



Engineering and Physical Sciences
Research Council

A Centenary Celebration: Women's Engineering Society Membership

Call type: Invitation for applications

Closing date: 30 April 2019, 16:00 Hours

Funding Available: Ten memberships will be awarded.

How to apply: Applicants must complete the online form embedded within the call document (<https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/GOIBF/>).

Selection Process: Completed forms from eligible applicants will undergo a selection process by a panel made up of members who are experienced in Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (ED&I) activities as well as EPSRC staff.

Key Dates:

Activity	Date
Deadline for Applications	30 April 2019
Selection Panel	Mid May 2019
Funding decision	End of May 2019
Membership start date	End of May 2019

Additional information: Applicants must be eligible to apply to the Women's Engineering Society as outlined on their website [<https://www.wes.org.uk/memberships>]

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A Centenary Celebration: Women's Engineering Society Membership

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Related themes: Energy, Engineering, Healthcare technologies, ICT, Manufacturing the future, Mathematical sciences, Physical sciences.

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Summary

Equality, diversity and inclusion (ED&I) is an important part of the EPSRC and the Engineering Theme's future direction. It is widely recognised that females are underrepresented in the engineering community and the Engineering Theme has a role to play in enhancing diversity in the community. In celebration of the centenary of the Women's Engineering Society (WES), EPSRC, as a not-for-profit partner of the WES, will provide ten current Principle Investigators (PI) (both male and female) of EPSRC engineering grants a 12 month membership to the society, to enhance their understanding of equality and diversity in engineering and engage with EPSRC on ED&I issues in Engineering. The Engineering Theme invites applications from men, women and all other protected characteristics to become a member of the WES for the period May 2019 – May 2020. Applicants must be the PI of an active EPSRC engineering grant. Extensive experience in this area is not essential but only those who have demonstrated an interest and appetite in tackling broader ED&I issues, which include but are not necessarily limited to gender, will be considered. Successful applicants are expected to build

on this opportunity to learn and develop their understanding of gender issues in engineering in particular, as well as establish or enhance existing networks, and act as advocates and conduits of information for both the EPSRC and the WES.

Background

ED&I activities are a key part of our organisational strategy and we aim to collaborate with partners across the landscape in areas of mutual interest. This year, 2019, is the Women's Engineering Society's centenary year and in celebration of this occasion, EPSRC as a not-for-profit partner of the WES, will provide ten of our current male and female PI grant holders with a free full membership of the WES, for the coming 2019/20 financial year.

The WES provide their members with a number of benefits including mentorship opportunities, access to a network of female engineers, opportunities to apply for bursaries and awards, as well as becoming able to serve on the WES council, to name a few.

This opportunity will provide the applicant with all of the benefits of a WES membership, as well as closer engagement with EPSRC on ED&I and in particular, gender issues in engineering. EPSRC will hold a cohort meeting which will enable the successful applicants to share their experiences, knowledge, and best practice. This information may also be used to inform future activities in this space within the Engineering Theme.

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

For more information on WES membership and benefits, see the WES website: <https://www.wes.org.uk/memberships>

Funding available

Up to ten memberships of the WES will be awarded.

Equipment

Funding for equipment is not available through this call.

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Policies

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 UK Research and Innovation Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Action Plan. <https://www.ukri.org/files/legacy/skills/action-plan-edi-2016/>

In line with the UK Research and Innovation 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 welcome 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 <https://epsrc.ukri.org/funding/equalitydiversity/> for further information.

Eligibility

Applicants must be the PI of an active engineering EPSRC grant and be able to demonstrate an interest or experience in ED&I.

Both male and female applicants are welcome.

A list of eligible organisations to apply to EPSRC is provided at: <https://www.ukri.org/funding/how-to-apply/eligibility/>

How to apply

Applicants must complete the online form embedded within the call document (<https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/GOIBF/>).

Submitting an application

Please complete an application form in the online form embedded within the call document (<https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/GOIBF/>).

Guidance on writing an application

Please complete all sections of the application form and give examples to support your application.

Additional documentation is not required.

User Engagement Strategy

Successful applicants will be expected to advocate creatively for both EPSRC and the WES. They will also have an opportunity to attend a cohort meeting arranged by EPSRC in order to feed information and informal advice to EPSRC which may inform the Engineering Theme's future direction in this area. EPSRC will also expect that successful applicants will report back on their experience, whether this be *via* a written statement, blog, video or other means.

Selection

Selection process

The recipients of this membership will be selected through an open competition. The applicants must complete the application form embedded within the call document. Completed forms from eligible applicants will then undergo a

selection process by a panel made up of members who are experienced in ED&I activities as well as EPSRC staff.

Selection will be based on alignment to the selection criteria. However, EPSRC will also seek to achieve an appropriate distribution across career stages, levels of experience in this space and institutions across the individuals selected.

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

Key Dates	
1 April 2019	Applications open
30 April 2019	Applications closed
Mid May 2019	Panel
End of May 2019	Successful Applicants informed
End of May 2019	WES memberships begin

Selection criteria

ED&I interest – A strong track record of activity in the ED&I space is not essential. However, the applicant must be able to demonstrate an interest in ED&I for example *via* presence on a committee or group which have a role in tackling ED&I issues, involvement in events focussed on enhancing ED&I in engineering or other. This interest can include broader ED&I issues, and may not be limited to gender issues. A prior interest in ED&I issues other than gender is welcomed but the applicant must also demonstrate a willingness to learn and develop their knowledge of gender issues in Engineering.

Value – The applicant must be able to describe how the benefits of this opportunity will help the applicant to develop their career, networks etc. that would not otherwise be possible without this opportunity. There should be a clear indication of how the membership will be used e.g. events that the applicant will attend or involvement in a mentorship scheme etc.

Advocacy - The applicant should be able to describe how they intend to use the membership opportunity to creatively advocate for EPSRC, WES and more broadly, Engineering as a discipline. They should detail how they plan to use and get the most out of this opportunity over the 12 month period for both themselves and EPSRC. Applicants must demonstrate a willingness to engage in a two-way dialogue between the community and EPSRC on ED&I matters.

Feedback will not be provided to unsuccessful applicants.

Key dates

The call will open for applications on 1 April 2019 and close at 16:00 Hours on April 30 2019. A selection panel will be held in mid May 2019 with decisions to be communicated to applicants at the end of May 2019. For successful applicants, membership of the WES will begin at the end of May 2019.

Activity	Date
Deadline for Applications	30 April 2019
Selection Panel	Mid May 2019
Funding decision	End of May 2019
Membership start date	End of May 2019

*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.

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Change log

Name	Date	Version	Change
Laura Finney	18.03.19	1	N/A