

Quick Reference

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

Healthcare Technologies Discipline Hopping Call

Call type: Invitation for proposals

Closing date: 27 June 2019 16:00

After consultation with the community, EPSRC Healthcare Technologies will be closing their Discipline Hopping Call (<https://epsrc.ukri.org/funding/calls/htdisciplinehopping/>) as of 27 June 2019 16:00.

Although the specific call will be removed, discipline hopping funds can be requested as part of the pathways to impact. To reflect this, the principals of discipline hopping have been embedded in the updated Healthcare Technologies Investigator Led Call (<https://epsrc.ukri.org/funding/calls/htinvestigatorledresearchprojects/>) and the Healthcare Technologies Impact and Translation Toolkit (<https://epsrc.ukri.org/research/ourportfolio/themes/healthcaretechnologies/strategy/toolkit/>).

All discipline hopping call applications received up to the deadline will be processed as normal. Postal peer review and panel members will be made aware that the successful concepts of discipline hopping are being transitioned into business as usual and that the applications submitted through the discipline hopping call are to be treated fairly.

How to apply: Single stage submission

Assessment process: Expert Peer Review followed by prioritisation panel

Funding available: Flexible depending on quality and demand

Key dates:

Activity	Date
Deadline for Proposals	27 June 2019 16:00

Additional information: There is no limit to the number of submissions from a single institution

Dependent on demand and timing of applications, EPSRC reserve the right to assess proposals through the most appropriate theme panel

Contacts: For general enquiries please contact healthcare@epsrc.ukri.org

For specific enquiries about remit, please the most relevant subject-specific HT portfolio manager. A list of HT contacts can be found on our website:

<https://epsrc.ukri.org/research/ourportfolio/themes/healthcaretechnologies/contacts/>

Healthcare Technologies Discipline Hopping

Call type: Invitation for proposals

Closing date: 27 June

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Related themes: All

Summary

The principal aim of this call is to provide researchers with an opportunity to spend time in a different research or user environment in order to better understand the need for and potential of research in engineering, physical sciences, mathematical sciences or ICT (herein referred to as EPS) to have an impact in addressing health challenges. Novel EPS research activities must comprise a proportion of the placement.

The scheme is targeted at individual researchers who wish to develop their research in healthcare technologies by developing new skills and collaborations with other disciplines and end users. Researchers may come from core EPSRC research fields and hop into other relevant disciplines and/or user fields (users include industry, clinical or public sector environments). Researchers in other disciplines and/or organisations that hold appointments that make them eligible for Research Council funding may also hop into an Engineering and Physical Sciences environment.

This scheme complements other EPSRC funding opportunities such as standard research and overseas travel grants which are for specific research projects.

EPSRC is particularly encouraging applications from:

- Researchers with a track record of research in engineering, physical sciences, mathematical sciences or ICT, who wish to address key healthcare research challenges and need to widen their expertise to fully understand the challenge and to develop potential solutions
- Researchers with a track record of research in engineering, physical sciences, mathematical sciences or ICT, who want to spend time in a non-academic environment such as an NHS trust to understand the key drivers of the identified research challenges and the practicalities of implementing solutions
- Researchers with a track record in other relevant disciplines including clinicians with academic appointments, who want to spend time in an academic engineering, physical sciences, mathematical sciences or ICT research environment, to influence and be involved in research

programmes in healthcare technologies and to better understand the potential of EPS research to address user needs.

Background

This call is aimed at encouraging the development of multidisciplinary research environments as recommended in the Maxwell Review (<https://epsrc.ukri.org/newsevents/pubs/the-importance-of-engineering-and-physical-sciences-research-to-health-and-life-sciences/>) and to build collaborations which will support the outcomes of fundamental research in the engineering and physical sciences along the pathway to impact in healthcare applications.

Some key barriers to entry to research in healthcare technologies by researchers from the broader EPS base include:

- a need to spend time fully understanding the clinical and/or biological problem to inform the development of their research programme;
- a need to learn new methods from the application domain and bring them back into an EPS research environment;
- a need to better understand the pathway to impact in health and the regulatory and ethical requirements for research in this area;
- a need to better integrate aspects of social science and design into research programmes to meet healthcare professional and patient needs.

Funding through this call will enable researchers in core EPSRC disciplines to:

- better identify the healthcare challenges and clinical workflows where EPS has the potential to lead to novel solutions;
- understand the drivers for that research challenge and the context in which any solution would be deployed;
- broaden their awareness of the current state of the art in other scientific disciplines that are needed to address the research challenge;
- understand the social science and design factors that influence the adoption and use of healthcare technologies and patient concordance.

It will also enable researchers in other disciplines, for example, clinicians and other health professionals with academic appointments, to develop collaborations with researchers in engineering, physical sciences, mathematical sciences or ICT, and to influence their research agenda. Collaboration with researchers in social sciences and design are also encouraged to support the consideration of concordance and acceptability in the development of novel healthcare technologies for self-management of chronic health conditions.

This call is closely linked to the Healthcare Technologies Grand Challenges, and all applications to this call should clearly demonstrate their alignment to one of the four challenges. These challenges, which have been identified through extensive community consultation, are significant healthcare problems which need to be addressed by a long term, multidisciplinary, coordinated approach from researchers. The Healthcare Technologies theme hopes that these challenges will provide a focus for interdisciplinary and international collaboration, lead to world leading discoveries in computational, engineering, mathematical and physical sciences, and develop the next disruptive or transformative healthcare technologies and systems.

Further information on the strategy:

<https://epsrc.ukri.org/research/ourportfolio/themes/healthcaretechnologies/strategy/>

The call is also related to EPSRC's delivery plan outcome of a Healthy Nation. For more information see:

<https://epsrc.ukri.org/about/plans/deliveryplan/prosperityoutcomes/health/>

Applicants are strongly encouraged to contact EPSRC before applying to ensure their proposed discipline hop fits the remit of the call. It may be that there are alternative and more suitable funding routes.

Funding available

Proposals should be between 3 and 12 months in duration on a full-time basis. The awards may be held on a part time basis for a maximum of 24 months.

Investigators must be academic employees (lecturer or equivalent) of an eligible organisation and must be resident in the UK. Please note that as of 1 November 2016, eligible organisations now include some Independent Research Organisations and NHS bodies (see eligibility section for more information).

The award should provide significant contact time for researchers with other disciplines /business/ clinical environment. Applicants will be expected to move to a different department or location for the duration of the award and to undertake specific activities which meet their development needs. Resources requested will principally include Principal Investigator (PI) salary, travel and subsistence, plus resources for the specific activities. These activities would normally be around some novel research together with any training activities as appropriate. Resources for co-investigator salary for the time spent supporting the discipline hop can be requested provided that the host organisation is eligible for Research Council funding. Please contact EPSRC for advice on collaborations where the host organisation is not eligible for Research Council funding. Equipment costs will not be supported.

Under standard FEC rules, EPSRC 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 cannot pay any replacement salary costs; these should

be covered by the organisation employing the investigators from the funding source(s) that would ordinarily have met their salary cost.

The award will need to be held by the organisation employing the PI and estates and indirect costs, if applicable, should be calculated at this organisation's rates.

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.

Equipment

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://epsrc.ukri.org/funding/applicationprocess/fundingguide/>

From 01 November 2016 the Research Councils introduced a change of eligibility status for Independent Research Organisations (IROs). Any organisation currently approved as an IRO for one Research Council is now eligible for all Research Councils.

NHS bodies with research capacity (the Board, NHS Clinical Commissioning Group, NHS Special Authority, NHS Trust, NHS Foundation Trust, NHS Local Health Board) currently eligible to apply as lead applicants, will also be eligible to apply as lead applicants for all RCs.

A bilateral exchange of researchers between academe and industry is possible; however EPSRC funding can only be provided for the academic partner.

Similarly, the applicant can hop overseas but the only eligible costs are the Principal Investigator's salary and indirect costs, travel and subsistence. Neither consumables nor equipment (including laptops) would normally be funded but the cost of visas may be included in the proposal. (Estates Costs cannot be requested nor can the costs of the overseas organisations expenses.)

EPSRC reserves the right to reject proposals that are deemed to be outside the remit of the call or are not in the correct format.

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 'Healthcare Technologies Discipline Hopping Call'.

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

Guidance on writing an application

Application forms (available through Je-S) must be accompanied by a Case for Support, which must include:

- Previous research track record (up to 2 sides of A4), and
- Description of the proposed Discipline Hopping programme (up to 6 sides of A4) that addresses the assessment criteria, including comments on:
 - why a Discipline Hopping Award is timely at this point in your career;
 - why you have chosen to engage with the particular research area and discipline hopping partner/user;
 - what added value this particular award will bring to your own research and the UK (making specific mention of the EPSRC Healthcare Technologies strategy and/or Healthy Nation outcome);
 - How you expect to use the knowledge and skills developed through the discipline hop once it has been completed.
 - Description of the research and other planned activities

The proposal should also include:

- Diagrammatic work plan (up to 1 side of A4)
- Full justification of resources (up to 2 sides of A4)

- Pathway to Impact plan (up to 2 sides of A4). This is particularly important for all proposals within the healthcare technologies theme. See section on Impact from Healthcare Technologies Research later in this call document.
- A CV containing information on your academic and employment history. (maximum two sides of A4)
- A letter from the research organisation/department/company which you are hopping into confirming they agree to host you. It should be submitted in the Je-S system as an attachment under 'Host organisation statement'.
- A letter from the Head of Department of the applicant's department confirming that they agree to the discipline hop and that where applicable, appropriate arrangements are in place for the management of current EPSRC research grants and/or studentships held by the applicant during his/her Discipline Hopping award. This letter should be submitted in the Je-S system as an attachment under 'Letter of Support'.

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, refer to further information on preparing a proposal: <https://epsrc.ukri.org/funding/applicationprocess/preparing/>

Impact from Healthcare Technologies Research

EPSRC wishes to ensure that the activities it supports through its Healthcare

Technologies theme have the greatest chance of achieving a positive impact in human health and wellbeing. The pathway to impact in health is often longer and more complex than that seen in other sectors and poses many barriers less commonly encountered by engineering and physical science researchers. Given this, there is a need for researchers working in this area to consider more carefully how they will undertake their work in a manner that maximises the opportunity for impact to arise from it. In particular, it was clear during the development of the Healthcare

Technologies strategy that a number of topics were of particular importance. These are highlighted as part of the Impact and Translation Toolkit:

<https://epsrc.ukri.org/research/ourportfolio/themes/healthcaretechnologies/strategy/toolkit/>

As this award is focused on the professional development of the award holder, applicants should consider and clearly articulate how the activities undertaken as

part of the award will enable them to more effectively deliver impact from subsequent healthcare technologies research. Given the nature of this award applicants are particularly encouraged to request resources for relevant training activities to supplement their existing understanding of the pathway to impact in health. Applicants must also consider how the topics highlighted in the toolkit will relate to their proposed research activities and if they are relevant, describe in their proposal how they will be addressed throughout the award. Not all topics will relate to every project and researchers need not address those which do not.

There is no expectation that researchers will undertake all impact activities themselves nor is there an expectation that researchers will develop extensive expertise in all the areas noted in the toolkit. However, applicants should consider what skills, knowledge and expertise are required, for both current and future research activities, and how these will be brought to the project.

Understanding of the pathway to impact in health and the incorporation of appropriate and specific impact activities will form part of the assessment of proposals. EPSRC strongly encourage applicants to request resources to support these elements of the proposal as part of the Pathways to Impact section. A well-considered and appropriately resourced Pathway to Impact section will be seen as a strength of a proposal.

Ethical Information

Applicants should use the Ethical Information section on the Je-S form to demonstrate to peer reviewers that they have fully considered any ethical issues concerning the material they intend to use, the nature and choice, current public perceptions and attitudes towards the subject matter or research area. EPSRC will not fund a project if it believes that there are ethical concerns that have been overlooked or not appropriately accounted for. All relevant parts of the Ethical Information section must be completed. If the research will involve human participation or the use of animals covered by the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 it is recommended that applicants pay particular attention to the guidance highlighted below. EPSRC reserves the right to reject applications prior to peer review if the Ethical Information sections are not completed correctly.

Further guidance on completing the Je-S form can be found here: <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 Framework for Responsible Innovation (<https://epsrc.ukri.org/research/framework/>).

Assessment

Assessment process

Proposals will be considered by the standard process as outlined on the EPSRC website (more details:

<https://epsrc.ukri.org/funding/assessmentprocess/overview/>).

EPSRC will seek the opinion of expert reviewers including at least one reviewer nominated by the applicant. If at least two of the reviewer's comments are strongly supportive, the proposal will proceed to a prioritisation panel. Depending on demand through this call or standard research, this panel will either be a healthcare technologies focussed prioritisation panel or the most appropriate Capability theme. 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 proposals in a specific Discipline Hopping list separate from the standard research and first grant lists and make a recommendation for funding.

Assessment criteria

Applications for Discipline Hopping awards will be assessed on the following criteria:

- the suitability of the applicant for a discipline hop in terms of their track record and career stage;
- the quality and suitability of the proposed collaborative arrangements including the support from the host organisation/collaborator;
- the potential for the discipline hop to have a positive, long-term impact on the applicant's research career;
- the potential of the discipline hop to enhance the pathway to impact in health of the applicant's current and future research activities.
- the quality of the proposed activities;
- fit to call including fit to EPSRC strategy and delivery plan.

Feedback

Feedback will not normally be given unless there is specific feedback the panel wish to give.

Moving forward

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

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

Guidance for reviewers

Assessment should be made against the criteria provided on the EPSRC form with particular emphasis given to the assessment criteria and ethos of the Discipline Hopping in Healthcare Technologies call.

Information about the EPSRC peer review process and guidance for reviewers can be found here: <https://epsrc.ukri.org/funding/assessmentprocess/review/>

Key dates

Activity	Date
Deadline for Proposals	27 June 2019 16:00

Proposals can be submitted at any time and if the reviewers are sufficiently supportive will go to the next appropriate panel for ranking.

Contacts

For general enquiries please contact healthcare@epsrc.ukri.org.

For specific enquiries about remit, please the most relevant subject-specific HT portfolio manager.

A list of HT contacts can be found on our website:

<https://epsrc.ukri.org/research/ourportfolio/themes/healthcaretechnologies/contacts/>

Change log

Name	Date	Version	Change
Anne Farrow	21 February 2017	1	N/A
Ruth Robinson	28 August 2018	1.1	Updated web links to new format. Updated email contact to HT team.

Matthew Weaver	4 March 2019	1.2	Updated closing date Reasons for closing the call
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Appendix

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 disciplining hopping programme as detailed in the call.
Pathways to Impact	2 pages	M	
Workplan	1 page	M	
Justification for Resources	2 pages	M	
CVs	2 pages each	M	
Project Partner Letters of Support	No page limits	As Required	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.
Letter of Support	No page limits	M	From the Head of Department of the applicant's department
Proposal Cover Letter	No page limit	As required	The cover letter can be used to highlight any important information to EPSRC. This attachment type is not seen by reviewers or panel members.
Host Organisation Department	No page limit	M	From the research organisation/department/company which you are hopping into

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.