



Transition from Je-S to the UKRI Funding Service

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The new UKRI Funding Service

- UKRI is changing its platform for applying for research funding, as part of UKRI's Simpler and Better Funding programme
- The new 'UKRI Funding Service' will replace existing systems, including the Joint Electronic Submission (Je-S) system. Ultimately, the new service will support all UKRI funding opportunities, of every type, and from any UKRI organisation.
- Each research council has launched pilots on the new platform, to test how different funding types and new, improved functionality and processes work. There have been 16 pilots so far, with 4 of these currently open.
- UKRI are building core capability first and continuously developing it to address any issues and enhance the service they provide.
- UKRI are now planning the move of Responsive Mode and other schemes across to the new system.

Reducing bureaucracy

Access and Use

- a single front door: opportunities made available through one site and in consistent ways
- more consistent guidance to help applicants at the point of the process where guidance applies
- greater consistency across UKRI opportunities with standardised application questions and assessment criteria

Application

- new layout for applications, structured around questions that relate to assessment criteria
- removing requirements for unnecessary attachments
- an application process that asks only for the information needed to decide on an application
- an application process that asks for information once and uses this information again if needed later in the grant funding journey
- an easier review process as the application questions link more directly to assessment criteria

Standardised responsive mode application questions and assessment criteria

- The new Funding Service will use a digital question and answer format, rather than Case for Support and other attachments. The aim is to provide greater consistency in how ideas are presented, and make it easier for assessors to review those ideas.
- Central to this format is the ‘core question set’, which is a set of questions intended to be generic enough to apply to all councils and nearly all funding opportunity types. These have been developed from question sets and assessment criteria previously used in opportunities across UKRI.
- Some council opportunities will have additional opportunity-specific questions that align with their disciplinary specific requirements.
- The first type of opportunity to reflect these changes will be councils’ standard responsive mode grant opportunities.
- Standard templates and questions will continue to be refined during the transition.

Core responsive mode question set

The vision of the project

- What are you hoping to achieve with your proposed work?

The approach to the project

- How are you going to deliver your proposed work?

The capability of the applicant or applicants and the project team to deliver the project

- Why are you the right individual or team to successfully deliver the proposed work?
- *[This will follow the Resume for Research and Innovation (R4RI) type format. R4RI is a flexible narrative CV template already being used across many funding opportunities that require track record information.]*

The ethical and responsible research and innovation (RRI) considerations of the project

- What are the ethical or RRI implications and issues relating to the proposed work?
- If you do not think that the proposed work raises any ethical or RRI issues, explain why.

Overview of the timeline for the move

- Funding opportunities for all seven research councils will launch in the new Funding Service in increasing numbers throughout 2023.
- Some two-stage calls which are open now may have the outline process in Je-S and the full proposal stage in the Funding Service.
- Each type of opportunity has its own timeline for transition.
- Opportunities which are traditionally 'always open' will remain always open, but with batched rounds.
- From January 2024, all research council opportunities will be launched and managed in the Funding Service.

Responsive mode opportunities

- ‘Always open’ responsive mode opportunities will close on Je-S and reopen on the Funding Service in a planned transition during the first half of 2023.
- When an opportunity closes on Je-S and reopens on the Funding Service it will have revised application questions and assessment criteria. Any application submitted after the switch will need to answer these revised questions.
- When UKRI close an opportunity on Je-S, they will not transfer any applications which are incomplete. This means that if you have not submitted your application in Je-S before the opportunity has closed, you will need to make a fresh submission on the Funding Service.
- Once the opportunity closes in Je-S you will no longer be able to submit applications on Je-S; however, you will be able to see or download your draft applications if you wish.

EPSRC transition

- EPSRC will launch their ‘always open’ opportunities on the Funding Service as rounds with closing dates.
- Applications will only be processed after round deadlines, which means they will aim to reach a decision on applications 6 months after each round closes. This differs from EPSRC’s current model where they process applications when they come in and aim to reach a decision 6 months after submission.
- The round-based application system will be evaluated after the first year.
- Some opportunities will have additional questions [beyond the core question set] due to their specific requirements.
- Initially, EPSRC will ask applicants to submit a single PDF attachment for the ‘vision’ and ‘approach’ sections of the application. Over time they aim to reduce the number of attachments needed as part of the digital application process.
- Next communication point is in March – more detail about reopening of opportunities and any timeline changes

EPSRC ‘Group 1’ opportunities

- For the following ‘group 1’ opportunities: **Standard Grants, New Investigator Awards, Overseas Travel Grants, Network Grants, EPSRC Discipline-Hopping in ICT, EPSRC Working with Overseas Scientists**
- Je-S will be closed to new applications on 30 March 2023
- Between 30 March 2023 and May 2023, applicants will not be able to submit applications to these ‘group 1’ opportunities
 - Pre-announcements for after the switchover will be released via the Funding Finder during this period, with the application details, to continue to allow applicants to work on their proposals
- The Funding Service rounds for ‘group 1’ opportunities will run consecutively. This means that applicants may continue to apply at a time that suits them.
 - [However: reminder that applications will only be processed after round deadlines]

The Funding Service Group 1 Opportunities

Opens in May 2023
and closes on 28th
September 2023

Will follow directly
after Round One until
early 2024

Will follow directly
after Round Two until
Spring 2024

We will review the
round-based application
system after one year.

Applications
for Group 1
Opportunities will
close on Je-S

Applications close
30th March 2023

Round
1

Round
2

Round
3

Review
rounds
...

2023

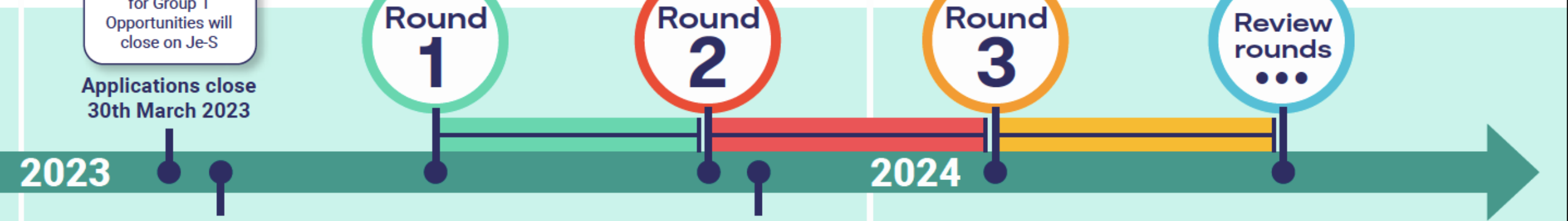
2024

Pre-announcements

EPSRC will publish
pre-announcements on the
Funding Finder.

Review

Reviewers can expect
to start receiving
invitations to review
for Round 1 via the
funding service late
in 2023



EPSRC Fellowship opportunities

- Je-S will be closed to new fellowship applications on 30 March 2023
- Between 30 March 2023 and May 2023, applicants will not be able to submit applications
 - Pre-announcements for after the switchover will be released via the Funding Finder during this period, with the application details, to continue to allow applicants to work on their proposals
- Fellowships will reopen on the Funding Service for 2 rounds per year. These rounds will align with round 1 and round 3 for 'group 1' opportunities. Therefore, round 1 will open in May 2023 and close on 28 September 2023.

Application closure period

- EPSRC highlight that there is only a short period in which they will not be accepting applications for 'group 1' opportunities and fellowships.
- They advise applicants to submit proposals only when they are ready for assessment.
- Higher than expected demand just before these opportunities close on Je-S is likely to impact success rates.

EPSRC other opportunities

- **Strategic Equipment**

- Closes on Je-S on 30 March 2023
- Outlines submitted on Je-S will be assessed at April panel – successful applicants will submit a full proposal in the Funding Service, and will be guided through the transition process by the EPSRC research infrastructure team.
- The opportunity will reopen to outlines in the Funding Service, with the first round of applications closing in late 2023. It will continue to be a 2-stage process.

- **Programme Grants**

- Closes to new outlines on Je-S during week commencing 10 July 2023.
- Outlines submitted on Je-S will be assessed at outline panels in March and September 2023 – successful applicants will submit a full proposal in the Funding Service, and will be guided through the transition process by their EPSRC programme grant contact.
- Programme grants will fully reopen (outlines and full stage) in the Funding Service; a timeline for their reopening will be published at least 8 weeks in advance.

- **Mathematical Small Grants** - will transition to the Funding Service in autumn 2023.

- **Opportunities with closing dates** - applications will either be made via Je-S or the Funding Service.

Other Research Councils

- **AHRC**

- On 29 March 2023: Research grants (early career) and Research development and engagement fellowships will permanently close; Research grants (standard route) and Follow-on funding will temporarily close.
- In June: Research grants (standard route) and Follow-on funding will re-open; Research networking will permanently close.
- In July: new opportunities called Curiosity awards and Catalyst awards will open.

- **BBSRC, MRC, NERC**

- Already have rounds with application deadlines, so fewer changes as they transition across to the Funding Service. However application documentation will change in line with other Councils.

- **ESRC**

- Research Grants and New Investigator Grants will close w/c 1 May 2023.
- Round 1 on the Funding Service will open late May until Autumn 2023, with Round 2 following immediately after until early 2024.

- **STFC** – no equivalent to Responsive Mode, so information on call-by-call basis

Key links and support

- [UKRI - Reducing Research Bureaucracy](#)
 - [UKRI - Pathway for Change](#)
 - [UKRI - Using the New Funding Service](#)
 - [UKRI – Council Transitions to the New Funding Service](#)
 - [UCL Research & Innovation Services update](#)
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- Research & Innovation Services are preparing some training materials and guidance on the new Funding Service
 - If you intend to submit an application before the end of March for calls that might be affected by the transition, please get in touch with your [Pre-Award contact](#).
 - If you would like to discuss further what the changes might mean to a proposal already in development, you can contact us (BEAMS RCO – ovpr.beams@ucl.ac.uk)