

EPSRC are looking for new members for our Early Career Forum in Mathematical Sciences

Closing date: 16:00 10 October 2018

Key Dates:

Activity	Date
Deadline for expression of interest	10 October 2018
Shortlisting	October 2018
Inform Applicants of Outcome	By early November 2018
Next meeting of Early Career Forum	December 2018

EPSRC is seeking applications from early career researchers to join our Early Career Forum (ECF) in the Mathematical Sciences Theme.

Our aim is to sustain core research capability across the breadth of mathematical sciences while promoting transformative and cross-disciplinary research all of which has the potential for significant impact.

Engaging with early career researchers is a crucial part of achieving this aim, helping to set the direction for mathematical sciences research in the near future.

The Mathematical Sciences Early Career Forum acts as an informal advisory stream to EPSRC. Members are advocates for EPSRC within the community, and provide a broad perspective of the needs and views of the mathematical sciences community, offering opinion across the breadth of the Theme.

The Mathematical Sciences Theme considers it important that the Forum shapes its own agenda and activities, suggesting items of discussion and providing relevant insight and feedback to EPSRC from the community they represent.

We are looking to recruit around up to eight new members in this exercise, and we have a particular aspiration to maintain or improve the diversity of the Forum.

Role and person specification

Members are drawn from the breadth of the EPSRC Mathematical Sciences Theme stakeholder group. They are expected to bring a broad strategic view to bear and to act as 'generous generalists'. Members should not act as representatives of their own organisation, research area or sector, but are expected to adhere to the [Seven Principles of Public Life](#).

To recognise the range of career paths in mathematical sciences, there is no specific definition of "early career"; however, applicants should demonstrate why they consider it appropriate to describe themselves as such.

The specific requirements sought are:

Essential

- Being early career and holding a PhD and a permanent academic position or fellowship (full-time or part-time), based at a UK Higher Education Institution, with an understanding of the processes and pressures of delivering world class research activities in mathematical sciences, and/or the commercialisation of such research.
- A track record of outstanding work and/or research in mathematical sciences (within the scope of the EPSRC Mathematical Sciences Theme), and of delivering mathematical sciences impact.
- Evidence of credibility in the academic community, including examples of leadership, exploring research opportunities, or positioning themselves to take up these opportunities.
- A willingness to help with two-way communication between EPSRC and stakeholder groups, and to act as an advocate for EPSRC and its activities.
- A willingness to devote sufficient time to the role, given appropriate flexibility of arrangements.

Other

- An appreciation of EPSRC processes and operations and an aspiration to develop this further.
- An ability to work flexibly and adapt to different ways of working.

Operation

Appointments will be for two years initially (with effect from November 2018), with the possibility of extension for a further year by mutual agreement.

Applicants should be willing to actively participate and contribute to the Forum's activities on a regular basis, including attending and hosting meetings where required, and consultation by email. It is expected that ECF members will need to commit between three to five days to the role per year.

EPSRC currently reimburses expenses associated with attendance of Forum meetings e.g. meals, travel, accommodation.

Diversity

We are committed to a policy of equal opportunities. Appointments to the Early Career Forum are made on merit. However, we are keen to see diversity in Forum membership, in terms of gender, race, disability and other protected characteristics.

We will use increasing diversity as one of our selection criteria. As part of this, data on gender may be used when making a final decision, out of applications that are deemed to have met the essential criteria.

Application process

This is a single stage process, based around an Expression of Interest.

Preparing an Expression of Interest (EoI)

Applicants should complete all sections of the Expression of Interest form. Applicants must provide responses under the following headings, each of which relates to at least one selection criterion:

- Demonstrating how your career history fits the "early career" specification given in the call document
- Evidence of a track record of outstanding work and impact in mathematical sciences
- Demonstrating credibility in the academic community, including evidence of potential leadership, networking and exerting influence
- Evidence of good communication skills and how you could use these to help with two-way communication between EPSRC and the early career mathematical sciences community
- Rationale for joining the Early Career Forum, including how you envisage using membership to increase the profile of UK mathematical sciences 'research excellence' and your capacity to devote the required time to the Forum

Diversity information:

EPSRC operates a policy of equality and fair treatment. We aim to ensure that all applications are treated fairly, regardless of gender, age, ethnic origin, disability or other protected characteristics. Individuals are asked to supply equal opportunities information for this reason. Other than gender (see **Diversity**, above), these data will be separated from the application form before shortlisting and will only be used in anonymised, aggregated form for monitoring purposes.

Selection process

Expressions of interest will be assessed against the specification criteria by an EPSRC panel. The following will be considerations when making appointments:

- Match to the essential criteria in the person specification, based on the evidence provided.
- **Out of applications meeting the essential criteria**, ensuring diversity of membership with a balance of expertise and a gender balance in line with our target.

The outcomes of the selection process will be announced by early November 2018, with successful applicants invited to the next Forum meeting in December 2018. **Please note that due to the potential interest in this opportunity, EPSRC will not be providing feedback to unsuccessful applicants.**

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Change log

Name	Date	Version	Change
Matthew Lodge	17/08/2018	1.0	