

**EPSRC OPEN FELLOWSHIPS**

**INTERNAL SELECTION AND REVIEW PROCESS**

**1. Introduction**

The refreshed Engineering & Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) Fellowships scheme is now open for applications. Call details, guidance and FAQs can be found at: <https://epsrc.ukri.org/skills/fellows/>.

For the first time, EPSRC is providing ongoing fellowship opportunities for people at all career stages who want to focus on:

* **discovery science** – should lead to fundamental science furthering an existing, new or emerging field;
* **innovation** – should include collaboration/engagement with public, private or third sector organisations or focus on routes to IP capture and/or commercialisation;
* **instrument/technique development** or **software engineering** – should look to support and expand technologies and techniques to further both academic and industrial research capacity.

The following Fellowships are available:

* EPSRC **Post-Doctoral** Fellowship
* EPSRC **Open** Fellowship
* EPSRC **Open Plus** Fellowship

Applications for **Open and Open Plus** Fellowships are for **all career stages** beyond post-doctoral level (and include researchers from close to their first academic appointment to those with vast amounts of experience) and can be across *any topic* in the [EPSRC portfolio](https://epsrc.ukri.org/research/ourportfolio/). **Post-doctoral** opportunities will vary over time across EPSRC themes[[1]](#footnote-1).

There is an option to add a "**Plus**" component to an Open Fellowship application to enable the Fellow to allocate 20-50% of their time to creating a positive change in the wider research community to deliver **improvements in research culture** (beyond their own scientific project and research group).

**2. Internal Selection and Review Process[[2]](#footnote-2)**

Whilst the EPSRC has not placed any formal demand management restrictions on this call, they have stated that they expect Host Organisations to take ownership for **pre-selecting candidates** using the assessment criteria and guidance.

Therefore, the University has put in place a light-touch internal selection process for **Open** and **Open Plus** Fellowships in order to support the highest quality applications to go forward to this competitive scheme, to develop the application pipeline and to better manage professional services resources[[3]](#footnote-3).

Whilst there are no EPSRC deadlines for a fellowship submission, there will be 3 internal rounds per year (deadline: **first Monday in February, June and October**) that all applicants must follow. Prior to each round, Departments will undertake a review of outline proposals from staff and forward suitable nominations to the respective **Faculty Research Committee** who will convene a selection and ranking panel to determine which candidates the Faculty consider should proceed towards a full application.

The following documentation is required for review and should be sent to the **Departmental Director of Research** by the relevant internal deadline:

* 3 page narrative C.V. and track record (<https://epsrc.ukri.org/files/funding/calls/2020/open-fellowship-narrative-cv-and-track-record/>)
* 3-page internal selection pro-forma

Each Departmental Director of Research (with HOD approval) should then forward on their selected candidate(s) to their Faculty, so that the Faculty can identify the candidate(s) that progress for each round. The funder assessment criteria will be used to identify the most competitive candidates and an inclusive approach will be adopted (see 2.1 below). Selected candidates will then be supported with their application development by professional services colleagues in Research & Knowledge Exchange Services (RKES) and Organisational & Staff Development Unit (OSDU), as well as their academic mentors within their Department/Faculty.

Departments/Faculties may wish to use this fellowship scheme as an opportunity to attract exceptional **external candidates** to undertake their research at Strathclyde. External candidates should follow the same selection process and will be considered alongside internal candidates.

***2.1 Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) – Inclusive Approach***

It is acknowledged that some groups are persistently under-represented within UK science and engineering[[4]](#footnote-4). In keeping with Strathclyde’s commitment to equality, diversity and inclusion – and in line with [ESPRC’s EDI expectations](https://epsrc.ukri.org/funding/edi-at-epsrc/) - the University will adopt a pro-active **inclusive approach** to encouraging researchers from minority and under-represented groups to apply to this competitive research fellowship scheme. The university's rigorous [equality and diversity policies](https://www.strath.ac.uk/equalitydiversity/policies/) will be applied throughout the application process in order to maximise the diversity of the candidates and research put forward. Applications are encouraged from traditionally under-represented groups, those who wish to work part-time or flexible hours, and from those with non-standard career paths.

An inclusive candidate selection approach will contribute to improving diversity in the talent pipeline and widening our pool of candidates.

1. Post-doctoral fellowships are currently available in 3 themes: Energy; Mathematical Sciences; and Synthetic Biology. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Please note that this process is applicable to EPSRC Open and Open Plus Fellowship applications only and does not apply to applications for an EPSRC post-doctoral fellowship. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Similar internal selection process are in operation for the [UKRI Future Leaders Fellowships](https://www.ukri.org/opportunity/future-leaders-fellowships-round-6/) and [RAEng Research Fellowships](https://www.raeng.org.uk/grants-prizes/grants/support-for-research/raeng-research-fellowship) and appear to be adding-value to the submission of competitive fellowship applications. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Groups that are persistently under-represented in STEM include women, LGBT+ people and individuals from a black and minority ethnic background (see STEM Equals - <https://www.stemequals.ac.uk/>). [↑](#footnote-ref-4)