



Engineering and  
Physical Sciences  
Research Council

# Welcome





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# ECR Funding Opportunities

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# Agenda

- 1 Overview of UKRI and EPSRC
- 2 ICT Theme Overview and Priorities
- 3 Funding Opportunities
- 4 Application and Peer Review Process
- 5 Q&As



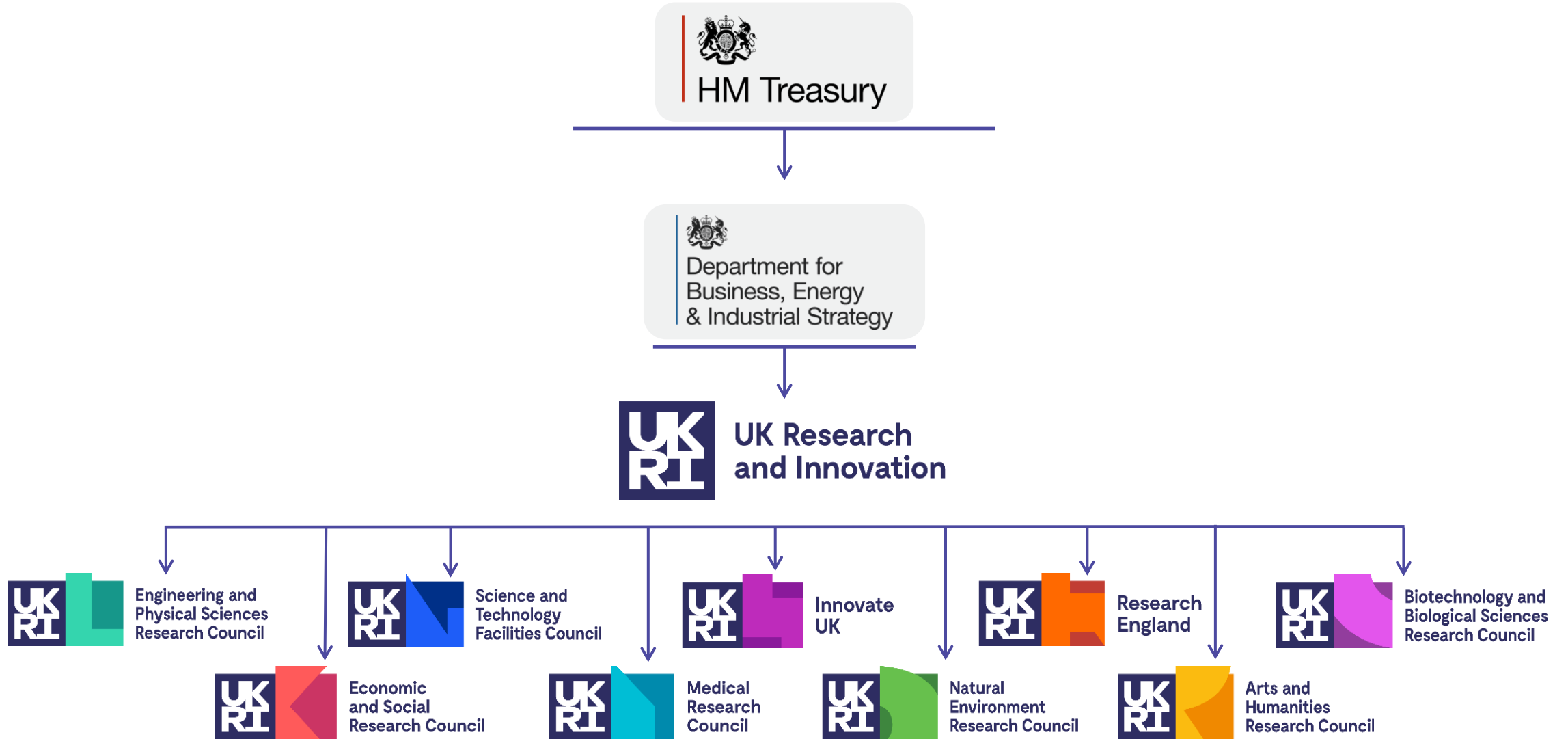


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# Overview of UKRI and EPSRC

## Strategic Priorities

# UK Research and Innovation



# UKRI Strategic Objectives

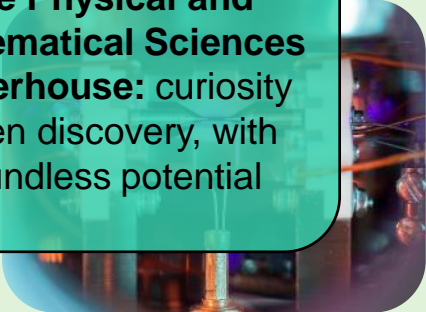
Our **strategic objectives** provide the framework for how we will achieve our vision and realise our principles through world-class:



# EPSRC's Strategic Priorities

## Discovery Led Research

**The Physical and Mathematical Sciences Powerhouse:** curiosity driven discovery, with boundless potential



**Frontiers in Engineering and Technology:** unleashing our productivity potential



**Digital Futures:** the future of communications, computing and the internet



## Mission Inspired Research

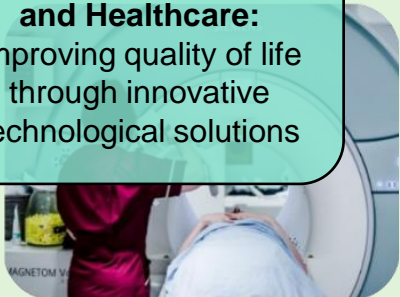
**Engineering Net Zero:** decarbonising our economy and society, creating an alternative energy future and developing truly circular economies



**AI, Digitalisation and Data – Driving Value and Security:** powering transformative change and the next industrial revolution



**Transforming Health and Healthcare:** improving quality of life through innovative technological solutions



**Quantum Technologies:** realising the transformative impact of this technology across business, government and society



International

Talent and Skills

Place

World Class Infrastructure

Impact

Business Engagement



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# ICT Theme and Priorities



# EPSRC Digital Technology Portfolio

## Changes which took effect as of 1 April 2022

EPSRC operate challenge themes to address and deliver impact against the most pressing challenges of the moment. We continually review these challenges, and the strategic outcomes we seek. We have reflected on our theme landscape, the external landscape, priorities and policy drivers. As a result, we are now making some changes.

We will be closing **Digital Economy** and **Digital Twins** as separate themes, whilst mainstreaming the Digital Economy approach, embedding appropriate user involvement, interdisciplinary working and true co-creation with potential users of research in all our digitally facing research.

We will establish a new theme that will come into operation in April 2022 to coincide with the new financial year. The new theme, entitled '**Digital Security & Resilience**' (DS&R) will put a spotlight on digital technologies relevant to the security, defence, and resilience of the UK. The research supported would aim **to create a more secure and resilient digital society, that is robust and prepared to withstand shocks and challenges in an increasingly interconnected digital world.**

# Digital Security & Resilience

A new EPSRC theme entitled 'Digital Security & Resilience' (DS&R) will put a spotlight on digital technologies relevant to the security, defence, and resilience of the UK. The research supported would aim **to create a more secure and resilient digital society, that is robust and prepared to withstand shocks and challenges in an increasingly interconnected digital world.**

## We will do this by:

- Developing EPSRC's strategy for digital security and resilience, and for specific topic areas falling under that remit, such as cyber security and digital twinning.
- Building communities, networks, and capacity to deliver national capability in specific digital security and resilience topic areas.

## Broadly, the Digital Security & Resilience theme's investments will fall in two areas:

1. Research to promote and improve the security and resilience of digital technologies.
2. Research into digital technologies that would be developed to promote and improve the security, defence, and resilience of the UK, and the security and resilience of its organisations, systems, infrastructure, and society.

# Cross-ICT Priorities

Cross-cutting priorities

Delivery Plan, Digital Futures - Ambitions

## Next Generation Computing

- New and emergent ideas and technologies
- Neuromorphic and quantum computing
- Future Internet
- Creative industry and technology

## Sustainable ICT

- Reduce energy and resource consumption across digital systems
- Driven by low-powered design – “*Better Chips for a Better Future*”
- Sustainable Digital Society

## Future Communications Systems

- Development of future communication systems (inc. networks, satellite, wireless, wired technology)
- Bolstering the UK’s communications sovereign capability
- Human centred / user co-created

## People at the heart of ICT

Enabling the pipeline of interdisciplinary, human centred, user co-created ideas in ICT.

Towards an equitable digital society.

## AI and Data Science

Future intelligent technologies and data enabled decision making.

Beyond a data driven economy.

## Digital Security & Trust

Enabling safe and secure ICT infrastructure and technology - including verifiability and trust of network intelligence, native security and trust, physical layer security, etc.



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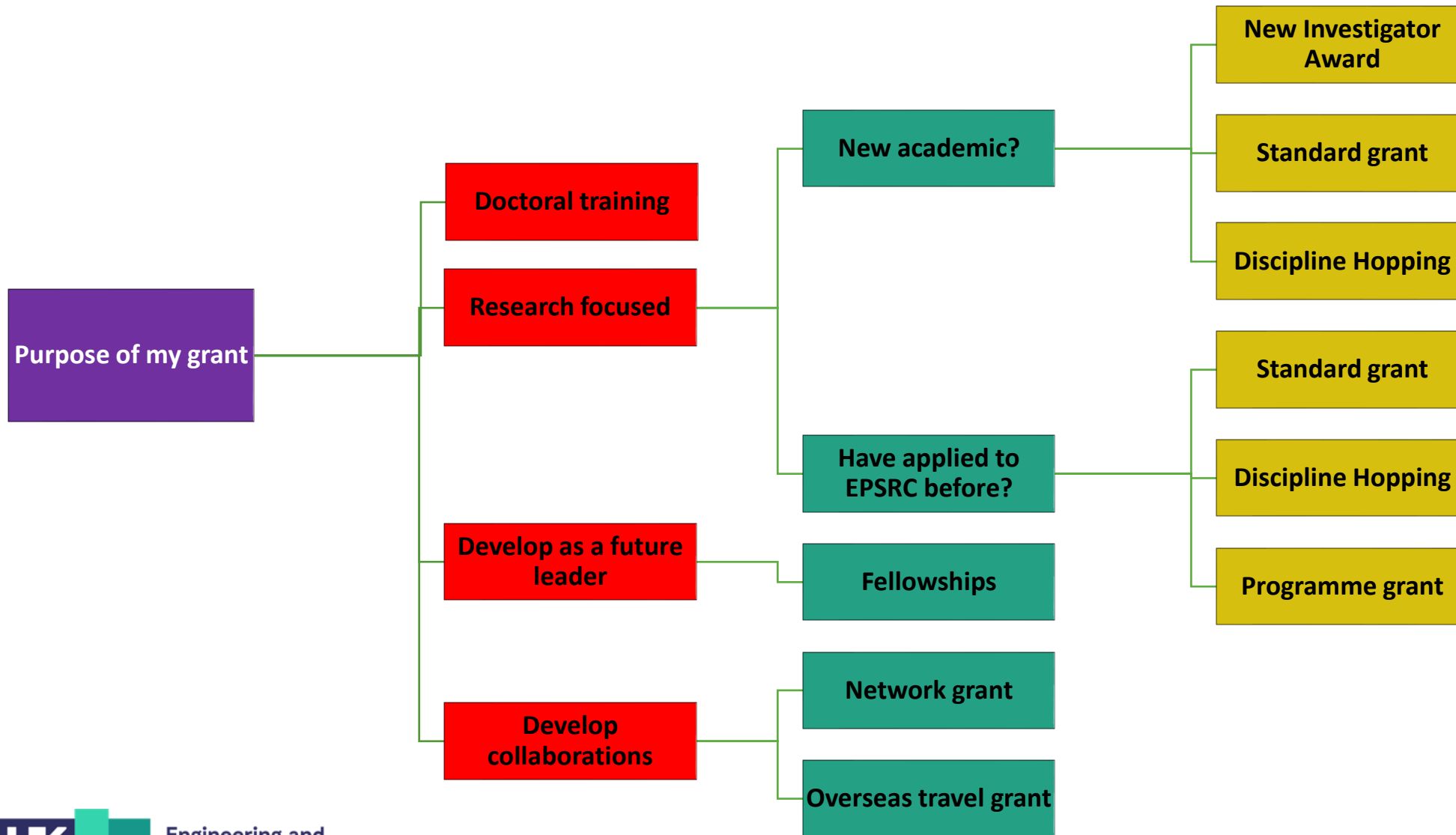
# Funding Opportunities

# EPSRC Funding opportunities

We will be covering:

- 1 **Open Fellowship (Plus)**
- 2 **New Investigator Award**
- 3 **Standard Grant**
- 4 **Discipline Hopping Grants**
- 5 **Network Grants**
- 6 **Programme Grants**
- 7 **Overseas Travel Grants**
- 8 **Daphne Jackson Fellowship**

# Funding Options



# EPSRC Open fellowship

Apply for a fellowship focusing on any topic in the EPSRC portfolio.

You must have either:

- a PhD
- at least four years' experience in a relevant field by the start of your fellowship

Any career stage

- No rules on years of post-doctoral experience or need to hold academic position
- No prior EPSRC funding requirement

Encourage applications from candidates:

- following non-standard career path
- moving back into research after career break or other breaks

# Open fellowship

Supports academics establish or further develop themselves as leaders of the future

Open Fellowships	Research grants
Personal award	For Principle investigator with option for one or more Co-investigators
Can be applied for without holding an academic position	Investigators must be academic employees (lecturer or equivalent) of an eligible organisation
Institutions are required to offer a <b>high level of support</b> to fellows	Institutions <b>may or may not</b> offer additional support
Allows for <b>personal development</b> to expand current role and responsibilities and <b>enhance leadership</b>	Normally focussed on research deliverables
Fellows are expected to act as ambassadors and advocates of their research area	
<b>Flexibility</b> to undertake <b>training</b>	
<b>Flexibility</b> to allocate time to <b>drive research culture change</b> in non-technical areas	
<b>Flexibility</b> for fellow to <b>transfer</b> award to another institution	Grant is bound to the recipient institution
Significant time commitment required (50%+)	Grant contributed to the investigators' salaries but it's not usually 100%
Can <b>reduce other responsibilities</b> for the fellow within their host institution (e.g. teaching and administration)	Investigators named on research grants usually have other administrative loads within their institutions



# Open fellowship

No need to be in receipt of EPSRC funding, but you need to:

- *Demonstrate* you have acquired **skills and expertise** for delivering the research
- *Identified* areas for **continued professional development** to expand or enhance your career
- *Committed* to implementing good practice in creating an **inclusive** research environment
- *Advocate* for EPSRC and will **influence** policy makers and other stakeholders on the importance of your research area

# Open fellowship: **Plus** Component

Add the **Plus** component, if you want to:

- spend 20-50% of time to create **positive change** in the research community. Examples include but not limited to:
  - Equality, Diversity and Inclusion
  - Responsible Research and Innovation
  - Public Engagement
  - Policy
- champion an area or topic aligned to EPSRC aspirations to deliver improvements in **research culture**

# Open Plus fellowship

Resource Package	Open Plus
Duration	Up to 5 years
Salary	50- 100% fte
Travel & Subsistence	Yes
Additional research staff	Yes
Visiting Researchers	Yes
Equipment	Yes – in line with current EPSRC guidelines for equipment
Consumables	Yes
Access to facilities	Yes
Identified training and development needs	Yes
Time and resources to address community issues	Yes (only with Plus component)

We will award 80% of the full economic costs of the project, funding for equipment varies based on value, details can be found here: <https://epsrc.ukri.org/research/facilities/equipment/process/>

# Open PLUS fellowship – 3 stage assessment



At Review	At Prioritisation Panel	At Interview Panel
Research Quality	✓	
Applicant and Partnerships	✓	
National Importance	✓	
Resources and Management	✓	
Fellowship vision and delivery		✓
Community Leadership		✓
Team Leadership		✓
Continued Professional Development		✓
<b>Community Champion</b>		✓

- Check out blank Reviewer forms on our website to get more detail on what exactly is assessed under each of these criteria [Reviewer forms and guidance notes – UKRI](#)

# New Investigator Award



To support **early career academics**, begin to establish their research group



To establish an individual's **research independence**, specifically for those who have not received a significant grant



In addition to a program of high-quality research, host institutes are expected provide resource to **support career progression**

# New Investigator Award

<b>Eligibility</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– Not previously led an academic research group</li><li>– Not been recipient of a significant grant</li><li>– Applying to EPSRC as PI for the first time – see website for exemptions</li><li>– Projects should be self-contained and comprise a single research vision</li></ul>
<b>Flexibility</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– Been Co-I previously, please contact us to discuss eligibility</li><li>– Previously in industry and transitioning to academia</li><li>– No closing date</li><li>– No funding or duration caps</li></ul>

# What is different in a NIA to a standard grant?

- NIA proposal should cover how the research and activities proposed contribute to **career development** both in terms of:
  - Resources requested
  - Support from host

# What is different in a NIA to a Standard Mode grant?

- NIA proposal should cover how the research/ activities proposed contribute to **career development** both in terms of:
  - Resources requested
  - Support from host
- What is not equal to “good support”?
  - PhD provision
  - Generic training package
  - Lacking student/ PDRAs support
- Think about “good support” in terms of:
  1. Mentoring
  2. Training
  3. Workload
  4. Support
- Make request to the host



# Standard Grants

- Supports a wide range of research programmes
- Key features:
  - No closing date
  - No fixed value
  - No fixed length
  - No constraint on the field of research, permitted it is within EPSRC remit

# Standard Grants

Activities funded via this route:

- feasibility studies
- instrument development
- project-specific equipment
- collaborative projects that cross different disciplines
- **High-risk or high-return** research proposals, embracing new concepts or techniques, are particularly encouraged. Risk management is important.
- Justify all resources requested

# Discipline Hopping Award

- The scheme encourages researchers with **ICT expertise to use their research skills in a new discipline.**
- Alternately, researchers with other expertise are encouraged to **learn ICT research skills and apply them in their home discipline.**
- You should have a proven track record of research in your home discipline and wish to **develop skills and collaborations with other disciplines** or users.
- You must show how you will use interdisciplinary research and collaborative development to **benefit the ICT research community.**
- Further details on the UKRI funding finder: <https://www.ukri.org/opportunity/epsrc-discipline-hopping-in-ict/>

# Other opportunities

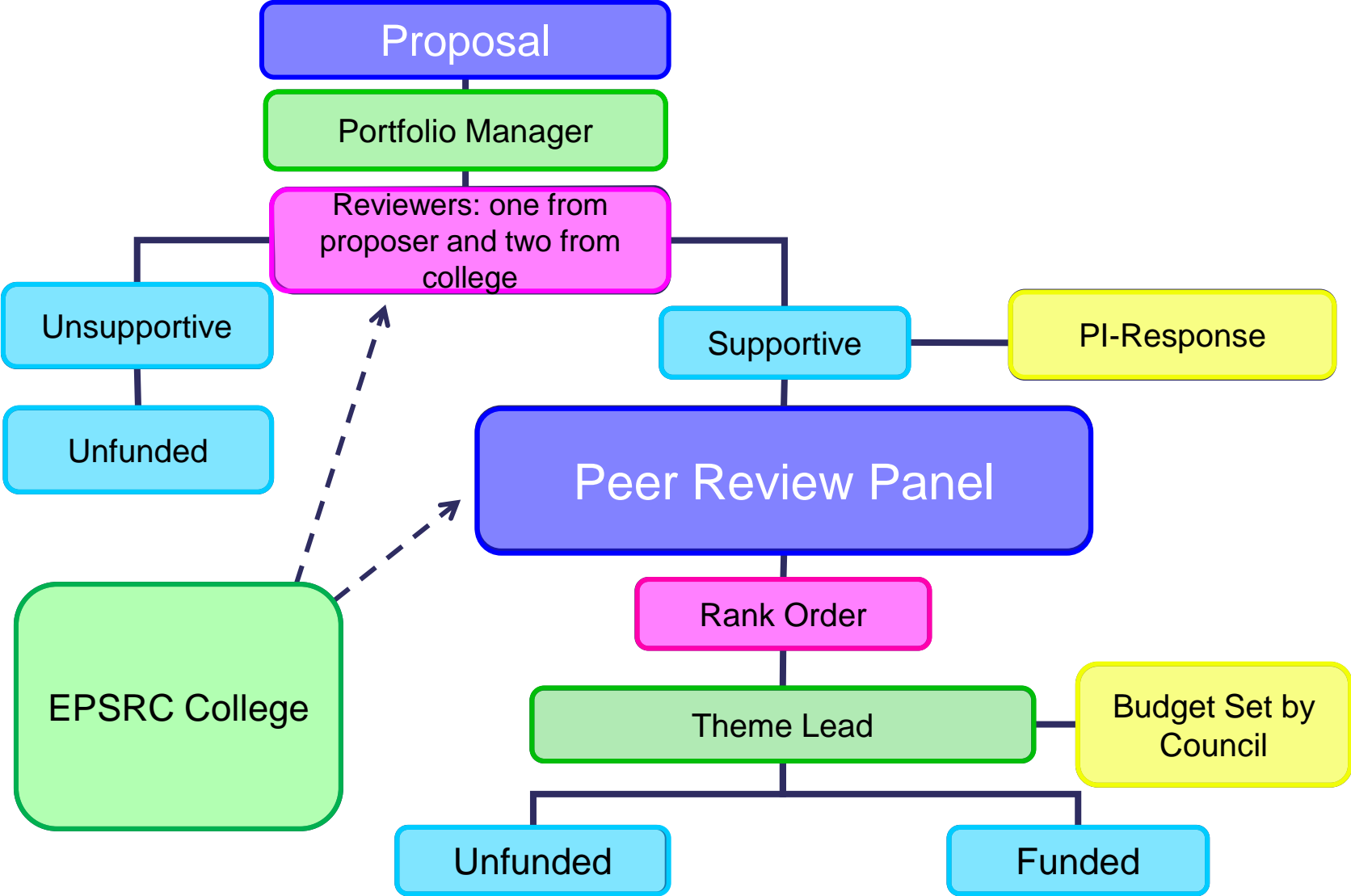
Scheme	Supports
<b>Daphne Jackson Fellowship</b>	Academic staff returning after career break
<b>Network grant</b>	The creation of new interdisciplinary communities and topics
<b>Overseas travel grant</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Travel to start or develop international collaborations</li><li>• Not for conferences</li></ul> <p>Can ask for funds for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• International travel and subsistence</li><li>• Can cover salary and indirect costs of PI</li><li>• Still eligible to apply for NIA in future</li></ul>



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# Application and Peer Review Process

# Peer Review Process



# Submitting a Proposal

## Assessment Criteria:

- Look at funding guidance and eligibility requirements:

<https://www.ukri.org/opportunity/>

- Reviewer forms and guidance notes available:

<https://www.ukri.org/councils/epsrc/guidance-for-reviewers/peer-reviews/reviewer-forms-and-guidance-notes/>

## Remit check:

<https://epsrc.ukri.org/funding/applicationprocess/basics/remit/remitqueries/>



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# Questions?





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# Thank you



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