

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

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



# 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?

- o 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?



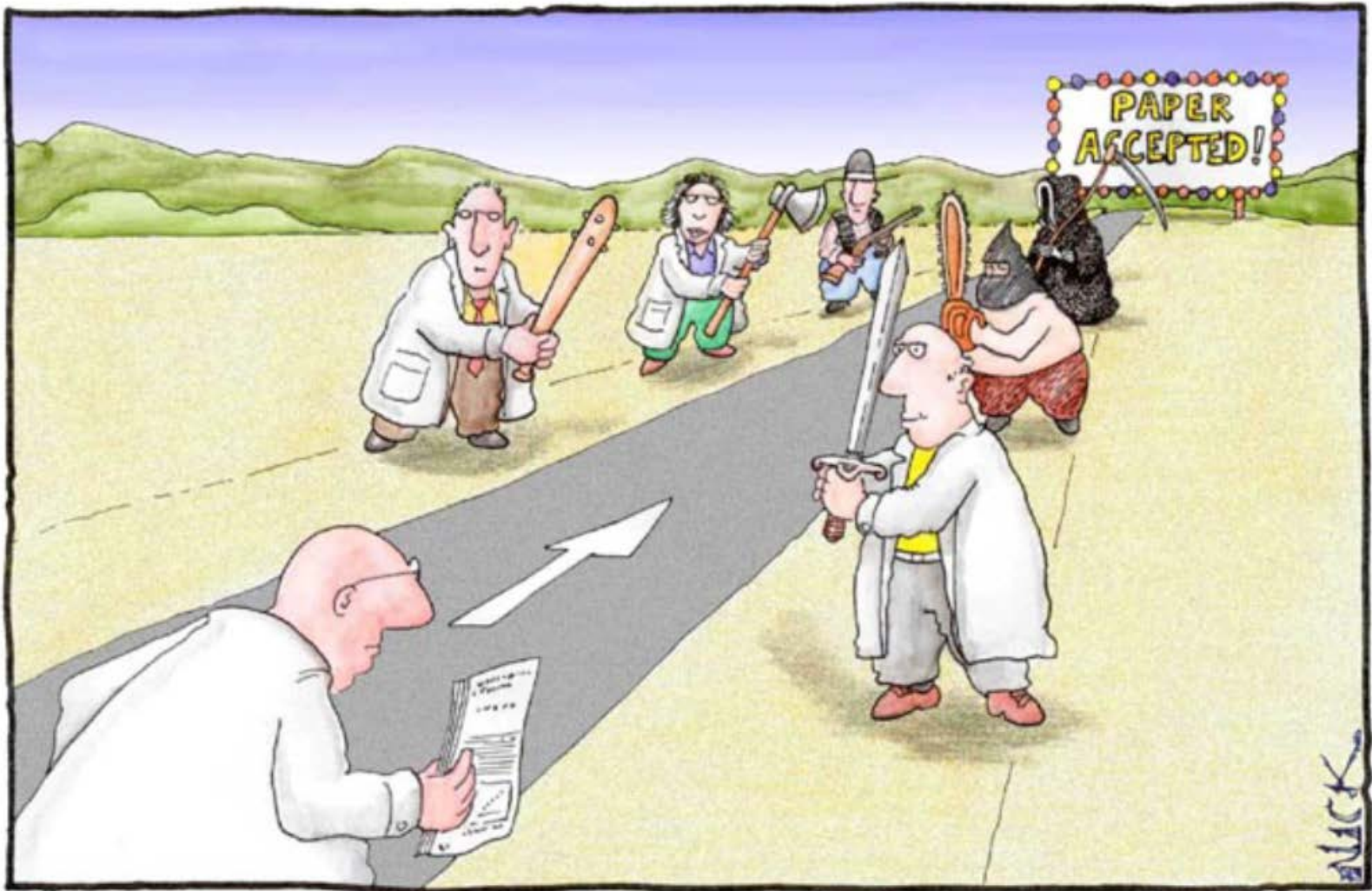
ATTRIBUTE	POST-DOCTORAL	EARLY CAREER	ESTABLISHED CAREER
Research Excellence	Delivery of outstanding research and an indication of where the research contributes to delivering impact. Awareness of the international context of the research.	Has a track record of outstanding research and in delivering impact. 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.	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.
Setting the research agenda	Has a clear vision of the contribution the applicant can make to their research area. Evidence of independence of (research) ideas.	Evidence of showing leadership within the research community and evidence of pushing the boundaries of the research area.	Demonstration of leadership within the research community and evidence of pushing the boundaries of the research area.
Strategic Vision	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.	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.	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.
Profile and Influence	Not strongly applicable at this career stage.	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.	Evidence of acting as an ambassador and advocate for a research field/theme and for research in general. Advising and influencing into policy making.
Inspirational Team leader	Can provide evidence of an aptitude to lead and inspire for example, through mentoring or self organisation of peers.	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).	Ability to lead and inspire. Ability to identify and maximise potential in others (or get the best out of people).
Communication and engagement skills	Demonstrates excellent communications and interpersonal skills and aspires to develop these across a broad audience.	Demonstrates excellent communications and interpersonal skills and aspires to develop these further across a broad audience.	Possesses excellent communications and interpersonal skills





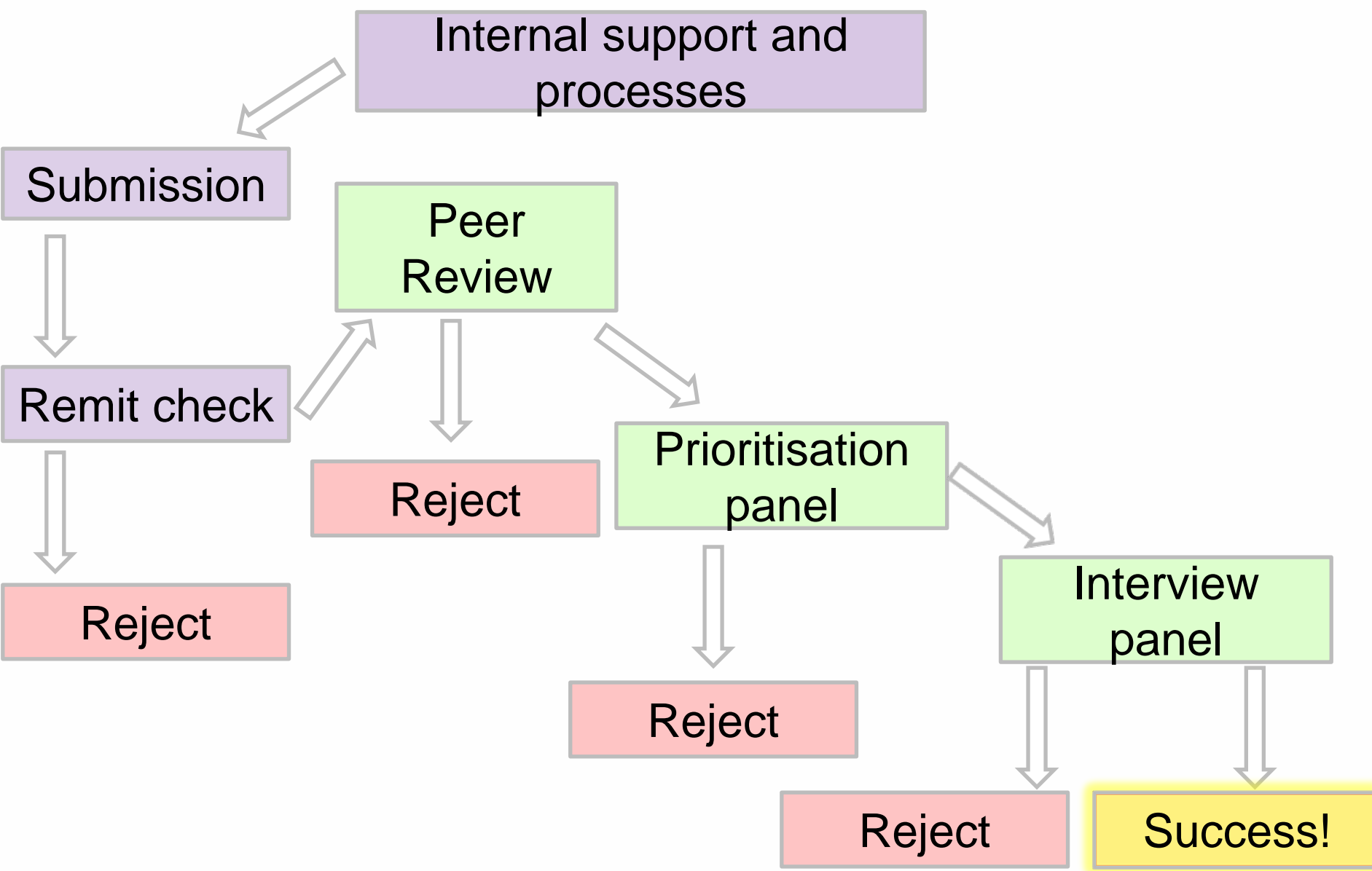
# Are you an ideal candidate?

- 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.'

TYOF  
BIRMINGHAM



# 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

## Person

- Track record
- Previous research
- Publications
- Conference presentations
- Qualifications
- Collaboration

## Project

- Realistic
- Novel
- Timely
- Good value
- Pilot data
- Well planned
- Potential value of results

## Place

- Facilities
- Track record
- Academic environment
- Strategic fit
- Collaborations

# 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

- o The RSO Fellowship Portal
- o EPSRC Person Specification
- o EPSRC areas
- o NERC IRF pages
- o RS URF
- o MRC Fellowships guide

# Session 2: Agenda

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

# Questions?