EPSRC Fellowships Framework

Frequently Asked Questions

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EPSRC Fellowships Framework FAQs
Please note that this document covers questions that are commonly asked by applicants whilst they are preparing their fellowship applications. Questions from current fellows about managing their fellowships, can be found on the managing your fellowship section of our webpages.

Eligibility
Can I apply for a fellowship even though I am not a UK National citizen?
There are no nationality restrictions imposed by EPSRC on who can apply for a fellowship. You will require the support of a UK University and must be resident in the UK.

I have been working in industry since obtaining my PhD; can I still apply for a fellowship?
Applications are welcomed from candidates who wish to re-establish themselves in academia after a career break or other period of absence from active research.
Please see our application guidance.

Remit
My research is at the interface between Research Councils, how do I decide if I should submit to EPSRC?
For interdisciplinary research at the interface between Research Councils, it is often difficult to know which Council a proposal should be submitted to. Before you commit yourself to producing a full proposal that may cross Research Council remits, we encourage you to contact us to discuss which Council is most appropriate, please see the Remit Queries page for guidance.

What if my fellowship sits across several EPSRC Fellowship priority areas?
You should indicate all priority areas that you think are relevant to the proposed research in the cover letter, and highlight the one area that you think is the most relevant. If in doubt, please speak to the EPSRC theme contact prior to submitting your application. Our currently open priority areas are listed on our website. Any removal of priority areas will be given a 6 months advanced notice on our website.

Which Career stage should I apply for?
You should read the aims and outcomes for the Postdoctoral, Early career and Established Fellowships and assessment criteria to help you make a decision and seek advice from your University’s Research Office.

As a guide:

- If you have recently completed your PhD we would suggest you apply for a Postdoctoral fellowship
- If you are new lecturer you could still apply for Postdoctoral fellowship
- If you hold a New Investigator Award (NIA) we would suggest applying for an Early career fellowship
- If you recently received a senior lectureship you would be on the boundaries of Early and Established fellowship
- If you have a Chair, then we would suggest you have the experience to apply for an Established career fellowship.
Application Deadlines
In general there are no deadlines for a fellowship submission. Applications can be submitted at any time and will be processed on a rolling basis at a prioritisation panel after postal peer review (this can take a minimum of 4 months). However, there are some exceptions; a specific call can have a set closing date, please see our calls page. Most themes have only two prioritisation panels per year. For guidance on when to submit to have the best chance of the proposal being assessed at a forthcoming prioritisation panel, please see our fellowships application guide.

Host Organisation
Can fellowships be held at Research Council Institutes? Yes. An EPSRC fellowship can be hosted by any organisation eligible for EPSRC funding. To check your eligibility for the Research Institutes and other Independent Research Organisations (IROs), visit the UK Research and Innovation website.

Can a fellowship have more than one host organisation? Fellowships must have one lead host organisation who is their employer. You may work closely with other organisations.

Time Commitments
Can I apply for a part time fellowship? Yes – EPSRC fellowships may be held part-time at a minimum level of 50%.

Where you work part time the length of your fellowship can also be extended accordingly (pro-rata), for example a 60 months fellowship at 100%FTE could become a 120 month fellowship at 50% FTE.

Where you work full time, but only wish to spend part of your time on your fellowship, the length of fellowship can not be extended pro-rata. Please note that applicants should not have time commitments that total to more than 100% FTE and therefore if you have other significant commitments (over and above an average of 6 hours per week) you do not wish to relinquish whilst undertaking your fellowship, you should not apply for a full time fellowships.

Requests to hold a fellowship below the minimum level of 50% will be considered on a case by case basis.

Can I carry on teaching if I am a 100% FTE fellow? Provided the teaching is related to the research project on which you are currently working, you may, during normal working hours, undertake teaching and demonstrating work, including associated training, preparatory, marking and examination duties, for up to an average of 6 hours a week (pro rata for part-time staff) calculated over the period that you are supported on the grant.

Applying for other funding
Can I submit a fellowship application to different funders at the same time? Applicants may only have one fellowship application under consideration by UKRI (which encompasses schemes led by any of the Research Councils and/or Innovate UK) at any point, unless expressly permitted in the Research Council/Innovate UK scheme’s call documentation.
If you are submitting fellowship applications to other non UKRI funding bodies in parallel to your EPSRC fellowship application, you should be aware that if you accept an EPSRC Fellowship, where 100% of your time is supported, you will be expected to turn down offers of other similar awards.

**Can I apply for other EPSRC/UKRI funding whilst my fellowship is under consideration?**
You may apply for other EPSRC/UKRI funding whilst your fellowship application is under consideration but please note any other grant applications should not contain any substantial parts of your fellowship project.

**Resubmissions**

**My fellowship was rejected, when can I reapply?**
You may only apply for one EPSRC fellowship in any 12-month period, the date being taken from the date the original proposal was submitted to EPSRC. EPSRC doesn't accept uninvited resubmissions so you would need to make sure your new proposal is substantially different from the original proposal. Please see our page on resubmissions.

**I applied for an UKRI Future Leaders Fellowship and unsuccessful, can I resubmit to the EPSRC Fellowship scheme?**
No, if you apply to the UKRI FLF scheme and you are unsuccessful this would be classed as a first submission under the EPSRC resubmissions policy and therefore you would not be able to subsequently submit that same fellowship proposal to the EPSRC Fellowship scheme.

**Principal Investigators (PIs) and Co-Investigators (Co-Is)**

**Am I allowed a Co-I on my fellowship?**
Co-I’s are not permitted on Post-Doctoral fellowships as you are expected to demonstrate independence, but collaborators are permitted.

Early and Established career fellowships can include a Co-I if justified. A Co-I is expected to bring complementary and different skills.

**As a fellow can I be a PI or Co-I on another grant?**
Fellows at the Early and Established Career stage at 100% FTE are eligible to be a PI/Co-I on a research grant, assuming you meet all of the other requirements. However the required resource cannot be duplicated — salary should not be costed to the new proposal for any overlapping period of time, with the fellowship, estates and indirect costs would need to be reduced accordingly.

However, you would need to be able to convince peer review that this would not adversely impact the delivery of your fellowship and the research grant project is feasible whilst having a 0% time commitment. This is usually the case where the research grant project is heavily related to the fellowship, so the administrative time needed on the grant is able to be covered by the time on the fellowship.

**Project Partners and Letter of Support**

**Can resources be requested for project partners, such as cost to cover travel?**
Applicants cannot request any resources for project partners as they are supposed to be formally contributing to the project either in cash or in kind.
Project partners who are not contributing to the fellowship, either in kind or cash, should be included and costed in as a sub-contractor / consultant and so on, on the proposal.

**Can a project partner be from the same Research Organisation as an applicant?**
Project partners cannot be from the same Research Organisation. If you want to reference collaborators from the host organisation, then please refer to them in Host Organisation Statement.

**Can non-project partners’ letter of support be included in the application?**
Letters of support should only come from named project partners. If you would like to make reference to third parties in your proposal without adding them as project partners, you can refer to them in the Host Organisation Statement. In this case, they are not project partners and hence their letters of support cannot be included.

In exceptional circumstances, EPSRC accepts Letters of Support that do not meet the requirements for Project Partner Letters of Support. This occurs when an organisation cannot be listed as a project partner, for example when the host institution wants to detail a proposed contribution to the cost of the equipment. However, unless there are exceptional reasons why an organisation cannot meet the requirements to be a project partner, EPSRC will not accept Letters of Support. This is on a case-by-case consideration and only if you have contacted the portfolio manager for the priority area you are applying to in advance will you be allowed to do so.

**Visits and Visitors**

**Can I go on long visits?**
You can spend up to 12 months of the fellowship elsewhere. Although caution would need to be taken with costing (in other words, no estates costs for the period of absence).

A visit longer than 12 months plus additional conferences would be considered but could raise questions at Peer review for example, regarding supervision of the staff on the fellowship.

For rules on periods of abeyance (in other words, interrupting your fellowship) please see [Managing your fellowship](#).

**Can named visiting researchers on a fellowship apply for their own EPSRC Fellowship?**
Yes. Although they need to make sure there is no salary duplication if there is an overlap of time spent on different projects.

**Resources**

**Would EPSRC pay for staff acting as a supervisor or mentor?**
No, we would not pay for staff resource acting in a supervisory or mentoring role.

**Should inflation be included in the costs?**
Inflation should not be included in fellowship costing, as EPSRC applies indexation at the time of grant announcement. The relevant excerpt from the funding guide states: “Proposals should be made at current (year 1) prices, inclusive of VAT and other taxes, where applicable, with no allowance for inflation.”

Please see the [Funding guide](#).
Can Relocation costs be included?
Relocation costs (under Travel & Subsistence) are allowable for fellows (and other named staff on grants) as the Funding Guide states:
“Relocation costs may be included for staff who are named in the proposal form. Relocation costs for un-named staff should be found from the Indirect Cost element of the grant.”

It would be up to the applicant / host organisation to determine what reasonable cost is in this regard and justify accordingly.

Is there a maximum number of postdocs / technicians I can request when applying for a fellowship?
There is no maximum number of postdocs you have can have on your proposal but they must all be fully justified in terms of the science and resource you are requesting.

Is there a maximum amount I can apply for?
There is no upper limit to the amount you can apply for on a Fellowship but it must be fully justified in the Justification of Resources.

Are publication costs an eligible cost on a Fellowship grant?
General publication costs are not allowed, these are to be paid by the university. Universities receive funding from EPSRC to cover researcher’s publication costs via a block grant, hence these are not allowable costs on individual grants.

Version Log

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