



Engineering and
Physical Sciences
Research Council

Quick Reference

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

Healthcare Impact Partnerships 2020/2021

Call type: Invitation for proposals

Closing date: 16:00, 22 October 2020

Funding available: Around £6 million is available from EPSRC and we expect to fund 6-8 projects.

How to apply: Expression of Interest followed by full proposal.

Assessment process: Full proposals will undergo postal peer review, followed by assessment at a prioritisation panel resulting in a rank ordered list.

Key Dates:

Activity	Date
Expression of Interest Deadline	10 September 2020, 16:00
Call open in Je-S	23 July 2020
Deadline for Full Proposals	22 October 2020, 16:00
Postal Peer Review	October 2020 - January 2021
Funding decision	March 2021
Grant start date	From April 2021

Additional information: Proposals must involve both clinical and business partners. Institutional letters of support are not required, however it is asked that institutions only submit the most promising applications.

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Physical Sciences
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Healthcare Impact Partnerships 2020/2021

Call type: Invitation for proposals

Expression of Interest required by: 16:00, 10 September 2020

Closing date: 16:00, 22 October 2020

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

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Summary

EPSRC invites proposals for Healthcare Impact Partnerships. This call is intended to support novel Mathematical, Engineering, ICT and Physical Sciences research that is aligned to the Healthcare Technologies theme strategy and contributes to at least one of the Healthcare Technologies Grand Challenges.

(<https://epsrc.ukri.org/research/ourportfolio/themes/healthcaretechnologies/strategy/grandchallenges/>). A budget of at least £6 million is available to support projects that progress previous EPSRC funded research towards generating impact in healthcare.

Healthcare Impact Partnerships is open to UK based academics that have held an EPSRC grant, and would like to build on the research outputs of the grant(s) to promote impact in human health and wellbeing within the EPSRC remit. Some EPSRC grants are not eligible as qualifying grants for this call - please see the "Eligibility" section for more details.

Applicants are required to partner with **both** clinicians and business, bringing together a range of expertise to provide the support and guidance required to promote impact in the healthcare sector. All partners will be expected to play an active role in the design and delivery of the project, as well as demonstrating significant direct or in kind contributions towards the project. Projects should involve clear demonstration of clinical engagement throughout the proposal in order to ensure the research will address an unmet clinical need and/or offer significant added value over current or alternative healthcare solutions. Please note that this call will only support preclinical and precompetitive research projects, and results will be placed in the public domain.

Proposals will be assessed on the quality of the research as well as the outputs and impact generated from the previously funded EPSRC funded grant(s). The suitability of the proposed research team and the strength of the business and clinical partnerships to demonstrate the potential impact of the proposed research (including resources and management requested to support this) will also be taken into account, as well as the extent to which further support will progress the previously funded research towards impact in healthcare.

Anyone intending to submit a proposal to this call must register their Expression of Interest by 16:00, 10 September 2020 (see "How To Apply" section for detail). Applicants that do not register their Expression of Interest before the deadline will be ineligible for the call.

Background

This call is supported by EPSRC's Healthcare Technologies theme. The call aims to accelerate EPSRC funded research towards products and practices by working in partnership with key stakeholders across the healthcare sector. Directly building on our previous investments, this call will give applicants the opportunity to harness productive collaborations with both business and clinical partners to help deliver impact in healthcare.

Applicants are expected to propose a research project that progresses outputs from previously supported EPSRC research towards application in the areas covered by the Healthcare Technologies Grand Challenges (<https://epsrc.ukri.org/research/ourportfolio/themes/healthcaretechnologies/strategy/grandchallenges/>)

[tegy/grandchallenges/](https://epsrc.ukri.org/research/ourportfolio/themes/healthcaretechnologies/strategy/grandchallenges/)). Projects can address fundamental or applied research in Engineering, Mathematics, ICT and Physical Sciences through to early proof of concept. Research must be the primary focus of these projects, although secondments, project-specific marketing assessments and early stage commercial exploration may also be included, as this is recognised as ensuring the future impact of research outcomes. We encourage applicants to use the Impact and Translation Toolkit when writing their proposal (<https://epsrc.ukri.org/research/ourportfolio/themes/healthcaretechnologies/strategy/toolkit/home/>).

This call will **only** support preclinical and precompetitive research projects, and results will be placed in the public domain. Projects aimed at product development and clinical trials are **excluded**. The applicant team must clearly demonstrate the appropriate multidisciplinary skills and expertise, including involvement of potential end users and clinical expertise, and demonstrate how all partners involved will enhance the project. EPSRC reserves the right to reject proposals outside the remit and ethos of this call without reference to peer review.

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

Funding available

At least £6 million is available from EPSRC for this call, and we expect to fund six-to-eight projects that progress outputs from previously supported EPSRC research towards application in one of the Healthy Nation Outcomes. <https://epsrc.ukri.org/about/plans/deliveryplan/prosperityoutcomes/health/>

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

In line with the UKRI 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.

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.

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.

Equipment

Where possible, researchers are asked to make use of existing facilities and equipment, including those hosted at other universities. If equipment is needed as part of the research proposal, applicants must follow EPSRC's rules for requesting equipment over £10,000 in value. Individual items of equipment between £10,000 and £400,000 can be included on the proposal for this call if the equipment is essential to the proposed research and if no appropriate alternative provision can be accessed but research organisations will be expected to make a contribution to the cost. Given that capital provision has been reduced by about 50%, contributions of the order of 50% of the full cost of the equipment will be expected.

Additional justification of the requirement for individual items of equipment between £10,000 and £400,000, and details of the proposed contribution to the cost of the equipment, must be provided in the justification of resources. For items of equipment between £25,000 and £138,000 three verbally obtained
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quotes should be detailed in the justification of resources. For items over £138,000 three written quotes must accompany the proposal.

If there is a sole supplier of the equipment or fewer than three quotes this must be detailed in the justification of resources. For any items or combined assets with a value above £138,000 (including VAT) a two-page Equipment Business Case must also be included in the proposal documentation.

For more information on equipment funding, please see:

<https://epsrc.ukri.org/research/facilities/equipment/>

Eligibility

This call is open to principal investigators from eligible UK research organisations that have previously led, or have been named as a co-investigator on qualifying EPSRC research grants between 01 April 2013 (inclusive) and 01 April 2021. The proposed partnership with clinicians and industry must build on the outcomes of any qualifying grant to generate novel research outcomes within EPSRCs remit. The application must align to one or more of the following Healthcare Technologies Grand challenges:

- Developing Future Therapies
- Frontiers of Physical Intervention
- Optimising Treatment
- Transforming Community Health and Care

Collaboration with at least one business partner and at least one clinical partner is mandatory. Collaboration with other user organisations (charities, not for profit etc.) is also strongly encouraged. The application must clearly state the unmet clinical need and the benefits that this research will provide to the healthcare sector.

A qualifying grant will typically have an EPSRC grant reference beginning with 'EP/'. The call is aimed at previous EPSRC investigators who have held research grants funded through standard mode schemes, fellowships and calls for proposals in areas outside of Healthcare Technologies. Applicants **may not** apply with training grants (including Centres for Doctoral Training), network grants (including Bridging the Gaps awards), platform grants, existing Healthcare Impact Partnerships or any other EPSRC award which was not primarily aimed at conducting research. Applicants who have received funds through institutional awards such as the Impact Acceleration Accounts **may not** use these as qualifying grants. Applicants who wish to apply with an EPSRC grant awarded through a partnership with an external organisation should contact EPSRC to discuss their eligibility prior to application.

If you plan to build upon a portfolio of EPSRC grants, please state the most relevant grant to this proposal.

If you were originally a co-investigator you must seek the permission of the original principal investigator to use the grant to qualify for a Healthcare Impact

Partnership and demonstrate this through a letter of support from the original grant holder.

If you are still unsure please contact EPSRC directly before applying.

Co-investigators on this proposal are not required to have held a qualifying EPSRC grant, but must still meet standard EPSRC eligibility criteria.

Please ensure sufficient time to create Je-S accounts for Investigators who do not currently have one.

This is a targeted funding opportunity provided by EPSRC. Therefore Higher education institutions, and some research council institutes and independent research organisations are eligible to apply. A list of eligible organisations to apply to EPSRC is provided at: <https://www.ukri.org/funding/how-to-apply/eligibility/>.

How to apply

Stage 1: Expression of Interest

Applicants must complete an Expression of Interest form by 16:00, 10 September 2020. Applicants that have not submitted an Expression of Interest prior to this date will be ineligible to submit a full proposal.

To complete the Expression of Interest form please visit the call page at <https://epsrc.ukri.org/funding/calls/pre-announcement-healthcare-impact-partnerships-2020> and complete the short web form. EPSRC will acknowledge receipt of the Expression of Interest. A full list of the questions asked during the Expression of Interest process is included at [Appendix B](#).

The information provided through the Expression of Interest process is not intended to unduly constrain the content of the full proposal. Survey responses will be used to provide an indication of the level of interest and enable EPSRC to identify peer reviewers and panel members earlier in the process. **Applicants that do not register their Expression of Interest will have their applications rejected.**

There are no constraints on the number of applications submitted from a single institution through this call. However, EPSRC expects that universities will only put forward the most promising projects. Applicants must ensure that they have the support of their university before preparing an Expression of Interest.

EPSRC will reject applications that are not eligible at the Expression of Interest stage. Please see the eligibility section for details on the eligibility criteria.

Feedback is not provided at the Expression of Interest stage.

Stage 2: Full Proposal

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:

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- Council 'EPSRC'
- Create New Document
- Document type 'Standard Proposal'
- Scheme 'Standard'
- On the Project Details page you should select the 'Healthcare Impact Partnerships 2020/2021 call'

Note that clicking 'submit document' on your proposal form in Je-S initially submits the proposal to your host organisation's administration, not to EPSRC. Please allow sufficient time for your organisation's submission process between submitting your proposal to them and the call closing date. EPSRC must receive your application by 16:00 on 22 October 2020.

Proposals **must** be submitted on one single Je-S form with a single lead university even where they are multi-institutional bids.

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

Guidance on writing an application

Full proposal

Your submission should include the following documentation:

- 1. A Standard Je-S form**
- 2. Case for Support (nine pages)**

The nine page Case for Support should include the following information using the headings below:

- **Track record of the research team (up to two pages)**
- **Review of previous grant and forward vision (up to five pages)**
 - Provide the previous grant(s) title and reference number(s) which form the basis of this proposal. One research grant must be the qualifying grant used to apply to this award (see 'Eligibility'). Demonstrate the alignment of the project to the Healthcare Technologies Grand Challenges.
 - Identify the key scientific findings from the previous grant(s) that will be developed further in this proposal.
 - Describe clearly the objectives for this programme of work and the research methodology.
 - Identify and described how the proposed programme of activities will work towards addressing an unmet clinical need and/or offer

significant added value over the current or alternative healthcare solutions. Detail how clinical advice will influence the research programme throughout, and how and when this advice will be obtained.

- A separate Pathways to Impact statement is no longer required. Applicants should consider including appropriate approaches to achieving impact throughout their project and include this as part of their Case for Support. Activities to realize impact do not have to be costincurring, but relevant costs can be included and should be fully justified within the Justification of Resources statement.
- **Engagement plan for project and clinical partner(s) involvement (up to two pages)**
 - Identify the partner(s) involved in the proposal. Outline their involvement in the project. Describe how you will work collaboratively to deliver the research vision and how the programme of activities will accelerate the research towards impact within healthcare.
 - Describe the contributions the partner(s) will make to the research programme, direct or indirect and how these contributions will add value to the resource requested from EPSRC.
 - Applicants should demonstrate their knowledge of the relevant regulatory pathway and the steps that should be taken during the project to ensure that the research outputs are well placed to progress along that pathway once the grant has finished.
 - Describe the current best practice employed in tackling the clinical need and how this solution could address unmet aspects of that clinical need and/or offer significant added value over current or alternative healthcare solutions.
 - Applicants should also describe the success metrics from the perspective of the collaborating business partner. Describe how the business partner will progress the research in terms of impact in healthcare if the research is successful. If possible, provide some context for the interest of the business partner by indicating the scale of the potential market opportunity.

3. Project Partner Letter of Support

Statements of Support should be supplied for all project partners and include the following:

- Why they see value in partnering on this project.
- What their involvement will be during the Healthcare Impact Partnership and indicate their role in the preparation of the research proposal.
- Confirmation of any direct or in kind support they are contributing.
- What steps they will take to progress the research outputs of this programme towards impact in healthcare, if it is successful.

4. A diagrammatic Work plan/Timeline (one page)

This should show a timetable of planned activities associated with the Partnership.

5. A Justification of Resources (two pages)

This should provide a full justification for all the resources you have requested.

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 at <https://je-s.rcuk.ac.uk/Handbook/pages/GuidanceonCompletingaStandardG/EthicalInformation.htm>. Other relevant guidance includes: EPSRC's policy on animal use in research (<https://www.epsrc.ukri.org/about/standards/animalresearchpolicy>) and the Responsible Innovation Framework (<https://epsrc.ukri.org/research/framework/>).

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.

For advice on writing proposals see:

<https://epsrc.ukri.org/funding/howtoapply/preparing/>

Assessment

Assessment process

Proposals will be considered by the standard process as outlined on the EPSRC website (see <https://epsrc.ukri.org/funding/assessmentprocess/overview/> for more details)

Full proposals will be sent to independent peer reviewers, at least one reviewer nominated by the applicant will be approached. The reviewers' role will be to comment on how well the proposal meets both EPSRC's standard and call specific assessment criteria. If sufficiently positive comments are received, applicants will be invited to respond to these comments. Proposals will be ranked by a prioritisation panel using the reviewers' comments and the PI response.

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

Assessment criteria

Standard Criteria

Full proposals will be assessed on the following standard EPSRC criteria:

- Research Quality
 - Research vision, ambition, impact and transformative aspects or potential outcomes.
 - Distinctiveness from other projects funded in the existing Healthcare Technologies portfolio.
 - The suitability of the proposed methodology and the appropriateness of the approach to achieving impact.
- National Importance
 - Contributes to, or helps maintain the health of other disciplines contributes to addressing key UK societal challenges and/or contributes to future UK economic success and development of emerging industry(s); Meets national needs by establishing/maintaining a unique world leading activity; Complements other UK research funded in the area, including any relationship to the EPSRC portfolio.
 - Project's alignment to the EPSRC Healthy Nation Outcomes and an assessment to the extent a clinical need has been understood by the team and their plan to address it.
- Ability of the applicant team to deliver the research
 - The leadership quality and experience of the PI.
 - The track record of the team.
 - The balance of skills of the project team, including the balance of expertise and their ability to deliver the proposed project.
- Resources and management
 - The effectiveness of the proposed planning and management and whether the requested resources are appropriate and have been fully justified, making reference to:
 - Any equipment requested, or the viability of the arrangements described to access equipment needed for this project, and particularly on any university or third-party contribution;
 - Any resources requested for activities to either increase impact, for public engagement or to support responsible innovation.

Call Specific Criteria

- Partnership Strength and Impacts in Healthcare

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- Demonstrates engagement and collaboration with business and clinical partners/collaborators throughout the duration of the research.
- The extent of plans for ensuring the partnership has an impact both in the proposed research and user communities, including pre-clinical settings.
- The extent to which the clinical and business partners will add value to EPSRC's investment.
- The extent beyond the duration of the project to maximise the impact of the research
(<https://epsrc.ukri.org/research/ourportfolio/themes/healthcaretechnologies/strategy/toolkit/home/>).

Feedback

The postal peer review commentary will comprise the feedback to the applicants. No feedback will be provided from the prioritisation panel process unless this is specifically requested by the panel. The final rank ordered list will be available on EPSRC Grants on the Web system once applicants have been informed:
<https://gow.epsrc.ukri.org>.

Guidance for reviewers

Reviewers will be directed to this call for proposals when contacted to review the proposal.

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

Guidance for reviewing standard grants can be found here:

<https://epsrc.ukri.org/funding/assessmentprocess/review/formsandguidancenotes/standardgrants/>

Moving forward

Submissions to this call will count towards the Repeatedly Unsuccessful Applicants Policy. Further information about the policy can be found at:
<https://epsrc.ukri.org/funding/howtoapply/basics/resubpol/rua/>

Key dates

Activity	Date*
EOI Open	3 July 2020
Call open in Je-S	24 July 2020
Expression of Interest deadline	10 September 2020
Closing date for full proposals	22 October 2020
Expert postal peer review	October 2020 – January 2021
Prioritisation panel	March 2021
Funding decisions announced	Q1 2021

*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

For further information relating to this call please contact:

Mr Matthew Weaver, Senior Portfolio Manager – Healthcare Technologies
(email: Matthew.Weaver@epsrc.ukri.org, tel: 01793 444052)

Dr Clara Morri, Portfolio Manager – Healthcare Technologies
(email: Clara.Morri@epsrc.ukri.org, tel: 07849 300165)

EPSRC Healthcare Inbox (email: Healthcare@epsrc.ukri.org)

Please refer to the Je-S homepage (<https://je-s.rcuk.ac.uk/JeS2WebLoginSite/Login.aspx>) for Call Opening Times. If you experience difficulties using Je-S or have any questions regarding its use please contact the Je-S Helpdesk: JesHelp@rcuk.ac.uk, tel: 01793 444164

We would also like to remind applicants to contact their university research office for help and advice on writing their proposal and allow enough time before the closing date for their organisation's submission process.

Change log

Name	Date	Version	Change
Clara Morri	July 2020	1	N/A

Appendices (includes Attachment Checklist and Fund Headings)

Appendix A: Je-S attachments Check List

Standard:

Attachment Type	Maximum Page length	Mandatory/Optional	Extra Guidance
Case for Support	Nine pages	Mandatory	Comprising up to two A4 sides for a track record, up to five pages for a review of previous grant and forward vision, and up to two pages for an engagement plan for business and clinical partner(s) involvement.
Workplan	One page	Mandatory	
Justification for Resources	Two pages	Mandatory	
CVs	Two pages each	As Required by EPSRC	For named and visiting researchers, and researcher co-investigators only.
Project Partner Letters of Support	No page limits	Mandatory	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.
Letters of Support	No page limits	As Required by EPSRC	In exceptional circumstances a maximum of three letters can be submitted.
Equipment Quotes	No page limits	As required by EPSRC	
Equipment Business Case	Two pages each	As required by EPSRC	Required for any items or combined assets with a value

			above the OJEU limit.
Technical assessment	No page limit	As required by EPSRC	
Proposal Cover Letter	No page limit	Optional	The cover letter can be used to highlight any important information to EPSRC. This attachment type is not seen by reviewers or panel members.

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.

Appendix B: Expression of Interest Questions

Section 1: Data Protection statement.

Question 2: Applicant details.

Question 3: Co-investigator details.

Question 4. Please can you confirm that your Research Office is aware of your intent to submit a proposal to this call?

Question 5: Please include the name of Research Office contact who has been informed.

Question 6: What is the title (tentative) of the proposed partnership?

Question 7: Please name all clinical/ business partners involved with this proposal.

Question 8: Please name all project partners that are involved with this proposal.

Question 9: To which of the Healthcare Technologies Grand Challenges does this proposal most closely align?

Question 10: Does your research proposal align to the EPSRC Healthy Nation outcome?

Question 11: Please list five keywords relating to the research in the proposal.

Question 12: Approximate value of the funds (£'s) to be requested from EPSRC (at 80% fEC).

Question 13: Please provide the grant reference number of the EPSRC research grant upon which this proposal builds.

Question 14: Please briefly describe the clinical need that the proposal is addressing.

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Question 15: Please briefly describe the research focus of the proposal and how the clinical & industrial partners will facilitate the impact of the research within health .