

THE UNIVERSITY *of York*



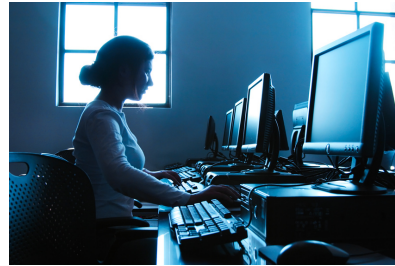
Your EPSRC First Grant Application

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- Aim to establish new academics as researchers, providing pump priming funding (£125k FEC – EPSRC contribute £100k) for a small project.



- Be within 36 months of your first academic lecturing appointment in a UK university (and < 10 years post PhD), or the probation period of your new appointment.
- One-shot, and, if you are eligible, you would be nuts not to try for one.
- But then you can get on with the rest of your life, and, in particular, with that second grant application.



Cannot request PhD Student Funding (even part-funded)

You have a fixed term contract.

Co-investigator allowed?

Employed previously at other University

CI on another grant.

Can use DTA, but cannot charge anything to this grant

OK, but it must extend beyond First Grant.

Yes, but only if from a different discipline

OK, but clock starts from the date employed there.

Not a problem. The FG needs this to be the first EPSRC app **as PI**.

Allowance can be made for career breaks etc. Done on a case-by-case basis. Contact EPSRC to discuss.



Ineligible if.....

You have worked in another country and held grants from an organisation equivalent to EPSRC.

If have held any of :

Bridging the Gaps
Department for Trade and Industry (DTI) Tech grants
Assisted Living Innovation Platform
Research Assessment Exercise (RAE) / EPSRC Fellowships

Still eligible if.....

Industrial CASE Studentship
Overseas Travel Grant
Basic Tech Grant, Partnerships for Public Engagement (PPE) Grant
EPSRC Studentship (FTA/CDT)
Workshop Grant
Organic Synthesis Studentship
RCUK Fellowship

OK if you applied as a PI to other Research Councils, or have submitted Outline proposals to EPSRC which have not been invited to the full proposal stage.



Criteria for FG Assessment

Quality

*National
Importance*

Impact

*Support from
University*

*Ability to
Deliver*

*Research
Independence*

*Resources and
Management*

Refer to assessment forms for details.

Much as for usual applications but note **Independence** and **Support from University**



Institutional Support Statement

Fit with Departmental strategy?



OK, so what exactly are your Department's strategic priorities?

Mentoring, training and development given and planned?

Yes, you do have them: ask to see your REF 2013 Environment Statement.

The appraisal process for this proposal and support in its development?

Priorities may have changed since November 2013

Demonstration of ability to manage resources?

How does your research fit into them

Support if grant is successful?

What if you don't have any formal strategic objectives?

- Use implicit ones, e.g. it has been our policy to maintain a critical mass of X (if this is evidenced by behaviour on appointments)



Institutional Support Statement

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The appraisal process for this proposal and support in its development?

Demonstration of ability to manage resources?

Support if grant is successful?



Do you have a mentor?

- If not, this is easily fixed, get one! They could help with your proposal.
- Does your university sign up to “The Concordat for early career researchers”? Or related training frameworks (Vitae)

What training opportunities are available within your Department or given centrally by the University?

- Some academics have a rather Neanderthal view of training.
- But “the centre” is often more enlightened than the edges.
- Find out and use what is available, irrespective of your first grant!



Institutional Support Statement

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Looking for evidence of induction into quality grant writing.

How was it developed?

- **IDEAS MUST BE YOURS!**
- Guidance on presentation, grant proposal process and requirements etc is fine.
- Significant review is great too. (**EPSRC would like ALL proposals reviewed so**)

How was it reviewed?

- Senior staff? Head of research, research group leader, and further reviews from group? Researcher outside your research group? Additional review by academics in your field but at another University? Industrial collaborators?



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What resource management experience have you had?

Manage PhD students?

Previous grants (of whatever kind) elsewhere? Smaller grants from within the University?

Management responsibilities generally, particularly if involving managing people. Organisational responsibilities, e.g. budget holder for workshops etc.

If you have turned UG/MSc projects into papers, say so!

Really trying to indicate your ability to turn resources into value.





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This is important....

You are an **EARLY CAREER RESEARCHER NOT A TEACHING & ADMIN WORKHORSE.**

ECRs often given reduced T&A, e.g. building up to full load after third year.

DTA Award, e.g. to support the furthering of the work after the grant? This is good, since stipends mean significant cash support.

Fees waivers (no stipend) may help to give the research legs after grant completion. Easier for your organisation to give. A waiver is high value **to you.**

Institutional Support Statement

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Support if grant is successful?

Start-up funds.

Access to research group resources (e.g. travel funds)

Access to specialist equipment and compute facilities.

More generally, you are part of a group in a "**well-funded laboratory**".

You should have this if the grant is not successful too, but if it helps with the case put it in.

← Access to central resources for helping with further development longer term.



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Independence: exercise – how can you show independence?



- Don't over-egg it. Your First Grant might fund perhaps 15 months of an RA and some of your time plus some conference attendances.
 - Be ambitious but practical.
 - Seek advice from colleagues on this one. ECRs have a tendency to put in a lifetime's work, but this indicates an inability to plan and assess workload.



- Aim to provide a case that this will set **you up for longer term success**. Don't be afraid to show some interest in sustainability.
 - Dr Johnny/Jemina Fourstar has already attended awareness/training days for ERC starter grants, although they will not be eligible until after completion of the proposed first grant.
 - Build collaborations, e.g. some trips within the UK to fellow researchers.
- Senior researchers often get requests to pay short visits to them and their research groups.
 - Nothing is lost by asking and it's in your interest to build-up relationships.
 - Don't do an out of the blue request to someone you don't know/have never met.
 - But senior staff or/and their group are often willing to host you – and it shows initiative that you have made such arrangements.