Early Career Researchers Event (Maths Dept.) 2020

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Outline of session

• Things to think about when applying for research funding
• The funding landscape and examples of schemes for Early Career Researchers
• How to maximise your chances of success in applying for research funding
• Developing your own research funding strategy – action plan
Why do you want funding?

- To build collaborations, networks, learn new techniques
- To go to conferences
- Studentships
- Exchanges/visiting fellowships
- Pilot studies
- Research grants (including postdocs, RAs, technicians etc)
- Collaborative grants
- Fellowships (personal or someone to work with you)
Getting Started: Before you start writing!

- Planning and strategy
- Know your subject
- Know your funder
- Talk to colleagues
- Preparation and presentation
Getting Started: Planning and strategy

- Consider the stage your work is at... preliminary data etc.
- Build a track record
- New researchers – special schemes
- Collaborate with colleagues
- Be realistic in your request
- Be aware of other schemes
- Know the success rates
- Have a plan B!
Getting Started: Know your subject

- High scientific quality – a given
- Be aware of the value/position of your work
- Are your techniques proven?
- Impact
- Consider lay readers
- Know your audience
Getting Started: Know your funder

- Overall aims and objectives
- Strategic priorities
- Who will assess your proposal?
- What’s been funded so far?
- Become an evaluator!
SOURCES OF FUNDING

UKRI: ESRC; EPSRC; BBSRC; MRC; AHRC

NIHR

UK Government (eg KTP)

Industry (research contracts, PhDs)

Professional bodies & Societies

British Academy

Charities: medical & other

Leverhulme Trust

Royal Society

Royal Academy of Engineering

European: H2020; Marie Curie; ERC; COST

Other International (eg HFSP; NIH)
UK Early Career Opportunities

FELLOWSHIPS
- Research Councils
- British Academy
- Royal Society
- Leverhulme Trust
- Wellcome Trust
- Daphne Jackson Trust
- AXA fellowships

RESEARCH GRANTS FOR EARLY CAREER RESEARCHERS
- Research Council First Grants / New Investigator Grants

NETWORKING & EXCHANGES
- Research Councils
- Royal Society
- British Academy
- Leverhulme

OTHER
- Vacation scholarships
- BA Small grants
- Charity Small / Pilot grants
- Seminars & Travel

PRIZES
- Phillip Leverhulme Prize
- Lister Research Prizes
- Other…
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scheme Name</th>
<th>Years post PhD</th>
<th>Max Length of Award</th>
<th>Budget</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EPSRC Postdoctoral Fellowship</td>
<td>No limit but need to be early</td>
<td>Up to 3 years</td>
<td>No limit but includes salary, consumables, travel etc. as normal</td>
<td><a href="https://epsrc.ukri.org/files/funding/calls/fellowship-application-guide/">https://epsrc.ukri.org/files/funding/calls/fellowship-application-guide/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EPSRC New Investigator Scheme</td>
<td>No limit - applicants must not have held substantial grant before</td>
<td>No limit but recommended 2-4 years</td>
<td>No limit but recommended ca. £200 - 300k</td>
<td><a href="https://epsrc.ukri.org/funding/applicationprocess/routes/newac/nia/">https://epsrc.ukri.org/funding/applicationprocess/routes/newac/nia/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EPSRC early career fellowship</td>
<td>No limit but need to be an experienced ECR</td>
<td>Up to 5 years</td>
<td>No limit but includes salary, consumables, travel etc. as normal</td>
<td><a href="https://epsrc.ukri.org/files/funding/calls/fellowship-application-guide/">https://epsrc.ukri.org/files/funding/calls/fellowship-application-guide/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RAENg research fellowships</td>
<td>Within 4 years</td>
<td>5 years</td>
<td>£500k</td>
<td><a href="https://www.raeng.org.uk/grants-and-prizes/grants/support-for-research/raeng-research-fellowship">https://www.raeng.org.uk/grants-and-prizes/grants/support-for-research/raeng-research-fellowship</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leverhulme Early Career Fellowship</td>
<td>No limit but need to be early</td>
<td>3 years</td>
<td>50% salary to £25k + £6k expenses (p.a)</td>
<td><a href="https://www.leverhulme.ac.uk/early-career-fellowships">https://www.leverhulme.ac.uk/early-career-fellowships</a></td>
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Some ECR Schemes for Engineering and Physical Sciences, CONTD…

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<td>Royal Society URF (University Research Fellowships)</td>
<td>at least 3 years active postdoctoral experience prior to application</td>
<td>Up to 5 years</td>
<td>Up to £1M</td>
<td><a href="https://bbsrc.ukri.org/funding/filter/david-phillips/">https://bbsrc.ukri.org/funding/filter/david-phillips/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Royal Society Dorothy Hodgkin Fellowship</td>
<td>Not more than six years of actual research experience since their PhD; suitable for caring responsibilities.</td>
<td>Up to 5 years</td>
<td>research fellow’s salary costs, estates costs and indirect costs + research assistance + equipment</td>
<td><a href="https://royalsociety.org/grants-schemes-awards/grants/dorothy-hodgkin-fellowship/">https://royalsociety.org/grants-schemes-awards/grants/dorothy-hodgkin-fellowship/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daphne Jackson Trust fellowship</td>
<td>A career break of at least two years’ duration and a PhD, or at least three years research experience (academic or industrial) prior to the career break</td>
<td>2-3 years (depending on the sponsorship)</td>
<td>research fellow’s salary costs, research costs, training costs etc.</td>
<td><a href="https://daphnejackson.org/about-fellowships/current-opportunities/">https://daphnejackson.org/about-fellowships/current-opportunities/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BBSRC New Investigator</td>
<td>must not have received competitive research funding as a PI.</td>
<td>None specified but 2-3 years expected</td>
<td>No limit</td>
<td><a href="https://bbsrc.ukri.org/funding/filter/new-investigator/">https://bbsrc.ukri.org/funding/filter/new-investigator/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wellcome Trust Henry Dale Fellowships</td>
<td>already driving your own research and you’re ready to lead an independent research programme</td>
<td>Up to 5 yrs</td>
<td>Salary and research expenses</td>
<td><a href="https://wellcome.ac.uk/funding/schemes/sir-henry-dale-fellowships">https://wellcome.ac.uk/funding/schemes/sir-henry-dale-fellowships</a></td>
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Other funding sources (Charities and Learned societies)

• London Mathematical Society, [https://www.lms.ac.uk/](https://www.lms.ac.uk/): Research grants, Early career grants, Awards, Prizes

• BSRLM (British Society for Research into Learning Mathematics), [https://bsrlm.org.uk/](https://bsrlm.org.uk/): Leone Burton Fund, Janet Duffin Fund, Award and Lecture

• Institute of Mathematics and its applications (IMA), [https://ima.org.uk/](https://ima.org.uk/): Medals and Awards

• British Society for the History of Mathematics, [https://www.bshm.ac.uk/](https://www.bshm.ac.uk/)
Getting Started: Consult with colleagues

• Experienced reviewers
• Experienced applicants
• Discuss with your supervisor or line manager
• Early contact with RKE (your SFM: Dr Purbani Chakrabarti)
Please tell us…

1. When you are considering applying to a call
   • We can check you fit the criteria
   • Some calls allow a limited number of applications from the host institution. We can point you in the direction of academics who are already applying, if you would like to collaborate instead

2. When you have decided to apply for a call, so we can start to look at costings with Finance team

3. If you are collaborating with other institutions
   • Let us know who is leading the project
   • The length and amount of time external collaborating academics will spend on the project
Before submitting…

1. Ensure your proposal is peer reviewed internally by your peers
   • This is a chance to strengthen your proposal and increase your chances of success
   • We require evidence of this peer review to complete sign off for your application

2. Let the SFM and Finance know about your project and requirement of costing
   • Finance, RKE and School will need to sign off your project before submission
   • It is important they support the bid and are aware of any school commitments
Getting Started: Preparation and presentation

- Allow plenty of time!
- Read the form and guidance: format, font size, page limits
- Check eligibility: PI, RA etc.
- Consider all parts of the application form
- Start with a one page summary
- Presentation/writing style (grantsmanship – communicating your idea in a saleable way) is important
Reviewers will be asking:

- Why fund you? – track record
- Why fund this project/concept? – research excellence/novelty
- Why now? - timeliness
• Where do you want your research to be in (5) years time?

Planning ahead

– Stepping stones to achieve target
Planning ahead

Current Projects

TARGET

STRATEGY

5 years

Aston University
Planning your Strategy → “APPLICATIONS”

5 years

Charity fellowship
Charity project grant
RCUK research grant (first grant)
Early career fellowship
A BIG responsive mode grant
Charity pilot
Travel grants
Charity stipend
Planning your Strategy – *an alternative*

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Research Strands/Projects</th>
<th>What is required to move project forward?</th>
<th>Sources of funding and deadlines?</th>
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<tbody>
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<td></td>
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<td>Option 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
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<td>Option 2</td>
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<td>3</td>
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FINALLY…

• Review your plan

• Look out for new / changing opportunities

– ANY QUESTIONS?