision making and the capacity of decision makers
- Open/big data and the use of 'smart' systems – decision support/ making risk/vulnerability / concurrent risks
- Maintaining transport/water/ infrastructure– in the light of economic/political challenges
- Environmental risks to networks and understanding of the potential and implications for failure

- Sustainable resilient buildings able to deal with different pressures, overheating, flooding, potential lock in
- Environmental change and deterioration - performance, condition and inter dependency of integrated infrastructure systems.

Research could involve (singly or in various multidisciplinary combinations) any of the major EPSRC research areas some of the most relevant are: Complexity Science, Decision Making Theory, Sustainable Urban Environments, Bridging the Urban Rural Divide, the Digital Economy, Big Data, the Water/Energy/Food nexus, Forecasting Environmental Change. The required research is inherently multidisciplinary and while it needs to be led by researchers recognizably within the EPSRC remit it also needs to take into account social and environmental needs.

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

Funding available

There is about £5 million available for this activity in the 2016-17 financial year.

- Funding is expected to be for up to 3 years for Postdoctoral Fellows and 5 years for Early Career Fellows
- The Fellow is expected to request a package of resources appropriate for the aims of the Fellowship, the type of resources available is determined by the career stage under which you are applying see: <http://www.epsrc.ac.uk/skills/fellows/resources/>
- Equipment 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://www.epsrc.ac.uk/funding/howtoapply/fundingguide/>
- Please note that you will not be eligible to apply through the EPSRC First Grant Scheme if you are awarded a LWEC Fellowship.
- Please note that you can only apply for one EPSRC Fellowship a year.

Fellowship location

- Fellowships can be held at any UK university or similar Higher Education Institution (HEI) that is eligible for Research Council funding. For further guidance please refer to the EPSRC Funding Guide at <https://www.epsrc.ac.uk/funding/howtoapply/fundingguide/>
- The intention for this Fellowship scheme is that the Fellow establishes an active and successful research group rather than lead or set up a Centre for the host institution in the first instance.

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 Outline Proposal
- Scheme Outline
- On the Project Details page you should select the 'Environmental Change Challenge Fellowships' 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 between submitting your proposal to them and the call closing date. EPSRC must receive your application by **16:00 on 05 January 2017**.

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://www.epsrc.ac.uk/funding/howtoapply/>) which should be consulted when preparing all proposals.

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.

In addition, where non-standard fonts are present, and even though the converted PDF document may look unaffected in the Je-S System, when it is imported into the Research Councils Grants System some information may be removed. We therefore recommend that where a document contains any non-standard fonts (scientific notation, diagrams etc.), the document is converted to PDF prior to attaching it to the proposal.

For advice on writing proposals see:

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

Assessment

Assessment process

The application process for the LWEC Challenge Fellowship scheme is in two stages: the submission and assessment of Outline Proposals to form a shortlist of applicants who will be invited to submit full proposals, then the submission and assessment of full proposals by an expert panel who will also interview all applicants asked to submit a full proposal.

Your application will be considered by an Outline panel after which we will either invite you to submit a full proposal or decline your fellowship application. Applicants who are successful at the outline stage will receive feedback from the

outline panel. You will only be sent guidance on how to submit a full proposal if you are invited through to the second stage.

Please note: due to the number of applications expected, feedback to applicants who are **unsuccessful** at the Outline stage will only be provided in exceptional circumstances where the panel has identified specific feedback for the candidate. In these cases EPSRC will contact candidates directly.

Assessment criteria

EPSRC reserve the right to apply additional selection criteria in the event of the call being so substantially oversubscribed as to be unmanageable as initially planned.

The Candidate is expected to demonstrate the following competencies, capabilities and experiences:

The Candidate:

- A vision for how the fellowship will enable you to achieve your research and career aspirations; Clarity of vision and ability to communicate it, and the ability to demonstrate real intellectual leadership.
- Leadership potential – potential ability to set and drive new research agendas; ability to work in and bring together multidisciplinary teams to collaboratively solve real-world research problems; ability to influence, inspire and motivate others beyond their immediate sphere of influence.
- Possesses excellent communications and interpersonal skills.
- Ability to build a network of contacts that are willing to help.
- Capacity to look for research connections outside your research area.
- Evidence that you can lead original and independent research and innovation.

The Research Environment:

- Ability of the applicant to deliver the proposed research
- Justification of choice of host organisation

Research Quality:

- How the research fits with the LWEC Challenge.
- The scientific merit, originality, technical feasibility, and relevance of the proposed program of research.
- How the proposed programme of research will have a transformative effect on the research base.
- The relevance of the proposed research to the 'National Importance' criteria

Planning and Management:

- Planning and project management of the proposed research programme, including the management of any staff requested(for early career fellowships);
- Appropriateness and justification of the resources requested;
- Have the main risks been identified and contingencies put in place?

Impact:

- Who may benefit from the research, how they may benefit and what will be done to ensure they have the opportunity to benefit;
- What pathways to impact activities will be undertaken;
- How will the candidate use their experience and networks to ensure the above two points.

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Contacts

If you have any questions about the call, please contact:

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Change log

| Name | Date | Version | Change |
|--------------|------------|---------|--------|
| David Holtum | 07/11/2016 | 1.0 | |
| | | | |

Appendices

Je-S attachments Check List

Outline:

| | | | |
|------------------|---------|-----------|--|
| Case for Support | 4 pages | Mandatory | |
|------------------|---------|-----------|--|

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.