

Early Career Academic Opportunities





Talk

- ■ Our structure and strategy
- ■ Mechanisms
- ■ Our website
- ■ Current calls



The Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council

- We are the main UK government agency for funding **Research** and **Training** in **Engineering** and the **Physical Sciences**.
- We invest around **£800 million a year** so the UK will be prepared for the next generation of technological change

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How is funding distributed within EPSRC?

EPSRC and the Government



Strategic Plan 2010



The Strategic Plan established the fundamental values behind our direction, namely that:

- science and engineering drives the global economy;
- science and engineering are key to tackling societal challenges such as energy security, climate change, the ageing population and crime;
- EPSRC is at the heart of those efforts;
- EPSRC generates the **fundamental knowledge** and the **skilled people** essential to business and government and to other research organisations.

We set out three key goals that would guide us: **delivering impact**, **shaping capability**, and **developing leaders**.

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Research Council

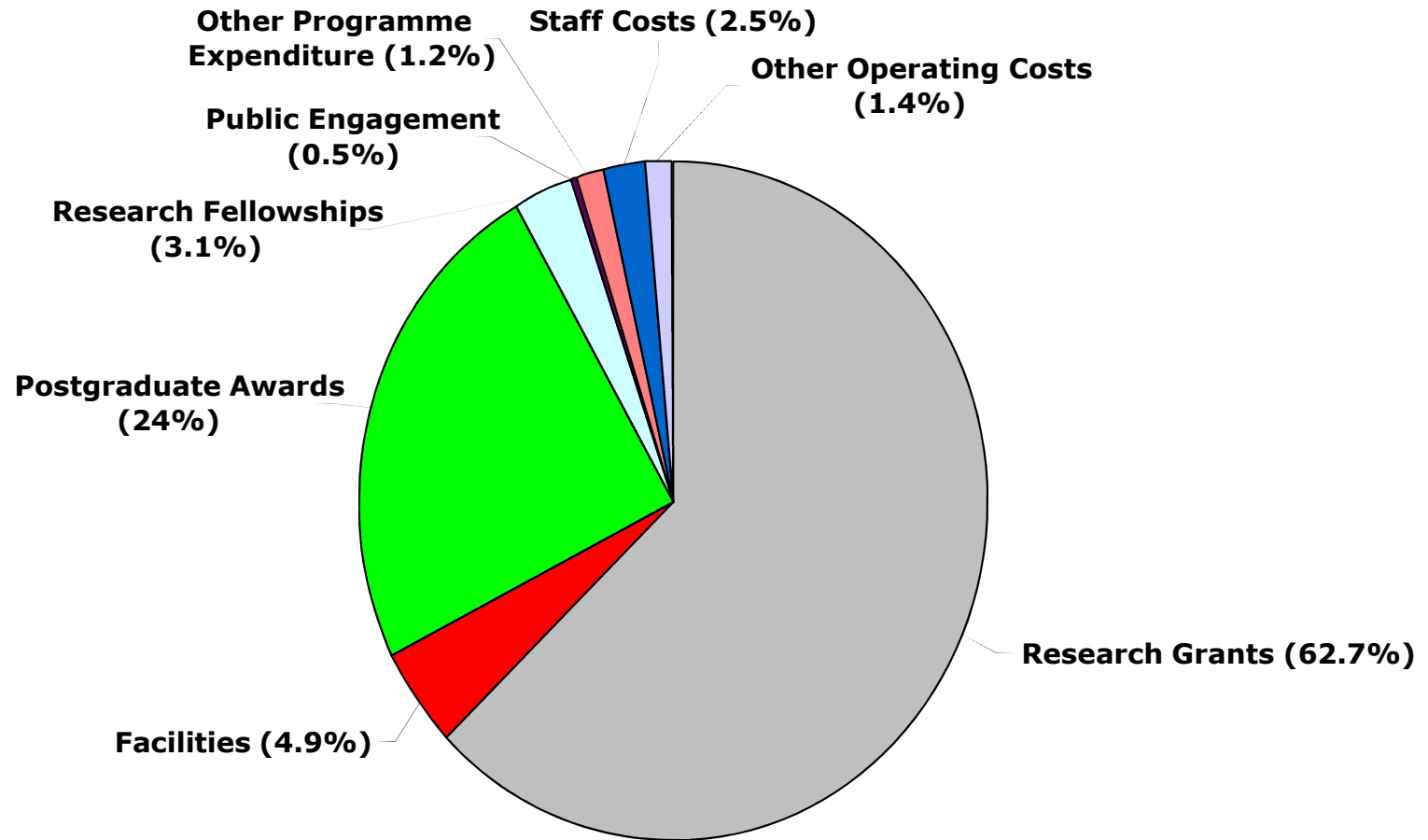


Delivery Plan to 2014/15

- Currently writing our Delivery plan input from Council, TOP and UP;
- Ongoing engagement with stakeholders
- Delivery plan will build on our current directions of travel, but we need to go further in all three strands;
- The next 5 years will be very different to the last 5 years;
- We are in a period of financial constraint with cuts likely internally and externally – a time of transition and uncertainty for the public sector;
- Announcement of Spending Review on 20th October;
- BIS will determine allocations between HEFCE and Research Councils and then between RCs.

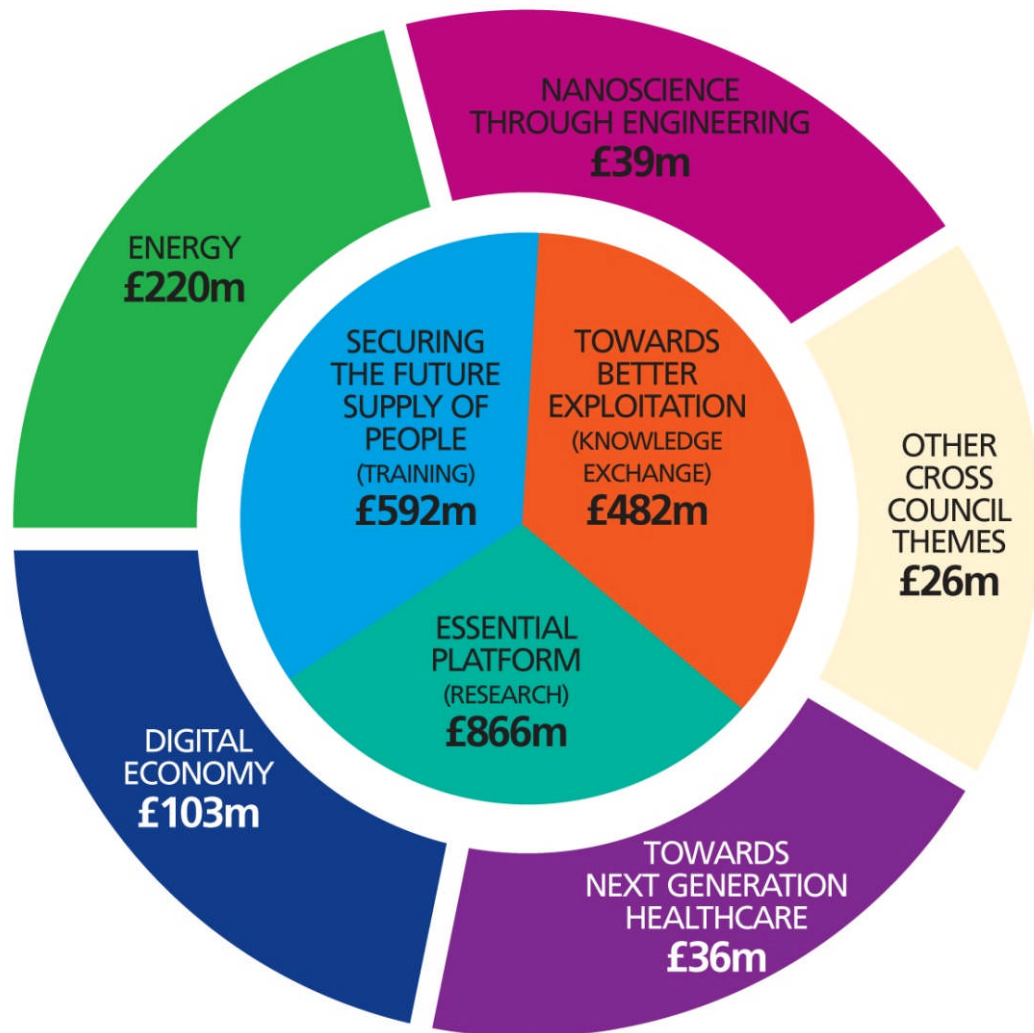


EPSRC expenditure (recent)



How is funding distributed within EPSRC?

EPSRC programmes



Values are commitment 2008 - 2011

ESSENTIAL PLATFORM

- Mathematical sciences
- Cross-disciplinary interfaces
- Public engagement
- **Physical sciences (£90M + £32M)**
- Research infrastructure and international
- Process, Environment and Sustainability
- Materials, Mechanical and Medical engineering
- Information and Communication Technology

How does EPSRC support Early Stage Career Academics?

- Postdoctoral Fellowships

- Career Acceleration Fellowships

- First Grant Scheme

- Responsive Mode

BUT ALSO...

- Royal Society Industry Fellowships

- Daphne Jackson Fellowships

- Postdoctoral Mobility, Visiting Researchers, OTG, etc..

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Other Funding Opportunities

Networks

- Support collaborations in emerging areas

Visiting Fellowships

- Salary and T&S to enable overseas researchers to visit UK groups

Overseas Travel Grants

- T&S for research visits abroad (not for conferences or sabbaticals)

Post-Doctoral Fellowships

- The 2010/2011 scheme took applications in:

Cross-disciplinary interfaces
Mathematical Sciences
Theoretical Physics.

- Up to three years, primarily funding salary costs, travel and subsistence.
- Can be used to change academic institution.
- No nationality or age restrictions, but applicants must have no more than 3 years postdoctoral experience.

June-Sept.
Refs then interview

Career Acceleration Fellowships (CAFs)

- Support for talented individuals at an early stage of their research career.
- **Up to 5 years of funding** with the expectation that fellows will have established an independent career of international standing by the end of the award
- Reserved for early career researchers (3-10 years experience) NOT in a permanent position
- Closing date (outlines): **September/November time**
- Physical Sciences contact: Claire.higlett@epsrc.ac.uk

Process

Applicants are initially asked to put in an outline application, consisting of a 3 page outline case for support, a 2 page up to date CV, and a list of publications.

Outlines will be assessed on

■ The Candidate, The Research, The Research Environment

Outline panels will have reviewers from a range of scientific disciplines, please bear this in mind when preparing your outline proposal.

Those successful at the outline stage will be invited to submit a full application.

Last year we received 692 outline applications, of which 61 were invited to full application, and 23 awarded.

First Grant Scheme

- First application to EPSRC (as PI)
- Assessed in competition with other First Grants
- **Capped at £125k** at full economic cost
- Limited duration of **up to two years**
- Eligibility:
 - Within 36 months of first permanent academic post in the UK
 - Within 10 years of completing your PhD
 - Other criteria available online

First Grant Scheme

- Examples of models of applications received / funded / discussed:
 - 2 yrs, 25% PI time, consumables and travel
 - 18 months, 5% PI time, PDRA, travel
 - 2yrs, 20% PI time, 2 yr PDRA (1 yr on grant, 1 yr contribution by University), consumables, travel
 - Portion of PI time, equipment and consumables, highlighting benefits to DTA students in Impact Plan
 - 2 yrs, 25% PI time, consumables, travel, using DTA student as a resource on the grant – must speak to EPSRC first...

Assessment Criteria for First Grants

Peer Review is asked to assess the proposal based on:

- Quality
- Impact
- Ability to Deliver
- Resources and Management
- Research Independence
- Level of University Support

These criteria are the points which form the basis of the reviewer form and panel assessment.



Use of Students on First Grants

Due to the duration limit on First Grants applicants may no longer apply for a studentship on a First Grant, nor may applicants request funding for part of a studentship.

However if your university allocates you a DTA studentship from their allowance then you may be able to use that individual to help with the work on the grant.

You may **not** request funding for the students fees or stipend, nor may you ask for standard resources or travel which come as part of the DTA. You should speak with EPSRC before including costs related to the student on the grant.

Additionally applicant should discuss with EPSRC the plans for the student, so that we are assured that the student should not suffer should the First Grant not be awarded, and that the time on the First Grant fully integrates into their 3+ year PhD.

EPSRC First Grants Contacts

Physical Sciences

Amanda Howes

Scheme Owner

Jonathan Williams

firstname.surname@epsrc.ac.uk

[http://www.epsrc.ac.uk/ResearchFunding/Opportunities/NewAcademics/
FirstGrant](http://www.epsrc.ac.uk/ResearchFunding/Opportunities/NewAcademics/FirstGrant)

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Responsive Mode

- No limits on duration or resource
- Panels meet 5 times a year
- Primary criterion is Research Quality

1) Apply for what you need

2) Justify it!

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Grants on the web (GoW), Centres & networks...

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Invitations to submit evidence to reviews

International Review of Mathematical Sciences 2010

EPSRC is conducting an International Review of Mathematical Sciences to be held in December 2010. We are keen to hear the views of the widest possible audience, and would welcome **submissions of evidence** from any person or organisation not approached directly.

EPSRC review of the chemistry/chemical engineering interface

Careers

Contact us

Funding links

Funding guide

How to apply

Calls for proposals

Grants on the Web (GoW)

Joint electronic submission (Je-S)

Proposal progress checker

EPSRC Remit

Remit query service

Email alert, RSS feeds

Current Calls for Proposals

■ Lifelong Health and Wellbeing phase 3 - pilot studies

LLHW is a major cross-council initiative supporting multi-disciplinary research addressing factors across the life course that influence healthy ageing and wellbeing in later life.

Closing date: 15 September 2010

■ HPC Software Development Call 2010/11

This call invites proposals for High Performance Computing (HPC) software development to enable science and engineering. Funding in this area will be provided through a two stage process.

Closing date: 15 September 2010

■ Promoting Engineering and Physical Sciences and Economic and Social Sciences collaboration

Discipline Hopping: closing date: **16 September 2010**

Research proposals closing date: **12 October 2010**

■ Novel Technologies

Generic novel technology research is a priority for the Cross-disciplinary interfaces programme at EPSRC.

Closing Date: 24 November 2010

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Signposting...

- Used to highlight priority research areas in responsive mode
- Ranking on a **separate list** at panel meetings and **tensioned vs Responsive Mode** list
- Signposts identified in many ways – needs agreement from Strategic Advisory Team (SAT)

Physical Sciences signposting

Physical Sciences Signposts: opportunities for materials/physics

■ Matter far from equilibrium

Contact: Cora O'Reilly

■ Control of self assembly

Contact: Claire Higlett

NSF Calls



NSF/EPSCRC Materials Proposals Call 2010

Call for proposals: EPSCRC is participating in the 2010 call by the NSF, "Materials World Network: Cooperative Activity in Materials Research between US Investigators and their Counterparts Abroad (MWN)".

Closing Date: 10 November 2010

Remit: NSF and EPSCRC's.

Contact: Natalie Stear

NSF/EPSCRC Chemistry Proposals 2010

Call for proposals: The Physical Sciences Programme of EPSCRC is participating in the 2010 solicitation by the National Science Foundation (NSF) entitled: "International Collaboration in Chemistry between US Investigators and their Counterparts Abroad (ICC)".

Closing Date: 05 November 2010

Remit: NSF and Physical Sciences

Contact: Clare Bumphrey

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Feedback events/surveys

EPSRC review of the chemistry/chemical engineering interface

- Review of Chemistry and Chemical Engineering interface
- Survey of Physics Grand challenges

For more information and advice...

■ **Talk to us!**

ResearchFunding/Programmes/PhysSci/contacts.htm

■ **The EPSRC Funding Guide:**

ResearchFunding/HowToApply/FundingGuide.htm

■ **Grants on the Web:** <http://gow.epsrc.ac.uk/>

■ **Strategic Advisory Team (SAT):**

ResearchFunding/Programmes/PhysSci/SAT.htm

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Thank you

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