

Quick Reference

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

Early Career Forum in Manufacturing Research

Call type: Expression of interest

Closing date: 16:00 8 October 2019

How to apply: Submission of expression of interest

Assessment Process: Expressions of interest will be shortlisted against the assessment criteria by an expert external panel.

Key Dates:

Activity	Date
Deadline for expression of interest	16:00 on 8 October 2019
Shortlisting panel	November 2019
Inform Applicants of Outcome	Early December 2019
First meeting of new members of Early Career Forum	January 2020

Additional information: The final decision on forum membership will be made by the EPSRC, who may consider organisation and research area in order to ensure a spread of membership.

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Early Career Forum in Manufacturing Research

Call type: Expression of interest

Closing date: 16:00 8 October 2019

Related themes: All themes

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Summary

EPSRC seeks expressions of interest for the refresh of the membership of the Manufacturing the Future Early Career Forum (<https://epsrc.ukri.org/research/ourportfolio/themes/manufacturingthefuture/activities/earlycareer/>). EPSRC is looking to appoint 10 new members of the forum. Applicants should have a strong focus on advancing the UK's international reputation in manufacturing research, be open to developing inter-disciplinary research agendas, help with two way communication between EPSRC and the early career manufacturing research community, and have an interest in participating in research policy development.

Members of the Early Career Forum will have the opportunity to interact with other early career academics from across the breadth of engineering and the physical sciences, forming new professional networks that may generate future innovative research programmes. Forum members will also have targeted opportunities to participate in EPSRC strategic advisory activities, interact with senior staff of EPSRC funded large grants, including the EPSRC Future Manufacturing Hubs, and will receive insight into, and practical advice relating to, UK funding body policy and practice.

Background

Manufacturing research is inherently inter-disciplinary, drawing upon the whole breadth of EPSRC-supported research and beyond – there are, for example, strong overlaps with the biological and social sciences. The challenge for EPSRC's Manufacturing the Future theme is to create, capture and accelerate the benefits of ground-breaking research for the benefit of UK manufacturing. To this end, Manufacturing the Future interacts widely with academia and industry via advisory bodies and staff within strategic large investments, membership of cross-industry, academia and governmental committees, and discussions with professional societies and networks.

The future international reputation of the UK in manufacturing research rests upon the early career academics of today; who will generate new manufacturing processes, technologies and systems at the interfaces of traditional mathematical, scientific and engineering disciplines. Such individuals will define, by virtue of their excellent research track records and strong professional connections, the intellectual and practical merit of UK manufacturing research on the international stage.

The Early Career Forum in Manufacturing Research seeks to identify individuals near the start of their academic research career who may have the characteristics required to become such international leaders of the future.

EPSRC desires that members of the Forum will take a lead in defining and developing what "research excellence" means within the context of UK manufacturing research.

The Forum is a long-term initiative with an evolving membership base. The activities of the forum are influenced by the wishes and ideas of the membership, who are expected to participate in organising events. Members will have access to a range of tailored events and opportunities, which have previously included:

- Networking and idea-sharing with all other Early Career Forum members.
- Discussions, networking and mentoring opportunities with senior academics and industrialists from the Manufacturing the Future theme and beyond.
- Insight and mentoring into EPSRC processes and procedures, including various EPSRC grant awards and the associated peer review processes.
- Developing working relationships with EPSRC.
- Joint sessions with the EPSRC Manufacturing the Future Strategic Advisory Team.

Further information about the current membership of and the on-going activities of the Early Career Forum can be found at <http://ecfmanufacturing.com/> and at <https://epsrc.ukri.org/research/ourportfolio/themes/manufacturingthefuture/activities/earlycareer/> .

Individual membership of the Forum will last for approximately three years. EPSRC expects to have around twenty members of the Early Career Forum across the broad portfolio of manufacturing research. Meetings are run by and

hosted by members of the forum, and as such **EPSRC would expect applicants to be willing to actively participate and contribute to the Forum's activities on a regular basis**. Applicants are advised that the Early Career Forum usually meets three times annually, with each meeting running over 1 – 2 days.

EPSRC wishes to invite Forum members across the full breadth of the Manufacturing the Future theme. This includes physicists, chemists, computer scientists and mathematicians as well as the manufacturing engineering or process engineering disciplines.

EPSRC explicitly seeks to ensure that at each refresh the Forum is constituted with an appropriate balance of membership across academic research areas. Therefore, we would particularly welcome applications from individuals with backgrounds in Engineering Design, Process Manufacturing, Manufacturing Operations, Sustainable Manufacturing and Production Manufacturing. For more information about EPSRC's portfolio and strategies, see our website: <https://epsrc.ukri.org/research/ourportfolio/>

Funding available

This is **not** a call for a direct funding opportunity, but rather an expression of interest for membership of the Manufacturing the Future Early Career Research Forum.

EPSRC will pay some of the Forum meeting costs e.g. meals, however successful applicants are expected to find their own travel and accommodation costs to attend the meetings.

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

The long term strength of the UK research base depends on harnessing all the available talent. 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 welcome applications from academics who job share, have a part-time contract, or have flexible working arrangements.

Peer review is central to EPSRC funding decisions; we require expert advice and robust decision making processes for all EPSRC funding initiatives. We are committed to ensuring that fairness is fully reflected in all our funding processes by advancing policy which supports equality, diversity and inclusion. Please see our Equality and Diversity webpages <https://epsrc.ukri.org/funding/equalitydiversity/> for further information.

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

Guidance on Journal-based metrics

As part of our commitment to support the recommendations and principles set out by the San Francisco Declaration on Research Assessment (DORA; <https://sfdora.org/read/>), UKRI reviewers and panel members are advised not to use journal-based metrics, such as journal impact factors, as a surrogate measure of the quality of individual research articles, to assess an investigator's contributions, or to make funding decisions.

The content of a paper is more important than publication metrics, or the identity of the journal in which it was published, especially for early-stage researchers. Reviewers and panel members are encouraged to consider the value and impact of all research outputs (including datasets, software, inventions, patents, preprints, other commercial activities, etc.) in addition to research publications. We advise our peer reviewers and panel members to consider a broad range of impact measures including qualitative indicators of research impact, such as influence on policy and practice.

Eligibility

This opportunity is available to early career academics. To recognise the range of career paths in manufacturing, there is no specific definition of "early career"; however, applicants should demonstrate why they consider it appropriate to describe themselves as such. This forms part of the assessment criteria outlined below.

This opportunity is open to full-time and part-time academic staff and Fellowship holders, according to the normal eligibility rules for EPSRC funding. In this call, EPSRC will only accept applications from UK Higher Education Institutions. For information on the eligibility of individuals to receive EPSRC funding, see the EPSRC Funding Guide:

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

Individuals interested in applying to this call who are unsure of their eligibility should contact EPSRC (see contacts below).

How to apply

Submitting an application

This is a single stage assessment process, based around an Expression of Interest (EoI). Any applications that fail to follow these guidelines will not be considered.

Applicants should apply electronically by 16:00 on Tuesday 8 October 2019 using the Expression of Interest form on the Early Career Forum call page on the EPSRC website.

Guidance on writing an application

Preparing an Expression of Interest (EoI)

Applicants should complete all sections of the Expression of Interest form.

Applicants must address the criteria outlined in the Assessment Criteria section below. This will be in the format of responses to the following prompts, which map to the assessment criteria:

- Explain how your career history fits the "early career" specification.
- Clearly outline your rationale for wishing to join the Early Career Forum in Manufacturing Research, including evidence that membership will be of benefit to your career in manufacturing.
- Explain how your research is relevant to the scope of the EPSRC Manufacturing the Future theme, including evidence of how your research has had or could have impact in manufacturing.
- How will you use Forum membership to increase the profile of UK manufacturing research excellence?
- Provide evidence of networking, exerting influence and leadership in your career to date.
- Clearly demonstrate your ability to facilitate two-way communication between EPSRC and the early career manufacturing research community.

Each section may contain up to 1500 characters.

Preparing a Statement of Support

All applications **must** be accompanied by a statement of support on headed paper, written, signed and dated by the applicant's head of department (or equivalent). This statement of support must explain clearly how the department will support the applicant's membership of the forum. It should:

- Confirm that the host institution is supportive of the time commitment entered into by the applicant, and will ensure that the applicant is provided with travel and subsistence costs as required for meeting attendance.
- Confirm that the host institution is prepared to support the applicant to host a meeting of the Early Career Forum during the applicant's term of membership.

This letter will not be seen by the panel, nor used as part of the assessment criteria. However, applications received without a statement of support, or where the statement of support does not meet the two criteria above will be rejected.

Assessment

Assessment process

An expert external panel will assess the received applications based on the information provided, addressing how well applicants have articulated their fit to the assessment criteria outlined below. EPSRC will use the shortlist provided from the panel to decide forum membership using additional factors such as organisation and research area. Please be advised the forum has representation from the following universities continuing on the forum:

- University College London
- Brunel University London
- Imperial College London
- University of Nottingham
- University of Cambridge
- Newcastle University
- University of Sheffield
- University of Warwick (two current members)

Therefore applications from non-represented universities are particularly welcome.

There will be no postal peer review of applications for this Forum. EPSRC reserves the right to reject proposals that it deems to be outside the scope of the call or wholly beyond the remit of EPSRC without reference to peer review, as well as those that do not follow the application guidelines above.

Applicants will be informed of the panel's decision shortly after the panel meeting. Successful applicants will receive a formal invitation to the Manufacturing the Future Early Career Forum after the conclusion of the panel meeting, with further details as to upcoming activities.

In the event of this call being substantially oversubscribed as to be unmanageable, EPSRC reserve the right to modify the assessment process.

Assessment criteria

Applications will be assessed on providing demonstrable evidence to address the following selection criteria:

- **Fit to the early career specification:** evidence that the applicant's career history fits the "early career" specification.
- **Benefit of membership:** Having a clear rationale for wishing to join the Early Career Forum in Manufacturing Research, including evidence that membership will be of benefit to the applicant's career in manufacturing.
- **Manufacturing research and research vision:** evidence that the applicant's research is relevant to the scope of the EPSRC Manufacturing the Future theme, including evidence of how the applicant's research has had or could have impact in manufacturing.

- **Potential to increase the profile of UK manufacturing:** having clear plans for using membership of the Early Career Forum to increase the profile of UK manufacturing research excellence.
- **Networking, influencing and leadership:** Evidence of networking, exerting influence and leadership in the applicant’s career to date;
- **Two-way communications:** Evidence of ability to facilitate two-way communication between EPSRC and the early career manufacturing research community.

Moving forward

It is expected that successful and unsuccessful applicants will be informed in mid December. Successful applicants will be invited to attend (subject to their availability) the first meeting for new members of the Early Career Forum which will take place in January 2020, date TBD.

Applicants are advised that the Early Career Forum meets three times annually, with each meetings running over 1 – 2 days. Members are expected to aim to attend a majority of meetings.

Due to the high volume of applications expected for this opportunity, it is not expected that any feedback will be available to applicants.

Key dates

Activity	Date*
Closing dates for expression of interest	16:00 on Tuesday 8 October 2019
Shortlisting panel	November 2019
Applicants informed of outcome	Early December 2019
First Early Career Forum with new members	January 2020

*EPSRC aims to adhere to the key dates as published, however there may be exceptions where the sift, prioritisation or interview meeting may have to change due to panel member availability.

Contacts

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Applicants are reminded that their university research office may be a useful resource when preparing an application.

Change log

Name	Date	Version	Change
Stephanie Williams	16/08/2019	1	N/A