



Engineering and
Physical Sciences
Research Council

Quick Reference

EPSRC are looking for new members for our Engineering Early Career Forum

Call type: Expression of interest

Closing date: 19 October 2020, 16:00 Hours

How to apply: This is a single stage process, based around an Expression of Interest. Applicants must complete the online Smart Survey form embedded within the [call document](#)

Assessment Process: Expressions of interest will be assessed against the specification criteria by an EPSRC panel.

Key Dates:

Activity	Date
Deadline for Application	19 October 2020
Shortlisting	December 2020
Inform Applicants of Outcome	January 2021
Next meeting of Early Career Forum	March 2021

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**Engineering and
Physical Sciences
Research Council**

EPSRC are looking for new members for our Early Career Forum in Engineering

Call type: Expression of interest

Closing date: 19 October 2020, 16:00 Hours

Related themes: Engineering

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Summary

EPSRC is seeking applications from Early Career industrialists, academics and from individuals working in the third sector and government organisations to join our Early Career Forum in the Engineering theme.

We are looking to recruit around 8 new members in this exercise, and we welcome applications from candidates from a diverse range of backgrounds.

Background

The Engineering theme aims to identify and tackle fundamental engineering research challenges with the potential for lasting academic, social, and economic benefit to the UK. These challenges are often inherently interdisciplinary, cutting both across EPSRC's portfolio and across the Research Councils more widely. Engaging with early career stakeholders from academia, industry and policy

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making is a crucial part of achieving these aims, helping to set the direction for engineering research in the near future. The Engineering Early Career Forum is an established long-term informal advisory structure, with an evolving membership that reflects the early career engineering community.

The Engineering theme works across both EPSRC and UKRI and has specific interests in the below areas:

- Biomaterials & tissue engineering
- Built environment
- Coastal and waterway engineering
- Combustion engineering
- Complex fluids and rheology
- Control engineering
- Electrical motors and drives/electromagnetics
- Fluid Dynamics and Aerodynamics
- Ground engineering
- Infrastructure and urban systems
- Materials engineering – ceramics
- Materials engineering – composites
- Materials engineering – metal and alloys
- Microsystems
- Particle technology
- Performance and inspection of mechanical structures and systems (PIMSS)
- Process systems: components and integration
- Robotics
- Sensors and instrumentation
- Structural engineering
- Synthetic biology
- Water engineering

The Engineering 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 engineering community, offering opinion across the breadth of the Theme.

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

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 coastal and waterway engineering, combustion engineering, performance and inspection of mechanical structures and systems (PIMSS), process systems and integration and water engineering.

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

Operation

Appointments will be for two years initially (with effect from February 2021), 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 via email. It is expected that ECF members will need to commit between 3-4 days to the role per year.

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

Funding available

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

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 and funding policy. We are committed to supporting the research community, offering a range of flexible options which allow applicants to design a package that fits their research goals, career and personal circumstances. 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 need 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.

Responsible Innovation

EPSRC is fully committed to develop and promote responsible innovation. Research has the ability to not only produce understanding, knowledge and value, but also unintended consequences, questions, ethical dilemmas and, at times, unexpected social transformations. We recognise that we have a duty of care to promote approaches to responsible innovation that will initiate ongoing reflection about the potential ethical and societal implications of the research that we sponsor and to encourage our research community to do likewise.

Responsible innovation creates spaces and processes to explore innovation and its consequences in an open, inclusive and timely way, going beyond consideration of ethics, public engagement, risk and regulation. Innovation is a collective responsibility, where funders, researchers, interested and affected parties, including the public, all have an important role to play. Applicants are expected to work within the EPSRC Framework for Responsible Innovation given on the EPSRC website (<https://epsrc.ukri.org/research/framework/>).

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

Members are drawn from the breadth of EPSRC's Engineering theme stakeholder group. They are expected to bring a broad strategic view and to act as 'generous generalists'. Members are **not** required to 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 engineering, there is no specific definition of “early career”; however, applicants should demonstrate why they consider it appropriate to describe themselves as such.

This opportunity is open to full-time and part-time academic staff and Fellowship holders, according to the normal eligibility rules for EPSRC funding. For information on the eligibility of individuals to receive EPSRC funding, see the EPSRC Funding Guide:

<https://epsrc.ukri.org/funding/applicationprocess/fundingguide/>. In addition this call is open to industrialists and from individuals working in the third sector and government organisations.

How to apply

This is a single stage process, based around an Expression of Interest. Applicants must complete the [online form](#) including uploading a statement of support from your host organisation’s Head of Department or Equivalent. Applicants should apply electronically by 16:00 on Monday 19 October 2020 using the Expression of Interest form

Submissions to this call will not count towards the Repeatedly Unsuccessful Applicants Policy.

Guidance on writing an application

Preparing an Expression of Interest (EoI)

Applicants must provide responses under all of the following headings on the EoI, 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 work and impact in engineering
<https://epsrc.ukri.org/research/ourportfolio/themes/engineering/>
- Demonstrating involvement in the academic/industry/user 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 engineering community
- Rationale for joining the Early Career Forum, including how you envisage using membership to increase the profile of UK engineering ‘research excellence’ and your capacity to devote the required time to the Forum.

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 host organisation 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

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 criteria above will be rejected.

Assessment

Assessment process

Expressions of interest will be assessed against the specification criteria by an EPSRC panel based on the information provided, addressing how well applicants have articulated their fit to the assessment criteria outlined below. A decision will be made using 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:

- Cardiff University
- Heriott Watt University
- Lancaster University
- Manchester Metropolitan University
- University of Birmingham (two members)
- University of Edinburgh
- University of Glasgow
- University of Leeds
- University of Manchester
- University of Sheffield
- University of York

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.

The outcomes of the selection process will be announced in January 2021, with successful applicants invited to the next Forum meeting in March 2021. **Please note that due to the potential interest in this opportunity, EPSRC will not be providing feedback to unsuccessful applicants.**

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

Assessment criteria

Applicants should complete all sections of the Expression of Interest form. The requirements sought are:

Essential

- Being early career and **either** holding a PhD and a permanent academic position or fellowship (full-time or part-time), based at a UK Higher Education Institution, **or** in a research-intensive commercial/industrial/third sector/public sector environment, with an understanding of the processes and pressures of delivering world class research activities in engineering, and/or the commercialisation of such research;
- A track record of work and/or research in engineering (within the scope of the EPSRC Engineering team), and of delivering engineering impact;
- Evidence of involvement in the academic/industry/user community, including examples of leadership, exploring research opportunities, or positioning themselves to take up these opportunities;
- Excellent communication skills and a willingness to develop these further by interacting with the EPSRC's Engineering Strategic Advisory Team, an advisory network of academics, industrialists and other research users.

Desirable

- A willingness to help with two-way communication between EPSRC and stakeholder groups, and to act as an advocate for EPSRC and its activities;
- An appreciation of EPSRC processes and operations and an aspiration to develop this further;
- A willingness to devote sufficient time to the role, given appropriate flexibility of arrangements;
- An ability to work flexibly and adapt to different ways of working.

Moving forward

It is expected that successful and unsuccessful applicants will be informed in mid January 2021. 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 March 2021, 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

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Contacts

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Change log

Name	Date	Version	Change
Georgina Freeman	27/8/2020	1	Published