LES Fellowships Cohort Session 2
Person, Project, Place
EPSRC/NERC/Royal Society

Jen Jennings
Research Support Partner
Jason Hutton
Research Facilitator GEES
In this session

- Remit of Funder
- Person, Place and Project
- What makes a “good” Fellowship application
EPSRC Fellowship framework

- Linked to strategic priorities and shaping
- Work with Universities to identify strong candidates
- Specify desired qualities, experience, achievements or attributes and provide flexible support.
- Focusses support on those who have the most potential
- Encouraging ambition, mobility and exposure to creative techniques.
EPSRC Fellowships

- Allows for variations of career paths:
  - No eligibility rules based on years of post-doc experience, instead have a person specification & competency based

- No pre/post-appointment distinction

- Flexibility in the amount of time a fellow dedicates to their research enables the option of maintaining teaching or other duties within the department, and accommodates other commitments.

- Suite of resource packages to facilitate linkage with the best, creativity, while allowing building of a group. Operated through an open call – **NO DEADLINES!**
Expectations of institutions

- Universities take ownership for pre-selecting candidates against the specification
- Accord fellows equivalent status to academic staff
- Adequate office and lab space
- A mentor where appropriate
- Suitable career development procedures to support transitioning to next career stage
NERC IFR

- Competition run yearly
- ~14 per year
- Cover entire NERC remit
- Funding for 5 years
- Maximum of 8 years post-doc experience
- No internal selection process
Royal Society URF

- Annual competition – next round opens July 2017
- ~35 Fellows funded/year
- All areas of life and physical sciences including engineering
- Applicants must have between 3 to 8 years of research experience (at closing date)
- Applicants must not hold a permanent post in a university
What can you apply for?

Funders particularly encourage applicants to request resources which will allow them to:

- Build international research collaborations
- Move across disciplines and stimulate innovative approaches to collaborative research between and across disciplines.
- Link with the best, either in an academic or industrial setting
- Maximise their creative potential.
- Engage with the public/media.
- Undertake training and skills development.
# EPSRC resources

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RESOURCE PACKAGE</th>
<th>POSTDOCTORAL</th>
<th>EARLY CAREER</th>
<th>ESTABLISHED CAREER</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Duration</td>
<td>Up to 3 years</td>
<td>Up to 5 years</td>
<td>Up to 5 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salary</td>
<td>Up to 100%</td>
<td>Up to 100%</td>
<td>Up to 100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Travel and Subsistence</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staff</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visiting Researchers</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Equipment</td>
<td>Items costing less than £10,000 (incl. VAT), see <a href="#">DI costs</a> under ‘other costs’</td>
<td>Yes- in line with current <a href="#">EPSRC Equipment guidance</a></td>
<td>Yes- in line with current <a href="#">EPSRC Equipment guidance</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Consumables</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Communication Training</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
NERC resources

- There are no funding limits for IRF proposals, but the fellowship applicant must be the only named researcher on the proposal.
- No equipment can be requested.
- NERC IRFs must be 100% funded through NERC and cannot therefore be co-funded by another Research Council. All applicants should ensure that the majority of the work proposed within their fellowship application is within NERC remit.
RS URF Resources

- The URF will cover (at 80% FEC) the cost of your salary (up to £39,708 in first year) and estates and indirects.
- You will also be provided with Research Expenses of £13,000 in the first year and £11,000p/y thereafter. These can be used to cover:
  - Travel (only up to 50% of total can be travel)
  - Consumables
  - Equipment
  - Access fees
  - Software licences etc.
Who can apply?

- In groups of 2-3 draw a representation of a good leader!

10mins
Who are leaders?

- Spectrum of leadership behaviours:
  - from the **visionary** thinker who can set and drive research agendas and lead research communities
  - to the **inspirational** team leader who can nurture and build the cross-disciplinary teams required to tackle the major global challenges we face

- Leaders will need to demonstrate:
  - Research **excellence** and **international** standing
  - **Setting** the research agenda
  - Strategic **vision**
  - **Profile** and influence
  - Ability to lead and **inspire**
  - Excellent **communication** and **engagement** skills
Where do you want to be in 20 years?

- Spend 5 minutes thinking about this as an individual, and write down your goal.
Why did I ask you silly questions about leadership and your career plan?

Any ideas?
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ATTRIBUTE</th>
<th>POST-DOCTORAL</th>
<th>EARLY CAREER</th>
<th>ESTABLISHED CAREER</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Research Excellence</td>
<td>Delivery of outstanding research and an indication of where the research contributes to delivering impact. Awareness of the international context of the research.</td>
<td>Has a track record of outstanding research and in delivering impact. Shows a strong awareness of the international context of the research and starting to show evidence of recognition in the community on an international scale.</td>
<td>Has a track record of outstanding research and in delivering impact. Evidence of international standing and influence in the context of the research and shows evidence of recognition in the community on an international scale.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Setting the research agenda</td>
<td>Has a clear vision of the contribution the applicant can make to their research area. Evidence of independence of (research) ideas.</td>
<td>Evidence of showing leadership within the research community and evidence of pushing the boundaries of the research area.</td>
<td>Demonstration of leadership within the research community and evidence of pushing the boundaries of the research area.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strategic Vision</td>
<td>Shows an awareness of different research in other fields or across technology readiness levels, an aspiration to work across boundaries and/or to conduct high risk research and finding a network of independent contacts so that the applicant is getting positioned to do this.</td>
<td>Has some experience in identifying, exploring and developing research opportunities more broadly and across different interfaces. An awareness of how to position themselves to take up these opportunities and an ability to make decisions to deliver this vision.</td>
<td>An aptitude for identifying, exploring and developing research opportunities more broadly and across different interfaces. Can demonstrate where they have positioned themselves to take up these opportunities and has the ability to make decisions to deliver this vision.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Profile and Influence</td>
<td>Not strongly applicable at this career stage.</td>
<td>Shows potential and aptitude to act as an ambassador and advocate for a research field/theme and for research in general. Advising and influencing into policy making.</td>
<td>Evidence of acting as an ambassador and advocate for a research field/theme and for research in general. Advising and influencing into policy making.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inspirational Team leader</td>
<td>Can provide evidence of an aptitude to lead and inspire for example, through mentoring or self organisation of peers.</td>
<td>Has ability to lead and inspire their own research team. Ability to identify and maximise potential in others (or get the best out of people).</td>
<td>Ability to lead and inspire. Ability to identify and maximise potential in others (or get the best out of people).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communication and engagement skills</td>
<td>Demonstrates excellent communications and interpersonal skills and aspires to develop these across a broad audience.</td>
<td>Demonstrates excellent communications and interpersonal skills and aspires to develop these further across a broad audience.</td>
<td>Possesses excellent communications and interpersonal skills</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Are you an ideal candidate?

- Do you have the ambition of building a team around you to deliver your research vision? Do you have a plan about how to do this?
- Do you want to commit a significant amount of time to an ambitious research project of your own determination?
- Do you work flexibly? Might you be able to use a flexible award to work differently and create a step change in your career?
- Do you want to maintain other institutional commitments whilst focussing on your research?
- Would you be interested in doing more public engagement activities to communicate your science to a wider audience?
Most scientists regarded the new streamlined peer-review process as ‘quite an improvement.’
Internal support and processes

Submission

Peer Review

Remit check

Reject

Prioritisation panel

Reject

Interview panel

Reject

Success!
What are reviewers/panel members looking for?

Ideas?
What are reviewers/panel members looking for?

- Research Quality
- The candidate (including qualities and experience)
- Importance
- The Research Environment
- Impact
- Resources and Management
- Fit to Strategic Priorities
# The 3 P’s

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Person</th>
<th>Project</th>
<th>Place</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Track record</td>
<td>Realistic</td>
<td>Facilities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Previous research</td>
<td>Novel</td>
<td>Track record</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Publications</td>
<td>Timely</td>
<td>Academic environment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conference presentations</td>
<td>Good value</td>
<td>Strategic fit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Qualifications</td>
<td>Pilot data</td>
<td>Collaborations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Collaboration</td>
<td>Well planned</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Potential value of results</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
What does success look like?

- Important, interesting science
- Show training opportunities
- Show you are a leader in the field
  - build it on your best publications
- Relevance of the work to mission/priority areas
- Novel, innovative, international, feasible
- Intelligent to non-expert, clear hypothesis
- Show preliminary data, include figures
- If interdisciplinary ensure you have key people and show complementary expertise
- Show commercial/medical/policy application and interest
Why will a proposal fail?

- Unfocused, overambitious
- Unoriginal, pedestrian approach
- No clear hypothesis
- Methodology not sufficiently detailed
- Project not intellectually challenging
- No international standing in research area
- Lack of infrastructure/facilities
- Training element incomplete/unclear; poor training environment
- Right person - wrong project! And vice versa!!
Examples of successful application – Homework!

- Take some time to look at the examples of successful applications that have been provided in your pack.
- How does your track record stack up?
- What qualities are common?
Useful sources of information

- The RSO Fellowship Portal
- EPSRC Person Specification
- EPSRC areas
- NERC IRF pages
- RS URF
- MRC Fellowships guide
## Session 2: Agenda

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Session</th>
<th>Speaker</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9.30am</td>
<td>Tea, coffee, biscuits</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.45am</td>
<td>Outline of the second session</td>
<td>Jen Jennings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.00am</td>
<td>Funder specific breakout groups</td>
<td>EPSRC/NERC: Jen Jennings/Jason Hutton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>BBSRC/Wellcome Trust: Ipshita Ghose</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>ESRC/Leverhulme: Helen Lambert</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.15am</td>
<td>Tea, coffee, biscuits</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.30am</td>
<td>Pathways to Impact</td>
<td>Jen Jennings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.50am</td>
<td>Public Engagement</td>
<td>Caroline Gillet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.10pm</td>
<td>Justification of Resources</td>
<td>Jason Hutton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.30pm</td>
<td>Data Management</td>
<td>Patricia Herterich</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.45pm</td>
<td>Lunch and networking</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.30pm</td>
<td>End</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Questions?