BEAMS School Funding Opportunities¹
Faculties of Built Environment (Bartlett), Engineering Sciences and Mathematical and Physical Sciences (MAPS)

April 2018

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UPCOMING CALLS

NERC Pre-announcement: NERC UK Geoenergy Observatories project - Community event
NERC is investing £31 million in a project to establish two centres for research into the subsurface environment, and is organising an open meeting at the Royal Society in London on **Tuesday 26 June 2018** to update the research community on progress with the project.
This is an open meeting for anyone in the research community with an interest in using the facilities in future. Information on design of the facilities and installed instrumentation, and the anticipated timetable for their construction and subsequent availability for research, will be provided.
Those who might normally approach any of the research councils for funding are welcome to attend. There will also be time for networking and discussion of potential collaborations or partnerships.
Further details, including how to register for the event, will be announced shortly.
https://nerc.ukri.org/funding/available/capital/ukgeos/community-event/

ESRC - Open Large Grants Competition
ESRC will be inviting applications of between £1 million and £2.5 million (at 100% fEC) for an open Large Grants Competition. ESRC expect to fund up to four new large grants under this competition.
The call will have an outline stage which will open in early April. The closing date for applications will be in June 2018 and grants will start from 1 October 2019. This call will be a quota-based competition, with the same allocations for proposals as the current ESRC Centres Competition.
https://esrc.ukri.org/funding/funding-opportunities/open-large-grants-competition/

UKRI- Smart Energy Systems of the Future
UK Research and Innovation through Innovate UK and the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC), today launched a fund to develop and prove smart energy systems of the future at scale. The Energy Revolution Fund is part of the Industrial Strategy Challenge Fund, and will catalyse and demonstrate new approaches that deliver cleaner, cheaper energy. It will bring together the latest low carbon power, heating and transport systems, energy storage and smart systems using advanced IT to create intelligent local energy systems and services. The programme will launch with two initial competitions for funding totalling £41.5 million. Details of further activity will be announced shortly. Programme events will take place across the UK in April and May. Competition briefing events will be held on 9 May in Leeds and 15 May in London.
The other programme events are:
- Cardiff, 18 April
- Belfast, 25 April
- Glasgow, 26 April
The Government's Industrial Strategy has set out four Grand Challenges in areas and industries in which the UK is determined to pioneer progress. Under the Clean Growth Grand Challenge, the Government is investing in making the UK a world leader in low carbon technologies, systems and services that are cheaper than higher carbon alternatives.
NEW CALLS

EPSRC - Innovation Fellowships: EPSRC Future Composites Manufacturing Research Hub
Applications are invited for up to two postdoctoral Innovation Fellowships funded by the EPSRC Future Composites Manufacturing Research Hub. Fellowships will be for a period of up to two years and are aimed at early stage researchers looking to take the first step towards an independent research career. Innovation Fellowships are open to national and international researchers and will be hosted by the most appropriate UK institutions to support the aims of the research. Fellows will benefit from access to facilities and expertise across existing Hub members.
Applicants are expected to develop a proposal at TRL 1 to 3 to facilitate a fundamental step-change in composites manufacturing technology within the UK. The proposal should examine a subject area that is ambitious and high risk, identifying key challenges and research questions not currently being addressed. This can include the development of new manufacturing technologies, analytical studies to develop a fundamental understanding of state-of-the-art processes, or the development of process modelling and optimisation techniques. Proposals must focus on composites manufacturing, rather than the development of next-generation materials and address at least one of the five Hub priority areas.
- High rate deposition and rapid processing technologies
- Design for manufacture via validated simulation
- Manufacturing for multifunctional composites and integrated structures
- Inspection and in-process evaluation
- Recycling and re-use
Funding will be provided to cover 80% of the full economic cost for each postdoctoral researcher (up to 2 positions available). Salaries will be set depending on experience and the chosen host organisation (typically £26,495 – £47,722). An annual research expenses grant will be provided, consisting of up to £3,000 for travel and £7,000 for project consumables per year.
Whilst fellowships are for a fixed period of up to two years, the successful candidate will be expected to generate additional funding to extend this period and expand their research.
https://epsrc.ukri.org/funding/calls/innovationfellowshipscimcomp/
Call closes: 31 May 2018

EPSRC: Call for a UK EV and Battery Manufacturing Economics Case – Led By Faraday Institution
In the context of the move to electric vehicles, the Faraday Institution wants to gain a robust perspective on how the UK can maximise jobs creation and investment in the electric vehicle (EV) and battery manufacturing markets.
The proposed project is focused explicitly on the UK’s production of EVs and batteries, not the UK’s consumption of electric vehicles, except insofar as the latter contributes to the former (only 20% of cars made in the UK are sold in the UK, 40% go to the rest of Europe and 40%)
An information phone call will be organised on Monday April 23rd at 4pm GMT and will be open to all participants. To register for the call, you must first email executive.assistant@faraday.ac.uk and you will receive call details.
For further information and to apply please visit the Faraday Institution website.
https://epsrc.ukri.org/funding/calls/uk-ev-battery-manufacturing-economics-case/
Call closes: 22 May 2018
EPSRC: Industrial Strategy Challenge Fund - Transforming Construction: Active Building Centre

As part of the Industrial Strategy Challenge Fund the UK government is investing in this challenge to deliver an innovative R&D programme through:

- Establishing a Core Innovation Hub - which will address the performance and manufacturing objectives of the programme.
- Creating an Active Building Centre - a centre which will seek to reduce the cost and commercialise energy generation and storage components in buildings across the UK, effectively turning them into power stations.
- Delivering R&D and Research Competitions - designed to drive cross-sector collaboration, and the scale-up and demonstration needed to encourage rapid adoption of digitally-driven manufacturing design that enables buildings to integrate energy generation and storage components.

As part of this, EPSRC, on behalf of UK Research and Innovation, invites submission of proposals from UK university consortia to establish an internationally recognised Active Buildings Centre (ABC) to lead in research, innovation and commercialisation of Active Building Technologies in line with the Industrial Strategy Challenge Fund for Transforming Construction.

EPSRC will award one award of up to £36 million to build and establish the ABC with will aim to break down the barriers that prevent mass uptake of Active Buildings, by working across the UK strengths in research and innovation to:

- Deliver a new physical centre that will provide a living lab and host key staff tackling the challenges around incorporating and integrating Active Building Technologies
- Embed the use of Active components into construction standard practice through working with the Core Innovation Hub
- Draw on the significant technological advances and other insights from the wider research community, in addition undertake user-inspired research and innovation activities
- Work with commercial developers and the public sector to deliver a critical mass of Active Buildings in the UK
- Feed performance data, social and behavioural insight from Active Buildings back into the research and technology base to drive iterative research, innovation and product improvement
- Address the appropriate standards and regulatory barriers that inhibit buildings from incorporating Active Building Technologies.

The core consortia members must attend a briefing and consortia building event on the **19 April 2018** and register at the event website. This does not restrict subsequent University partners from joining the consortia prior to final proposal submission. Applications from universities not at this briefing event will be rejected without consideration.

https://epsrc.ukri.org/funding/calls/iscftransformingconstruction/

**Call closes: 23 May 2018**

EPSRC: Call for Feasibility Studies - EPSRC Future Manufacturing Hub in Manufacture using Advanced Powder Processes (MAPP)

MAPP, the EPSRC Future Manufacturing Hub, is offering funding for up to four feasibility studies to conduct novel research which closely aligns with the Hub's core research programme: Powders by Design and Process by Design. We are looking for research projects that align with and complement MAPP's research programme and have the potential to lead to further collaboration and funding bids.

The call is open to all UK academics eligible to receive EPSRC funding and is the primary mechanism for new academic collaborators to engage with the Hub. Awards are limited to
projects with a maximum duration of six months and maximum value of £50,000 (80% FEC).
https://epsrc.ukri.org/funding/calls/mappfeasibilitystudies/
Call closes: 18 May 2018

UKRI Future Leaders Fellowships scheme
The UK Research and Innovation Future Leaders Fellowships (FLF) will grow the strong supply of talented individuals needed to ensure that UK research and innovation continues to be world class.
The FLF scheme welcomes applications from both UK and international applicants and individuals should use the person specification to assess and justify their suitability for the scheme. The support of the institution will be a critical component of all fellowships which will enable the fellow to transition to or establish their research/innovation independence in any area supported by UKRI.
The objectives of the scheme are:
- to develop, retain, attract and sustain research and innovation talent in the UK
- to foster new research and innovation career paths including those at the academic/business and interdisciplinary boundaries, and facilitate movement of people between sectors
- to provide sustained funding and resources for the best early career researchers and innovators
- to provide long-term, flexible funding to tackle difficult and novel challenges, and support adventurous, ambitious programmes.

These Fellowships support applicants from diverse career paths, including those returning from a career break or following time in other roles. We also encourage applications from those wishing to work part-time in order to combine the fellowship with personal responsibilities. Review panels will take into account time spent outside an active research or innovation environment, whether through career breaks, flexible working or as a consequence of working in other roles.
The support offered will be long-term and flexible and will provide comprehensive package of support, including the fellow's salary and justified research, staff and training costs, with seven years of support available on a 4+3 model, with a review in year four. The case for support should make clear the long-term aims of the programme, and why they matter – while providing more specific plans and costings for the first four years.
There will be six calls for these fellowships; two calls per year between 2018-19 and 2020-21 (financial years), typically awarding at least 100 fellowships per call across UKRI's remit (with the initial round being smaller, aiming to award ~50 fellowships).
This is a single scheme across the entire UKRI remit, with no ringfenced budgets for specific areas and no barriers to interdisciplinary or cross-sector research.
https://www.ukri.org/funding/funding-opportunities/future-leaders-fellowships/
Call closes (Expression of Interest): 7 June 2018
If you are considering applying for a Future Leaders Fellowship, please speak to your head of department, as the fellowship requires a substantial commitment from the institution. Also, please let your research facilitation team know. For BEAMS please contact Khaled Taalab.

2018 ATI Turing Fellows & Projects Call
This is a call for applications, from UCL academic members of staff, to become Fellows of the Alan Turing Institute (ATI). Fellowship applicants are also encouraged to submit proposals for Turing sponsored research projects, which will leverage support and additional resources from the ATI.
The ATI is the UK’s national centre for data science and artificial intelligence, and UCL is one of its founding partners. To coincide with the expansion of the ATI to include six additional partners, ATI has launched two simultaneous calls, to establish a new cohort of Turing Fellows, as well as a set of collaborative projects — aligned with the ATI’s scientific aims and objectives — leveraging Fellows’ time and ATI’s resources. UCL is allowed by ATI to submit a limited number of proposals to each of these calls. Therefore, UCL is implementing an initial shortlisting process, coordinated by the Office of Vice-Provost (Research).

Turing Fellowships provide access to the ATI, its facilities and resources, as well as support for travel and subsistence costs to enable the Fellow to spend time at the Institute. Applicants can also request funding from the ATI to buy-out 5% of their time, for the duration of their Fellowship, to allow them to spend 5% or more of their time in residence conducting research and participating in ATI activities.

Other benefits to becoming a Turing Fellow include:

- The opportunity to collaborate with researchers they would not typically encounter and work outside their domain, including with Turing Interest Groups;
- The opportunity to engage with industry partners, Government and the third sector, benefitting from the Turing’s position as a national institute;
- Access to a team of software engineers and data scientists;
- Access to computer resources including cloud credits, GPU cluster, high performance computing, and local IT services;
- Access to seed- and workshop funding;
- Use of a physical collaborative space in central London with no disciplinary boundaries.

Fellows can also request additional funding through the call for Turing sponsored projects but this is not a requirement. There are three types of funding available to fellows:

1) Funded Fellowship Project (similar to current Turing Fellows model)
   - 20% of PI’s time for 12 months
   - £10k to pay for the collection of data
   - Travel & subsistence (e.g., to enable a separately-funded PhD student to participate in project meetings at the ATI)

2) Collaborative Research Project
   - 25% of PI’s time for 18 months
   - 10% of a Co-Investigator’s time for 18 months
   - 6 months of an ATI research software engineer’s time (e.g., to produce robust implementations of the developed algorithms)
   - £10k of cloud-compute credits (e.g., to perform large-scale evaluations of the developed software)

3) Flagship Turing Project
   - 40% of PI’s time over 2 years
   - 20% of a Co-Investigator’s time over 2 years
   - 2 postdoctoral researchers based at the ATI
   - £15k workshop costs

https://www.ucl.ac.uk/research/beamsfunding/news/news-repository/ATI-Turing-Fellows-2018

Call closes: 17:00 on Monday 23 April

**UCL Global Engagement Funds**
The Global Engagement Funds are intended to support UCL academics collaborating with colleagues based in other countries, driving forward the objectives of the Global Engagement Strategy.
The funds are led by UCL’s network of Vice-Deans (International) and regional Pro-Vice-Provosts, supported by the Global Engagement Office (GEO). Between £500 - £2,000 is available for activity in any faculty (£4,000 for applicants in the Social & Historical Sciences or Arts & Humanities faculties). Applications are open to UCL staff at postdoctoral level or equivalent and above. [https://www.ucl.ac.uk/global/funding-opportunities/global-engagement-funds/global-engagement-funds](https://www.ucl.ac.uk/global/funding-opportunities/global-engagement-funds/global-engagement-funds)

Call closes: 09:00, 17 May 2018

**NERC - Global Partnerships Seedcorn Fund - Announcement of Opportunity March 2018**

NERC is inviting proposals to its Global Partnerships Seedcorn Fund (GPSF). The Global Partnerships Seedcorn Fund allows UK environmental science researchers to forge new partnerships and networks with the best international researchers wherever they are located and seed collaborations that will be sustained beyond the lifetime of the grant. Proposals for continuation of existing mature international research collaborations and collaborations with a primary focus on research for international development (Official Development Assistance) are ineligible to apply to this scheme and should seek other appropriate sources of funding.

Proposals for Global Partnerships Seedcorn Fund grants may request funding of a maximum of £100,000 (at 100% full economic cost) with a duration of up to two years. The full proposal must be submitted using the research councils’ Je-S. Applicants should select Proposal Type - 'Standard Proposal' and then select the Scheme - 'Directed International' and the Call - 'Global Partnerships Seedcorn Fund 2018'. [https://nerc.ukri.org/research/partnerships/international/gpsf/news/ao2018/](https://nerc.ukri.org/research/partnerships/international/gpsf/news/ao2018/)

Notification of Intent: 30 April 2018

Call closes: 17 May 2018

**Announcement of Opportunity: National capability services & facilities commissioning - isotope and radiocarbon facility**

NERC is inviting eligible UK higher education institutions (HEIs), NERC research centres and independent research organisations (IROs) to apply to the second round of services and facilities (S&F) commissioning. NERC will commission both a single radiocarbon and a single isotope facility for a five-year period from 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2024. A maximum of £5 million of transformative capital may be allocated for this round of commissioning. Applicants are invited to include details of any additional capital investment needs for up to three scenarios of £1 million, £3 million and £5 million. Capital requests should be proposed using the justification for transformational capital form and included within the submission.

The assessment panel will meet in October 2018 (date to be confirmed). Applicants will be notified of the outcomes between October and November 2018, with awards starting April 2019. [http://www.nerc.ac.uk/funding/application/currentopportunities/ao-sfr2/](http://www.nerc.ac.uk/funding/application/currentopportunities/ao-sfr2/)

Call closes: 26 July 2018

**NERC - Innovation placements**

NERC wishes to award a number of Open Innovation Placements. Placements will work within a host organisation, on a specified project (a selection to be provided once the call has opened) or one of their choosing, which is organised independently of NERC. Researchers will explore and demonstrate how partner organisations can make use of scientific knowledge, data, models or other tools to understand and manage their impacts and/or dependencies on the environment. NERC will cover 100% of the placement’s salary.
on a pro-rata basis, including superannuation, National Insurance and specific allowances, plus travel and other associated costs. Placements cover direct costs only and do not include overheads.

NERC science can make an important contribution to economic growth and quality of life. For the UK to remain competitive in a global economy, we need to ensure that scientific advances are translated swiftly into a form that is useful to stakeholders including business, non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and the government. These stakeholders use NERC research for many purposes, including:

- providing the scientific evidence necessary to inform public policy and business strategy as our environment alters
- protecting people and minimising costs through better forecasting of environmental hazards
- creating wealth by providing business with the starting point for new or improved products, services and solution.

Applications for placements should focus on accelerating and amplifying economic impact and improvements in quality of life from NERC-funded research, by working with business, NGOs or government bodies. This could include:

- strengthening existing partnerships
- developing new relationships that lead to collaborative projects
- researching new market opportunities
- providing case studies of knowledge exchange from NERC-funded research
- providing briefings and reports suitable for policymakers.

https://nerc.ukri.org/funding/available/schemes/innovation-placements/

**Call closes: 4 July 2018**

**NERC New cut-off for ideas for strategic research**

NERC is seeking ideas for research challenges that should be priorities for strategic research investment through strategic programme areas and highlight topics. NERC would welcome ideas from both researchers and those who use environmental science research. As stated in a previous announcement, ideas for new highlight topics should be submitted by 15 May 2018. Ideas for new strategic programme areas should be submitted by 6 September 2018.

Guidance to explain what we are looking for, how to submit ideas, and how NERC staff can help, can be found on the call for ideas for strategic research page. 2017 saw the fourth cut-off for ideas for strategic programme areas and a summary of the ideas received is also available on the call page. NERC’s Strategic Programme Advisory Group (SPAG) reviewed the ideas and used a number of them to generate the proposals for strategic programme areas that were selected for scoping by NERC’s Science Board:

- Earth system plastics
- transforming fractures - exploration of the deep-ocean highways
- reducing uncertainty in climate sensitivity due to clouds.

All submitters of ideas received by NERC will receive feedback, and there are no restrictions on resubmission of ideas that have not been used to develop potential investments in previous years.


**Call closes: 15 May 2018**

*If you are considering responding to this call, please contact Khaled Taalab.*

**Queen Elizabeth Prize for Engineering**

The Queen Elizabeth Prize for Engineering is a global £1 million prize that celebrates a ground-breaking innovation in engineering. The prize rewards an individual or team of engineers whose work has had a major impact on humanity.
Entry to the Prize is open to any living individual (or not more than five living individuals working as a team) of any nationality who is personally responsible for a ground-breaking innovation in engineering which has been of global benefit to humanity. Self-nomination is not permitted.

The winners will be awarded:
- a total cash prize of £1 million
- appropriate memorabilia to be decided by the Trustees in their sole discretion (the “Prize”). In the event that the Prize is received by more than one individual (but not more than five individuals, as above) collaborating under a single nomination, the Prize money will be shared between the winners as determined by the Trustees in their sole discretion on the advice of the Judging Panel.

There are two ways to enter to be considered for the Prize:
- Suggestion: if you have limited information on individual innovators but would like to suggest people and / or innovations, then these will be collated and considered in the judging process.
- Nomination: If you can provide more detailed information on the nominee including suitable referees: the official nomination form (the “Nomination Form”) available on the Prize website at www.qeprize.org must be used.

http://qeprize.org/prize-rules-and-conditions/

Call closes (nominations): 12.00pm, 18 MAY 2018

STFC – 2018 Capital Equipment Call
STFC is inviting UK PIs to submit applications for capital equipment to support STFC’s PPAN programme as well as our External Innovation capabilities. The capital equipment call will invite two types of proposals:
- to augment the current PPAN programme by underpinning the university infrastructure needed to sustain UK leadership in international R&D programmes and future projects, and enhance UK technology capability
- to develop External Innovation capability to realise the innovative ability of STFC’s PPAN programmes to support economic and societal impact within the UK areas such as photonics, optics and advanced materials.

The amount of total capital available is around £2M - £3M for the period up to 31 March 2019. Proposals will be reviewed by PPRP at its meeting on 11 and 12 September with awards being announced in October 2018. A consortium or university group will only be able to request a maximum of five items or a maximum bid of £250k (50% cost to STFC). Applications for PPAN R&D activities will be reviewed separately to applications for building External Innovation capabilities. Proposals will be considered from consortia or university groups who are in receipt of an STFC Consolidated Grant or Institute award only.

https://stfc.ukri.org/funding/research-grants/funding-opportunities/2018-capital-call/

Call closes: 12 June 2018

STFC - 2018 Opportunities Call
The recent emergence of major project funding schemes such as that of the Industrial Strategy Challenge Fund (ISCF), the Global Challenge Research Fund (GCRF) and other possible future calls relating to strategic priority partnerships, creates an opportunity for additional financial support.

STFC is inviting UK PIs to submit applications for resource funding to support short-term activities that have the potential to lead into multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary research studies. This Opportunities Call will support “pump priming” activities that will position university groups or consortia to participate in multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary science that
aligns with major project funding schemes. The scheme also aims to manoeuvre university
groups or consortia into a position to submit proposals for future calls arising from UKRI,
such as a potential new Strategic Priorities Fund as noted in the Industrial Strategy White
Paper, that will support strategic cross-cutting R&D areas aligned with Government
priorities, national strategic priorities and emerging technologies, and to support
researchers and businesses at the cutting-edge of research and innovation.
The call will primarily support activities intended for early partnerships and collaborations,
creating effective pathways across science areas, as well as supporting small research
studies for investigation of new approaches and/or generation of preliminary data.
Therefore, funding will be awarded for effort (PDRA time), networking, seminars,
workshops, training, travel and subsistence, and small R&D activities that can enable the
Impact Acceleration Accounts.
The total amount of resource available is approximately £500k for the period of 1st
October 2018 to 31st March 2019. Applications should request a maximum of £75k
resource (80% FEC). Therefore, the call will support approximately 7, 4-6 month projects
that enable the university group or consortium to begin activities aimed at utilising the
potential of STFC’s community in order to contribute to addressing challenges in
developing countries (GCRF), to improve productivity and economic benefit across the UK
(ISCF) or to address challenges associated with potential future calls arising from UKRI.
A small portion of capital can be made available to support activities that meet the remit of
this call if the need is demonstrated. Bids for capital will be capped at £120k (or £60k cost
to STFC), or a maximum of 3 items. STFC will contribute 50% of the cost of equipment
items.
Proposals will be considered from consortia or university groups who are in receipt of an
STFC Consolidated Grant, Institute award or STFC Fellowship award only.
https://stfc.ukri.org/funding/research-grants/funding-opportunities/2018-opportunities-call/
Call closes: 12 June 2018

UK Space Agency’s Aurora Science Programme
The UK Space Agency is providing funding under the Aurora Science programme to
support science associated with planetary exploration with the purpose of enhancing the
UK’s capabilities and cross-disciplinary approach to planetary science. Academics and
individual scientists from the UK and overseas, working at UK research organisations, are
eligible to apply. The programme offers support for the following positions and activities:
• Fellowships of up to 36 months (can be held part-time for up to six years) to
develop promising early career researchers or allow existing academics to
discipline-hop.
• Post Doctorate Research Assistants (PDRAs) of up to four years in duration.
• Studentships
• Support for academics to participate in international science teams to exploit data
from future missions such as the NASA InSight mission. This support should be
justified and of reasonable length in relation to the mission.
The 2018 Call particularly welcomes applications in the following areas:
• InSight and ExoMars Trace Gas Orbiter (TGO) data exploitation.
• Preparation for data exploitation of the 2020 ExoMars mission.
Awards are made in line with standard Science and Technology Facilities Council (STFC)
criteria for PDRAs and Fellowships, and grants will be administered by STFC, in
accordance with their financial rules, on behalf of the UK Space Agency. Successfully
funded projects can start no earlier than 1 April 2019 and it is expected that studentships
would start in the academic year 2019/20.
Call closes: 02 July 2018

NSTP Flagship Call
Funding is available for space technology research and development projects aligned with the National Space Technology Programme (NSTP) that will contribute to the growth of the UK space sector.

As part of the National Space Technology Programme (NSTP), the UK Space Agency invites collaborative proposals from UK-based industry/academic teams for space technology research and development Flag Ship projects that are aligned with the Space Innovation and Growth Strategy 2014-2030.

Successful projects are expected to develop technologies to a high Technology Readiness Level (typically 5 or above), offer a significant commercial opportunity and have a clear exploitation route to market, focusing on the five main themes of interest:

- Telecommunications.
- Sensing.
- Position, Navigation and Timing.
- Exploration and Robotics.
- Access to Space.

Eligible activities include industrial research and experimental development (downstream applications, data transmission, ground infrastructure and software-based projects are acceptable if they have a strong technology development element and provide a step change in capability).

Preference will be given to proposals of the highest technical quality that demonstrate an urgent need for funding to access an important mission and/or business opportunity over proposals addressing more speculative objectives. In all cases it is essential that the project proposal shows how the grant will make a difference to UK space technology capability, in addition to its value to the bidder.

Applications are invited from UK based HEIs, other research organisations and industry. Proposals by collaborative teams will be given preference and the UK Space Agency particularly encourages combined industrial/academic teams. Collaborative proposals that form part of a larger activity funded by one or more other organisations will be considered, provided that the proposed work falls fully within the scope of NSTP.

Grants of £800,000 - £1,000,000 each are available for two large scale technology Flagship projects that must be completed within two years. Academic partners will receive funding at 80% of full economic cost (fEC), while industry partners are required to provide a Private Venture contribution.

Only the lead company or organisation should submit an application. [https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/announcement-of-opportunity-nstp-flagship-call](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/announcement-of-opportunity-nstp-flagship-call)

Call closes: 9 July 2018

GFS - Resilience of the UK Food System in a Global Context
Funding is available to attend a Sandpit event to address the UK's food system so it is based on healthy and sustainable diets, and how this would impact on sustainable and resilient food production and supply.

Global Food Security (GFS) coordinates scientific research supported by its partners across government departments and agencies, the devolved administrations, Research Councils and Innovate UK.

GFS's Resilience of the UK Food System in a Global Context initiative has announced a third call to take part in a Sandpit event. The Sandpit will be an intensive, interactive and free-thinking workshop, involving a diverse group of up to 30 participants from a range of disciplines and backgrounds.
Expressions of interest are invited from early career researchers at lecturer level or equivalent to take part in the Sandpit (2.5 days on **4-6 July 2018** followed by 2 days on **19-20 July 2018**; venue to be confirmed) to address the following question:

- How can we transform our food system so it is based on healthy and sustainable diets and how would this impact on sustainable and resilient food production and supply?

The Sandpit will develop new outline proposals, a number of which will be selected to submit as full proposals for projects that will be for two years in duration. Successful proposals developed through the Sandpit process will be jointly funded by the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC), Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC), Natural Environment Research Council (NERC) and the Scottish Government.

Up to £1.8 million (80% FEC) is available to support the proposals selected. [https://www.idoxgrantfinder.co.uk/education/News/View/GRUKRESIN8692](https://www.idoxgrantfinder.co.uk/education/News/View/GRUKRESIN8692)

**Call closes: 23 May 2018**

**GCRF AND NEWTON FUNDING**

**The Newton Fund** builds scientific and innovation partnerships with 18 partner countries to support their economic development and social welfare, and to develop their research and innovation capacity for long-term sustainable growth.

- You can search for current Newton Fund funding opportunities using the following link [http://www.newtonfund.ac.uk/funding/funding-opportunities/](http://www.newtonfund.ac.uk/funding/funding-opportunities/)
- Newton Fund opportunities to the sector through the monthly Newton Funding Bulletin

The Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF) is a 5-year £1.5Bn fund and a key component in the delivery of the UK Aid Strategy: tackling global challenges in the national interest.

- You can search for current GCRF funding opportunities using the following link [http://www.rcuk.ac.uk/funding/gcrf/](http://www.rcuk.ac.uk/funding/gcrf/)

**Newton Fund - China-UK AMR Partnership Hubs 2018**

The UK Cross Research Council AMR Initiative and the National Natural Science Foundation of China (NSFC) are pleased to invite proposals to the China-UK AMR Partnership Hubs under the umbrella of the Newton Fund. This initiative will provide funding for high quality collaborative research partnerships focused on addressing the growing global burden of antimicrobial resistance, specifically antibacterial resistance in China.

In total, up to £8m will be made available for this initiative on the UK side with up to 10 million RMB per Partnership Hub from NSFC. UK based applicants may request £1m - £2m at 80% FEC to cover the UK component of the research projects.

This initiative will provide funding for collaborative Partnership Hubs focussed on addressing the challenge of antibacterial resistance (AMR) with the aim of:

- Enhancing existing partnerships and developing new partnerships between the UK and China in the area of AMR and in particular antibacterial resistance (ABR).
- Supporting large-scale, interdisciplinary collaborative research.
- Supporting the mobility and exchange of UK and Chinese researchers to enhance links between researchers in both countries.
• Strengthening the strategic relationship between the UK and China. In order to address the breadth of the ABR challenge, build on the existing China-UK collaborations, and complement the parallel China-UK AMR Innovation call, the following topics are in scope for this call:
  
  • Drivers of ABR – eg, understanding the range of drivers and selective pressures of resistance in the Chinese context, to identify where upstream mitigating action to modify the drivers can prevent or reduce the burden or prevalence of ABR.
  
  • Pathways for human and livestock exposure – eg, understanding and predictive modelling of acquisition, evolution, persistence and transmission of ABR between environment, animals and humans, and within and between communities and hospitals, to identify effective strategies for diagnosis and infection/disease prevention.
  
  • Impacts of ABR – eg, quantifying the burden (environmental, animal and human), social, and economic costs of ABR, to identify the risks, costs and benefits of local interventions.
  
  • Responses – eg, drug discovery and alternative treatments/interventions, where a broad interdisciplinary approach is taken.

https://mrc.ukri.org/funding/browse/china-uk-amr/china-uk-amr-partnership-hubs-2018/

Call closes (expression of interest): 30 April 2018

ESRC CONACYT Newton call for collaborative research: Smart Cities in Mexico

The Mexican National Council for Science and Technology (CONACYT) and the ESRC invite joint applications for collaborative projects between Mexico and the UK which seek to enhance understanding of Smart Cities. This collaboration is supported by the Newton Fund. All applications under this call must therefore be compliant with Official Development Assistance (ODA) guidance and demonstrate this compliance within the written proposal.

Proposals are sought for collaborative bilateral research projects involving researchers from the UK and Mexico, addressing one or more of the following topics:

  • Urban infrastructure, ICT, mobility and quality of life
  • Resilience and environmental sustainability
  • The politics of the smart city
  • Urban economies and digital social innovation

The ESRC has allocated up to £1.5 million available for projects of up to £450,000 (fEC) for the UK component, and CONACYT $20 million (MXN) for the Mexican component for projects of up to 30 months in duration. Proposals must be submitted to both funders.

Applications will be assessed jointly by both funders

http://www.esrc.ac.uk/funding/funding-opportunities/esrc-conacyt-newton-call-for-collaborative-research-smart-cities-in-mexico/

Call closes (UK): 16.00 (UK time) on 3 May 2018.

Call closes (Mexico): 18.00 (Mexican time) on 4 May 2018.

MET Office - Newton Fund Weather and Climate Science for Service Partnership Programme opportunities

The Met Office are administering the Newton Fund through the Weather and Climate Science for Service Partnerships (WCSSP) programme. The WCSSP Programme currently includes the following projects:

  • Weather and Climate Science for Service Partnership South Africa (WCSSP South Africa)

The Programme draws on expertise across the breadth of the UK research community. Funding will be allocated through open competition.
INNOVATE UK - INDUSTRIAL STRATEGY

Commercialising quantum devices: innovation R&D
The aim of this competition is to advance the commercialisation of quantum technologies in the UK. Innovate UK will invest £20 million in innovation projects to develop prototype quantum technology devices that address one or more of these important industrial challenges which are explained further in the scope of this competition:

- Situational awareness.
- Infrastructure productivity.
- Seeing the invisible.
- Trusted peer to peer communication

The aim of this competition is to deliver working prototype ‘second generation’ quantum devices or systems that fulfil the technical and ergonomic requirements of end users. ‘Second generation’ means they use the generation or coherent control and manipulation of quantum states, resulting in superposition and entanglement. This allows them to do things that would be impossible with ‘non-quantum’ means. This definition also includes single photon generation or detection devices.

Your proposal must:

- demonstrate how the device can be brought to market, with manufacture or assembly in the UK
- fulfil an end user need through the technological advances in quantum technology
- A business must lead the project. You must work in collaboration with others.

Your project’s total costs should be between £3 million and £10 million. Projects should start by 1 November 2018 and last up to 29 months. Projects must be completed by the end of March 2021.

https://apply-for-innovation-funding.service.gov.uk/competition/143/overview

Call closes: 12:00, 13 June 2018

Medicines manufacturing round 2: challenge fund
Innovate UK will invest up to £10 million in innovation projects in medicines manufacturing to be funded through the Industrial Strategy Challenge Fund. Projects should focus on specific technical or commercial challenges. You must show how your project will improve the productivity, competitiveness and growth of at least one UK micro, small or medium-sized enterprise (SME) involved in the project.

A business must lead the project.

The project’s total costs should be between £50,000 and £1.5 million. Projects should start by 1 September 2018 and must be completed before April 2021. It should last between 6 months and 30 months.

https://apply-for-innovation-funding.service.gov.uk/competition/121/overview

Call closes: 12:00pm, 9 May 2018

SBRI: automated pre-cleaning of surgical instruments
The aim of this competition is to find an automated solution to the pre-cleaning of surgical instruments as part of the NHS sterile services process. Innovate are looking for a range of solutions that are technically innovative and good value for money. Proposals must show how projects would develop and test a prototype. This is a 2-phase competition. The first phase will be a feasibility study. Applicants who are successful will be able to apply to take part in phase 2, developing prototypes and
evaluating them. A decision to proceed with phase 2 will depend on the outcomes from phase 1. In phase 1 we expect projects to range in size up to total costs of £30,000. They can last up to 6 months. Projects are expected to start in August 2018.

https://apply-for-innovation-funding.service.gov.uk/competition/122/overview
Call closes: 12:00pm, 9 May 2018

SBRI: point-of-use treatment for organic-rich surface water

The aim of this competition is to fund up to 5 feasibility studies to explore the development of a point-of-use (POU) water treatment system. It must consistently deliver water from high organic surface waters with no risk to human health. It must also be cost effective and low maintenance.

Scotland has more than 10,000 water supplies that serve only one household. It has another 20,000 supplies that serve a population of fewer than 50 people. The performance and capabilities of household drinking water treatment technology vary depending on the quality of the incoming raw water.

Most of these supplies are served by surface waters high in organic matter. There is no reliable household solution on the market for treating this sort of water. Current technology is either too expensive or requires a lot of maintenance.

Innovate UK expect projects to range in size up to total costs of £30,000 for each organisation. Projects can last up to 6 months.

https://apply-for-innovation-funding.service.gov.uk/competition/95/overview
Call closes: 12:00, 18 April 2018

CALLS STILL OPEN

EPSRC - Connected Nation Pioneers

Connected Nation Pioneers is an exciting partnership between EPSRC and key stakeholders. We have come together to recognise exceptional UK doctoral students whose research contributes towards the development of a Connected Nation.

The competition is open to all UK doctoral students in the final two years of their doctoral training. Applicants need not be funded by the EPSRC to participate.

This competition celebrates the transformative and pioneering research of UK-based doctoral students in contributing to up to two of the following category topics:

- Safe and Secure Cyber Society
- Intelligent Informatics
- Making Digital Technology Work for People
- Creative Computing for the Digital Economy

Applicants will be assessed per category by a panel of industrial sponsors in three stages:

- An Expression of Interest statement (500 words)
- A three-minute video pitch
- An exhibition and pitch presentation

All applicants reaching the third stage of the competition will receive media and presentation training and will have an excellent opportunity to network with representatives from both academia and industry. Each of the four category winners will receive a prize of £2,000 and a NVIDIA graphics card at a VIP Awards Ceremony Dinner, to be held at the Museum of Science and Industry in Manchester. The category winners will also compete in an elevator pitch contest as part of the Awards Ceremony to select an overall winner, who will receive a further £1,000.

https://www.epsrc.ac.uk/funding/calls/connectednationpioneers/
Call closes (expressions of Interest): 26 April 2018
NERC - Developing NERC’s omics strategy - Community workshop
NERC aims to develop its current and future strategy for environmental omics research. To achieve this, NERC are organising a one-day community workshop, with the support of a focused working group, to provide NERC with evidence and advice on the future direction of environmental omics and to provide recommendations on the capability of the community to deliver omics based research. Objectives of the workshop:

- exploring key research opportunities within environmental omics (now and in the future)
- exploring external factors that influence and impact on environmental omics (now and in the future).
- To help develop NERC’s strategy for environmental omics.
- To help consider capabilities needed to support a future strategy and omics research.

If you wish to apply to attend this workshop, please complete the online registration form. The closing date for registration is 16:00 on 17 April 2018. Submission does not guarantee attendance.

The workshop will take place on 2 May 2018 in Birmingham. [http://www.nerc.ac.uk/research/funded/programmes/omics/news/omicsstrategy/](http://www.nerc.ac.uk/research/funded/programmes/omics/news/omicsstrategy/)

Call closes (registration): 17 April 2018

NERC - Call for Open Knowledge Exchange (KE) Fellowships
NERC wishes to award a number of Open Knowledge Exchange (KE) Fellowships. The NERC Open Knowledge Exchange (KE) Fellowships are intended to enable the sharing and flow of knowledge and expertise between the NERC funded researchers and their user communities with the aim of generating impact from NERC funded research. KE Fellows work between 20% and 80% of their time on a work plan of their own choosing to generate impact from NERC-funded research in their host institution. The KE Fellowships will cover 100% of the Fellow's salary on a pro-rata basis including superannuation, NI and specific allowances, plus up to £40,000 for travel and other associated costs. They cover direct costs only and do not include overheads. There is no budget limit for salary costs and applications are particularly welcomed from individuals who are working at a senior level within a department or school. The KE Fellow must be employed by their host institution for the duration of their fellowship.

If selected for interview, the applicant will be asked to give a 10 minute presentation followed by 35 minutes of questions from a panel of up to four people. In addition, the applicant's head of department (or, if the head of department is the applicant, then a more senior individual) is expected to join the interview in person or by telephone to provide a strategic overview of the work. Success rates appear to be the same regardless of whether the supporter appears in person or telephones in.

Interview dates: 12, 13 & 14 June 2018
[http://www.nerc.ac.uk/funding/available/schemes/kefellows/kefellowscall/](http://www.nerc.ac.uk/funding/available/schemes/kefellows/kefellowscall/)

Call closes: 17 April 2018

NERC - 2018 Impact Awards
NERC are pleased to invite applications for the NERC 2018 Impact Awards. The awards will celebrate and reward NERC-funded researchers, as individuals or teams, whose work has had substantial impact on the economy and society either in the UK or abroad.

The awards will be presented at a ceremony in London, late 2018. The event will showcase the researchers, their work and the impact of the science that NERC funds.

We invite you to submit under one of the following three categories:

**Economic Impact Award**
Recognising research that has led to demonstrable economic benefit.

**Societal Impact Award**
Recognising research that has led to demonstrable social, cultural, public policy or service, health, environmental or quality of life benefits.

**Early Career Impact Award**
Recognising an early career researcher who has achieved demonstrable economic and/or societal impact.

The category winner judged to have had the greatest impact will be selected to receive the Overall Impact Award. The winner of each category will receive £10,000 and the runner-up £5,000, to further the impacts of their research. The Overall Impact Award winner will receive an additional £30,000.

http://www.nerc.ac.uk/latest/events/impact/

**Call closes:** 12:00, 21 May 2018.

**NERC 2018 Impact Awards**
The awards will celebrate and reward NERC-funded researchers, as individuals or teams, whose work has had substantial impact on the economy and society either in the UK or abroad.

The awards will be presented at a ceremony in London in late 2018. The event will showcase the researchers, their work and the impact of the science that NERC funds.

There are three categories of award:

- Economic Impact Award – recognising research that has led to demonstrable economic benefit.
- Societal Impact Award – recognising research that has led to demonstrable social, cultural, public policy or service, health, environmental or quality of life benefits.
- Early Career Impact Award – recognising an early career researcher who has achieved demonstrable economic and/or societal impact.

The category winner judged to have had the greatest impact will be selected to receive the Overall Impact Award.

How much they are worth: The winner of each category will receive £10k and the runner-up £5k, to further the impacts of their research. The Overall Impact Award winner will receive an additional £30k.

http://www.nerc.ac.uk/latest/events/impact/

**Deadline: 21 May 2018**

**NERC - Radioactivity & the Environment Knowledge Exchange Fellowship**
NERC, the Environment Agency (EA) and Radioactive Waste Management (RWM) wish to appoint a Knowledge Exchange (KE) Fellow for the Radioactivity & the Environment (RATE) programme. This is an exciting opportunity to become a NERC KE Fellow focused on gaining impact from the excellent science outputs from the RATE programme. The purpose of this fellowship is to generate impact from RATE science, accelerating and amplifying economic impact and improvements in quality of life by working with business, civil society organisations and government bodies. The fellow will do this by sharing and enabling a flow of knowledge and expertise between NERC funded researchers and user communities.

Applications are welcomed on a full or part-time basis (between 60% and 100% full time equivalent). Ideally the fellowship will commence summer 2018 with a duration of two years. Funding up to a maximum cost of £70,000 at 80 per cent full economic cost per annum is available for this fellowship. Any career stage and salary level may apply, with the expectations of achievement adjusted accordingly.

http://www.nerc.ac.uk/funding/available/schemes/kefellows/dkefellowscall/ao-rate/
Call closes: 17 April 2018

ESRC - Climate change priority
New research will be funded that covers a broad spectrum of social science relating to climate change. It is expected that successful projects will be social science led but will draw on disciplines from within and beyond the social sciences to produce truly interdisciplinary outcomes that are required for meeting the challenges of climate change. There will be emphasis within the investments on co-design of research with a range of stakeholders, including from industry and policy, and research should consider both the UK and global context. ESRC will also collaborate with other research councils in the delivery of the priority, for example in consideration of energy research and clean growth. The first two investments under the climate change priority will be announced in March 2018:

- **Climate change research centre**
  ESRC will be investing £5 million (80% fEC) over five years in a climate change research centre. The centre is expected to start in April 2019, and should work collaboratively with the newly commissioned Climate change network plus (see details below). Please note, that this call is separate to the ESRC Centres Competition, which was announced in November 2017.

- **Climate change network plus**
  ESRC will be investing £3 million (80% fEC) over five years in a climate change network plus. The network is expected to start in January 2019, and should work collaboratively across the suite of investments within the climate change priority and beyond. Business engagement will be a key focus area of the network plus.

[http://www.esrc.ac.uk/funding/funding-opportunities/climate-change-priority/](http://www.esrc.ac.uk/funding/funding-opportunities/climate-change-priority/)

Call closes (outlines): May 2018

*UCL can only lead a single Climate change research centre or Climate change network plus and there will be in internal process to select UCL’s submission. If you are interested in the call or are involved in a submission from another institution, please contact Khaled Taalab.*

BBSRC - David Phillips Fellowships
The David Phillips Fellowship (DPF) will provide support for researchers wishing to establish their first independent research group. The DPF will invest in scientists who have shown high potential, can demonstrate that they are on an upward trajectory with clear evidence of strong scientific outputs and leadership qualities, and are aiming to establish their own fully independent programme of research. Awards are for five years, and include personal salary and a significant research support grant to enable fellows to establish their own independent research group. It is expected that up to five fellowships will be awarded, each at a value of up to £1 million (80% fEC). Please note: BBSRC will provide funds of up to £1 million (80% of the full economic cost). The total costs (100% full economic cost) requested may be up to £1.25 million. In addition to this investment, it is also expected that a substantial demonstration of support for the fellow be made by the host Research Organisation (for example in terms of access to facilities and equipment, training, research costs etc.).

Proposals can be submitted in any area of science within the BBSRC remit. BBSRC particularly encourage applications that are aligned with their overarching strategic priorities

[https://www.bbsrc.ac.uk/funding/filter/david-phillips/](https://www.bbsrc.ac.uk/funding/filter/david-phillips/)

Call closes: 09 May 2018
BBSRC – Discovery Fellowships
The Discovery Fellowship (DF) will provide support for researchers wishing to undertake independent research and gain leadership skills. The DF will support the transition of early stage researchers to fully independent research leaders. Awards are for three years and it is expected that up to 10 fellowships will be awarded, each of a value of up to £300,000 (80% fEC). Please note: BBSRC will provide funds of up to £300,000 (80% of the full economic cost). The total costs (100% full economic cost) requested may be up to £375,000.

This investment can be used to support personal salary as well as travel and subsistence, training activities, and research consumables, but not equipment. In addition to this investment, it is also expected that a substantial demonstration of support for the fellow be made by the host research organisation (for example in terms of access to facilities and equipment, training, research costs etc.). Proposals can be submitted in any area of science within the BBSRC remit. BBSRC particularly encourage applications that are aligned with their overarching strategic priorities

https://www.bbsrc.ac.uk/funding/filter/discovery-fellowships/

Call closes: 09 May 2018

UCL - Knowledge exchange funding opportunities for UCL staff
UCL Innovation and Enterprise work with all academic disciplines to promote knowledge exchange to help engagement with the wider world. Find out what funding is available. UCL Innovation and Enterprise managed funding is available in the following five areas:

- **pre-commercialisation studies**, in collaboration with UCLB (all subjects)
- **starting innovative knowledge exchange projects** (for all subjects, and with extra funding for projects related to EPSRC and STFC grants)
- **discovery-to-use** - significant support is available for the development of the application of research to an industry setting (related to EPSRC grants only)
- **secondments**, whether to industry, social enterprises and charities (enterprise), or to government departments (policy) (related to EPSRC grants only)
- **support for establishing continuing professional development (CPD) courses**, a process facilitated by UCL Life Learning (all subjects)

https://www.ucl.ac.uk/enterprise/support-staff-and-students/access-funding/knowledge-exchange-funding-opportunities-ucl-staff

Deadline(s): from 29 April 2018 (check individual schemes)

Royal Society - Industry Fellowships
The Industry Fellowship scheme aims to enhance knowledge transfer in science and technology between those in industry and those in academia. It provides opportunities for an academic scientist to work on a collaborative project with industry, or someone employed in industry to work on a collaborative project with a university department or not-for-profit research organisation. It is anticipated that fellows will establish personal and corporate links between the two sectors in the UK as a foundation for their long-term future development. These appointments are funded by the Royal Society and Rolls Royce. Awards can be for any period up to two years' full-time or pro rata, i.e. could be held at 50% part-time for four years enabling fellows to maintain links with their employing institution more easily.

Fellowships must involve transfer between UK private industry and a UK university or a not-for-profit research organisation. The fellow's basic salary only will be paid during the secondment; the employing institution continues to pay national insurance and pension contributions. Research expenses may be claimed up to the value of £2,000 per year
Applicants can be of any nationality and should be at a stage in their career when they would particularly benefit from establishing or strengthening personal and corporate links between the two sectors. Applicants must also hold:

- a PhD or be of equivalent standing in their profession
- a permanent post in either a UK university, a not-for-profit research organisation* or UK industry.

Applicants are limited to one resubmission, and it should be within one year of the original submission. Subsequent resubmissions will not be eligible.

https://royalsociety.org/grants-schemes-awards/grants/industry-fellowship/

Call closes: 15:00, 17 April 2018

Chan Zuckerberg Initiative - CZI Neurodegeneration Challenge Network
The Chan Zuckerberg Initiative invites applications to join the CZI Neurodegeneration Challenge Network, an interdisciplinary collaborative initiative to increase understanding of the fundamental biology of neurodegenerative disorders. Applications to join the CZI Neurodegeneration Challenge Network are invited through the CZI Ben Barres Early Career Acceleration Awards: a five-year investigator grants for early career academic investigators, with an emphasis on those who are new to the field of neurodegeneration.

https://www.chanzuckerberg.com/science/rfa?utm_source=CZI+Science+Grants&utm_campaign=be63c71e07-
EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2018_02_14&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_54d3511fe0-be63c71e07-47347617&mc_cid=be63c71e07&mc_eid=65bc5db359

Call closes (CZI Ben Barres Early Career Acceleration Awards): 17:00 April 17, 2018 (PST)

INTERREG NWE Targeted Call for Renewable Energy Projects
The Interreg North West Europe Programme has opened a Targeted Call for renewable energy projects.

The Programme is specifically looking for projects with a strong demonstration focus and an implementation phase that actively transfers results to other areas/regions/sectors. Projects are expected to have a strong impact as regards overcoming barriers for and support the uptake of renewable energy solutions and it is expected that projects will ensure that new technologies are adopted in regions and cities, enterprises or other organisations. The roll-out of technologies and solutions should also target regions that are lagging behind in order to reduce disparities within NWE. On this basis, applications for proposed projects with a larger budget than the average budget for currently funded Low Carbon projects will be accepted. A maximum of €50 million is available for the Call. In particular, the Programme is looking for projects that deal with the demonstration, implementation and roll-out of:

- Solutions that increase the share of renewable energies in the production and consumption mix.
- New and emerging renewable energy technologies to make them more cost-efficient and compatible with other primary energy sources’ technologies.
- Storage capacities of renewable energies.
- Hybrid solutions (ie combination of two or more renewable energy technologies) to increase synergies and drive down costs.
- Solutions on new grid technologies at large-scale.
- Solutions to realise carbon free mobility.
- Solutions related to alternative transport fuels (eg 2nd and 3rd generation biofuels).
- Optimised energy management systems (eg flexible generation and consumption as well as storage) to better match demand and supply (like for example Smart City Solutions for residential living and industrial areas).
The Call is open to all the participating countries, including the United Kingdom and Ireland. Projects should bring together partners from at least three different countries (usually more) of which two must be from within the NWE area. Partners can include national, regional and local authorities, universities, R&D agencies, non-profit organisations as well as private partners, including profit-making partners such as SMEs. http://www.nweurope.eu/news-events/latest-news/new-targeted-call-on-renewable-energy/

Call closes: 12:00 (noon) CET, 31 July 2018

**Therapeutic Acceleration Support (TAS) Fund – Call for Applications**

The UCL Therapeutic Acceleration Support (TAS) Fund aims to accelerate the transition from discovery science to the early stages of therapeutic development, by providing responsive and flexible funding to overcome specific “hurdle(s)” in translational progression, allowing projects to position themselves to apply for MRC Developmental Pathway Funding Scheme (DPFS) or similar follow-on funding schemes. This award includes a ring-fenced fund of £75,000 to support projects that address the aims of the Global Challenges Research Fund.

Managed by the Translation Research Office, the TAS fund (total of £1.2M) is supported by the MRC Confidence in Concept scheme, Wellcome Trust Institutional Strategic Support Fund and the three NIHR Biomedical Research Centres (BRC) affiliated with UCL (University College London Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (UCLH) BRC, Great Ormond Street Hospital (GOSH) BRC and Moorfields BRC).

https://www.ucl.ac.uk/translational-research/funding-opps/internal-funding

Call closes: Friday 27th April 2018, 5pm

**ESRC - JPI Urban Europe-NSFC call: Sustainable and liveable cities and urban areas**

In answer to the global urbanisation challenge, NSFC and JPI Urban Europe have agreed to a long-term cooperation under the strategic theme Sustainable Urbanisation in the Context of Economic Transformation and Climate Change. The pilot call is a joint initiative of nine European funding agencies participating in JPI Urban Europe and NSFC in China. Proposals are invited for joint projects under the identified priority themes, addressing key issues where true added value can be gained from collaboration. Projects to this call should address one or more of the following topics:

- Climate change and new urban economies
- Transformation of energy systems and strengthen urban circular economies
- Urban public administration and services innovation
- Urban data management.

The UK component of any consortium will be funded by the ESRC. It is therefore **essential** that the UK component is substantially social science lead. The total funding available in this programme is approximately €9.35M on the European side, across the participating European funding agencies. NSFC will fund the Chinese part of all projects to be funded under this programme.

The ESRC budget for this call is £1,875,000, and it is anticipated that 5-6 projects will be funded with UK components. Please note that the maximum amount available for the UK component on a proposal is £375,000 (approximately €435,000) at 100% full Economic Cost.


Registration deadline: 14.00 CET (Europe) / 16.00 CST (China) 12 April 2018
Submission deadline full proposals: 14.00 CET (Europe) / 20.00 CST (China) 20 June 2018
BBSRC - Machine Learning to Generate New Biological Understanding 2018
Applications should seek to utilise machine learning techniques to derive new biological knowledge in the following areas:
- Machine Learning to elucidate gene function
- New and innovative applications of Machine Learning, including novel application to different types of biological datasets

Effective machine learning requires the development of suitable well described and annotated datasets, at a scale sufficient to train algorithms which is a non-trivial task. All applications within the highlight should clearly describe the development of these datasets, and how they will be subsequently made available to other researchers.
EOIs should be sent by email to the Genomics, Data and Technologies inbox (GDT@BBSRC.ac.uk) by 12:00 on 26 February 2018.
BBSRC recognise the highly interdisciplinary nature of these projects, and welcome projects led by researchers from disciplines other than biosciences. BBSRC also welcome appropriate industry partnerships which may include ‘stand-alone LINK’ awards or Industrial Partnership awards.
https://www.bbsrc.ac.uk/funding/filter/machine-learning-to-generate-new-biological-understanding-2018/
Call closes: 24 April 2018

BBSRC - David Phillips Fellowships
The David Phillips Fellowship (DPF) will provide support for researchers wishing to establish their first independent research group. The DPF will invest in scientists who have shown high potential, can demonstrate that they are on an upward trajectory with clear evidence of strong scientific outputs and leadership qualities, and are aiming to establish their own fully independent programme of research. As such the DPF represents part of our commitment to the supply of highly skilled professional research leaders to the UK.
Awards are for five years, and include personal salary and a significant research support grant to enable fellows to establish their own independent research group. It is expected that up to five fellowships will be awarded, each at a value of up to £1M (80% fEC). Please note: BBSRC will provide funds of up to £1M (80% of the full economic cost). The total costs (100% full economic cost) requested may be up to £1.25M.
In addition to this investment, it is also expected that a substantial demonstration of support for the fellow be made by the host Research Organisation (e.g. in terms of access to facilities and equipment, training, research costs etc.).
Applicants and host organisations should note that value for money is an essential criterion against which fellowship applications will be assessed, alongside excellence and other key criteria. For this competition the reviewers and Research Committee E will be looking for written evidence that the host organisation will contribute significant support, either financially or in-kind support if an award is made.
Proposals can be submitted in any area of science within the BBSRC remit. Applications that are aligned with BBSRC overarching strategic priorities are particularly encourage.
Applications should hold a PhD, but not hold, have held or had the offer of an academic position at Lecturer level (or the equivalent in institutions other than universities).
It is expected that applicants will have at least three years of active postdoctoral research experience prior to February 2018.
http://www.bbsrc.ac.uk/funding/filter/david-phillips/
Call closes: 9 May 2018

EPSRC - International centre-to-centre research collaborations
Up to £15 million is available for this call, and we aim to support 10-15 research consortia.
To be eligible, applicant teams must hold at least one strategic grant from EPSRC or a
portfolio of EPSRC grants of at least £3 million, in each case with grant end dates after 1 May 2018. Full details of the eligibility requirements are given in the Eligibility section in the call document. Please also note that UK applicants may only be named as Investigator (either Principal or Co-Investigator) on one proposal to this call.

In this pilot phase we will consider proposals to collaborate with academic partners based in any country outside the UK.

This call will operate through a two-stage assessment process, with the deadline for outline proposals on 1 May 2018.

This call is the pilot phase for a new EPSRC funding initiative which aims to provide opportunities for leading UK research groups to work in partnership with the best international researchers. The objectives of this call are:

- To enable high-profile, best-with-best international collaborations focused on excellent research with impact.
- To contribute to EPSRC strategy by supporting high-quality research collaborations which align with Balancing Capability research area rationales and address Delivery Plan outcomes and ambitions.
- To further the UK’s strategic needs in international science and innovation partnerships.

For this pilot call we will consider proposals to collaborate with academic partners based in any country outside the UK. Partners may potentially be based in a low- or middle-income country. However, given the funding opportunities currently available through the Newton Fund and Global Challenges Research Fund we do not expect proposals through this call to focus on research primarily relevant to the economic development and welfare of developing nations, i.e., to be compliant with Official Development Assistance guidelines. Otherwise the topic of research is open, subject to being predominantly in EPSRC remit. Partnerships may be proposed to work with one or more overseas partner research organisations (including universities, public sector research organisations and publicly funded research institutes) in one or more countries. Industry engagement is strongly encouraged where appropriate, subject to standard EPSRC funding rules.

https://www.epsrc.ac.uk/funding/calls/international-centre-to-centre-research-collaborations/

Call closes (outlines): 01 May 2018

NERC-MRC-NSFC - Atmospheric Pollution & Human Health in a Developing Megacity Announcement of Opportunity: China phase 2

NERC, the Medical Research Council (MRC) and the National Natural Science Foundation of China (NSFC) currently jointly support a £5.5 million / 30 million yuan research programme on Atmospheric Pollution & Human Health in China (APHH China), with contributions from the Newton Fund in the UK.

The programme is focused on Beijing and aims to increase understanding by undertaking research across the following four themes:

- sources and emissions of urban atmospheric pollution
- processes affecting urban atmospheric pollution
- exposure science and impacts on health
- interventions and solutions to reduce health impacts

This call launches a second phase of the programme, in which NERC and MRC have a budget of £1.1 million (from the Newton Fund). These funds will support UK researchers to work with Chinese collaborators to deliver additional targeted research to exploit and enhance the measurements collected through the programme, and with stakeholders to ensure better and wider utility and impact of the research.
UK funds will support UK researchers, with the expectation that Chinese partners will bring in-kind support at the equivalent level of effort. All applications must be collaborations between UK and Chinese researchers, and be submitted to NERC via Je-S, in English. Only current named participants of the APHH China programme are eligible to submit applications to this call as the lead Principal Investigator, although other expertise outside the current programme may be added as necessary.

http://www.nerc.ac.uk/research/funded/programmes/atmospollution/news/ao-china/

Call closes: 25 April 2018

Matsumae International Foundation Research Fellowship Programme Open to Applications
The Matsumae International Foundation offers research fellowships to provide active young researchers with an opportunity to deepen their understanding of Japan.

Around 20 fellowships are awarded for a period of three to six months, taking place between April 2019 and March 2020. Research proposals in the fields of engineering, medicine and natural science are given priority. Applicants must:

- Be of non-Japanese nationality.
- Hold a PhD or be recognised by MIF as possessing equivalent academic qualifications.
- Be a maximum of 49 years old.
- Be in employment in their home countries, and must return to their countries upon completion of their MIF fellowship tenure.
- Find a host institution prior to applying for the Fellowship.
- Have sufficient conversational ability in English or Japanese.

Successful applicants receive:

- A monthly stipend for research and stay of ¥220,000.
- An overseas travel accident/sickness insurance.
- An economy class return ticket to/from Tokyo.
- ¥120,000 on arrival for initial costs.

http://www.mif-japan.org/fellowship/announcement/?hl=en

Call closes: 31 August 2018

ESRC - Postdoctoral Fellowships
ESRC are pleased to announce the introduction of a Postdoctoral Fellowship (PDF) Scheme aimed at those in the immediately postdoctoral stage of their career, to provide the opportunity to consolidate their PhD through developing publications, their networks, and their research and professional skills.

The call is open to applicants who have completed their PhD at a research organisation that is part of a DTP or CDT and who are within 12 months of completing their PhD. At the submission deadline, the applicant must either have been awarded a PhD or have submitted their thesis and passed their viva voce with minor corrections, with the expectation that the PhD will be awarded by the fellowship start date.

Call specification, FAQs, and application form will be available on the DTP/CDT websites. Each DTP / CDT will peer review the proposals and make funding decisions on behalf of ESRC by June 2018.

The DTPs and CDTs participating in the first round are:

- Cambridge Social Science Doctoral Training Partnership
- Grand Union Doctoral Training Partnership
- The London Interdisciplinary Social Science Doctoral Training Partnership
- LSE Doctoral Training Partnership
- Midlands Graduate School Doctoral Training Partnership
- Northern Ireland and North East Doctoral Training Partnership
- North West Social Science Doctoral Training Partnership
- The South Coast Doctoral Training Partnership
- The South East Network for Social Sciences Doctoral Training Partnership
- South West Doctoral Training Partnership
- UCL, Bloomsbury and East London Doctoral Training Partnership
- Wales Doctoral Training Partnership
- White Rose Social Sciences Doctoral Training Partnership
- Data Analytics and Society Centre for Doctoral Training

http://www.esrc.ac.uk/funding/funding-opportunities/postdoctoral-fellowships/