Engineering and Physical Sciences
Research Council

EPSRC
Investing in research for discovery and innovation

EPSRC – Funding Opportunities Presentation

Queen Mary University – 15th February 2019

Aims of the presentation

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- Inform you about funding opportunities in EPSRC Mathematical Sciences
- Any questions on Peer Review process

Mathematical Sciences Team Responsibilities

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Katie Blaney (Theme Lead)

Theme strategy
Theme budget
Isaac Newton Institute

Matthew Lodge (Senior Portfolio Manager)	**Ruqaiyah Patel (Senior Portfolio Manager)**
Leadership in Mathematical Sciences International Strategy International Centre for Mathematical Sciences	Artificial Intelligence Strategic Advisory Team Programme Grants
Ruvimbo Gamanya (Portfolio Manager)	**Laura McDonnell (Portfolio Manager)**
Applied Mathematics and Mathematical Biology Balancing Capability - Buddy GCRF Call Remit queries	Statistics and Applied Probability and Operational Research Accelerating Impact - Lead New Investigator Awards Strategy workshop
Thomas Robinson (Portfolio Manager)	**Joseph Westwood (Portfolio Manager)**
Pure Mathematics Balancing Capability - Lead E,D&I - Lead Fellowships	Mathematical Analysis and Mathematical Physics Accelerating Impact - Buddy Early Career Forum E,D&I - Buddy

The UKRI Family

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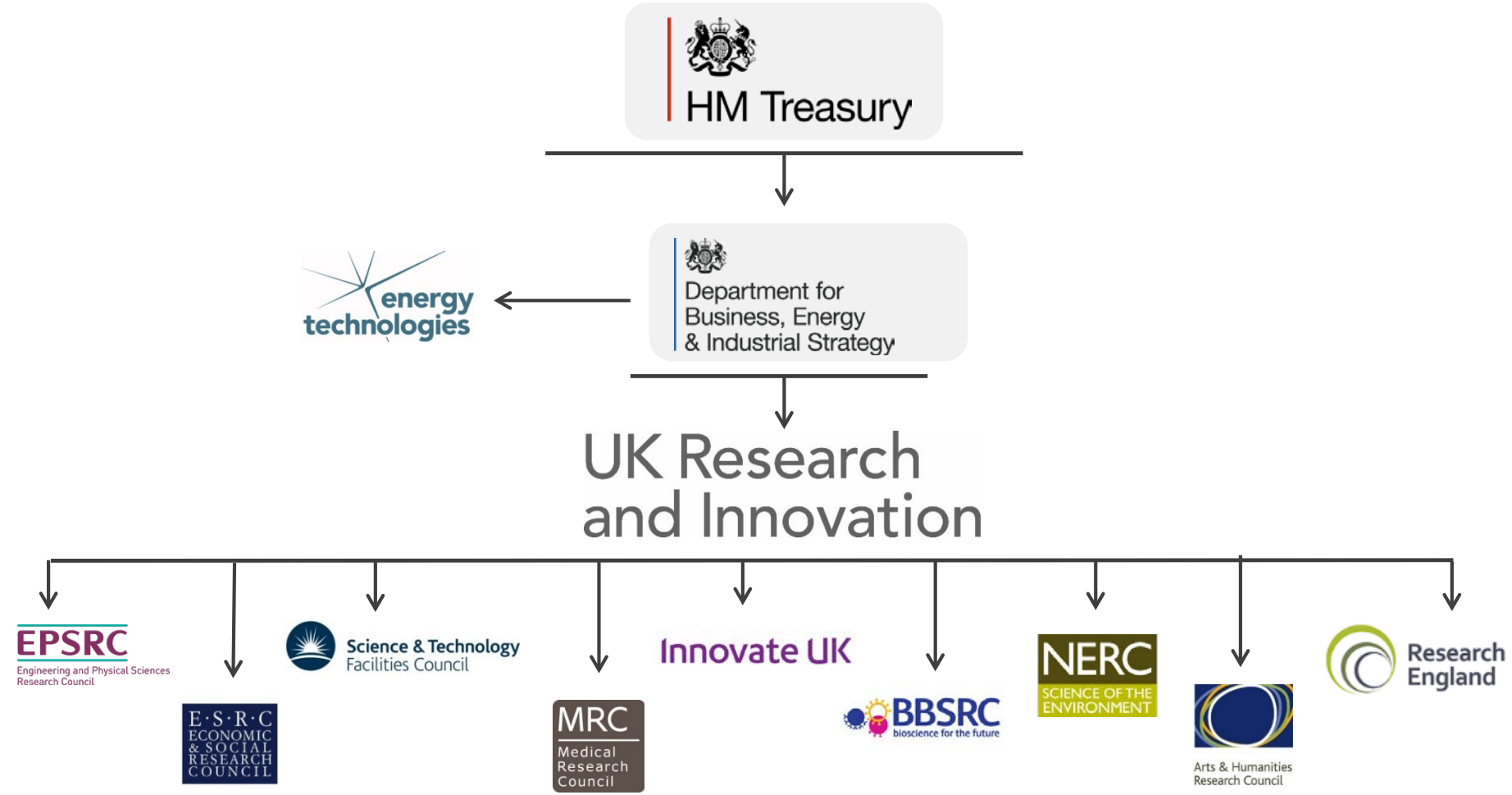

EPSRC Funding Schemes

Which grant is for me?

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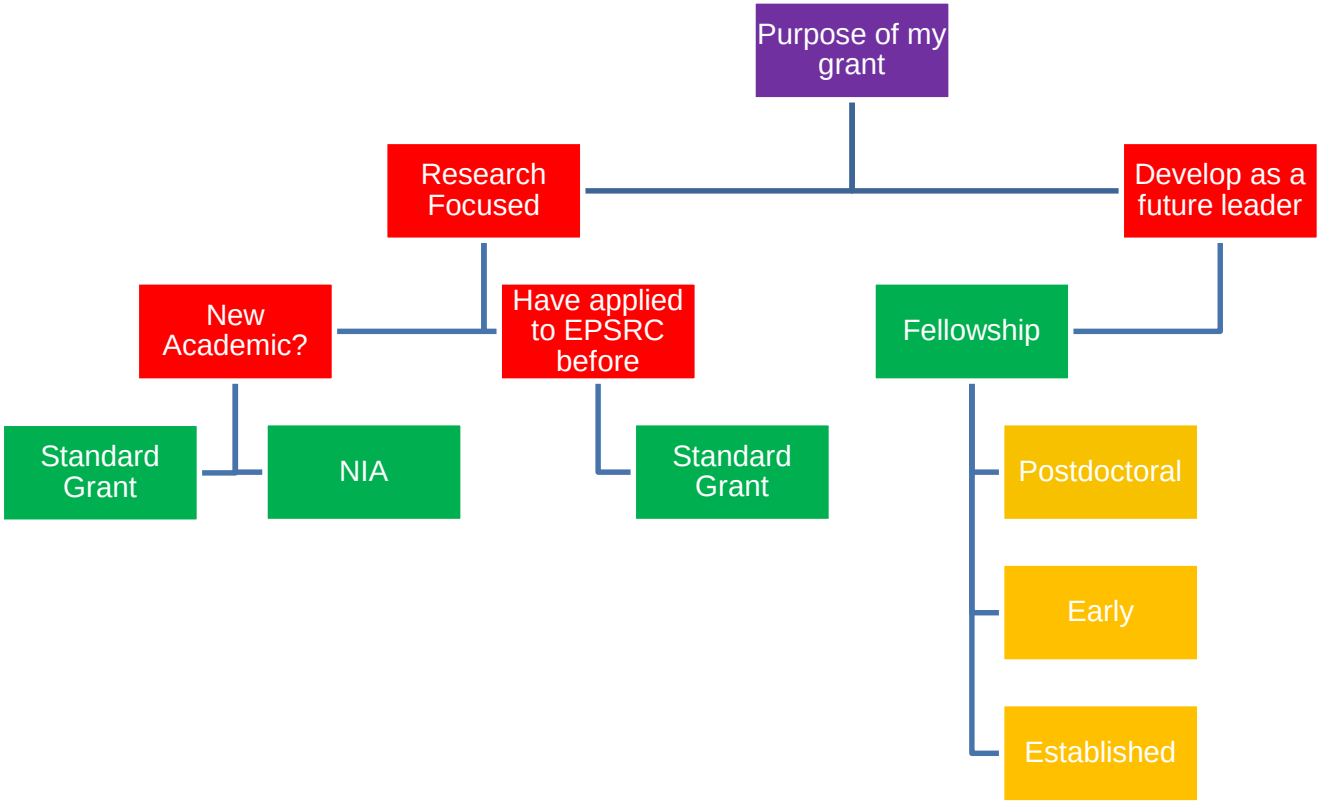

- Other grants are available; Workshop grants, Network Grants and Overseas travel grants. (Apply via Standard Grant mode)

Funding Opportunities by career stage

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Career Stage	Funding Opportunities
PhD Students	Doctoral Prize (EPSRC funded only)
Postdoctoral Researchers	Postdoctoral Fellowship Researcher Co-I Named PDRA on an EPSRC grant
New Academics	New Investigator Awards
Early Career	Early Career Fellowship Standard Grant
Established Career	Established Career Fellowship Standard Grant Programme Grant
Conditional	Specific Calls

Standard Mode

Standard Mode

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- Flexible, open funding route which supports a wide range of research programmes:
  - No fixed length or value
  - No constraints on type of research
- Relevant activities funded via this route:
  - Research projects
  - Long term proposals aimed at developing critical mass
  - Feasibility studies
  - Overseas Travel Grants
  - Workshops

ESPRC Funding Schemes

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- New Investigator Awards
  - First award, modest in size and scope
- Programme Grants
  - Flagship scheme, strategic in nature
- Fellowships
  - To develop future leaders

Peer Review

Reviewers

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- 3 expert reviewers review proposal against the assessment criteria
- Applicant can suggest 3 reviewers, 1 will be used if possible
- Who should you choose as an applicant reviewer?
  - Experts in the field
  - Not a collaborator (current or past)
  - At different institutions
  - Likely to be familiar with EPSRC process

Adventure and Risk?

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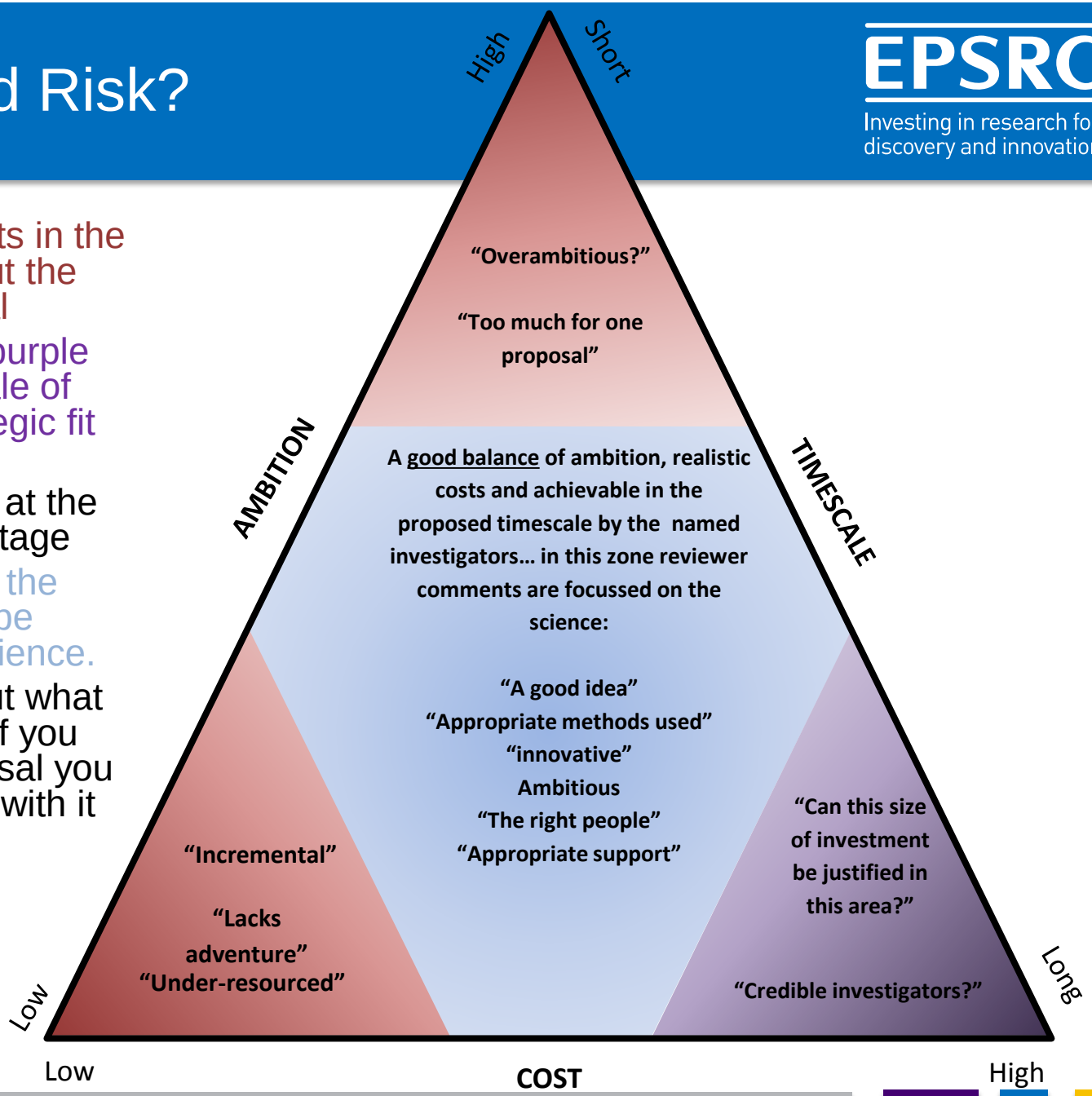
- The reviewer comments in the red areas are not about the science in the proposal
- The comments in the purple area are about the scale of the proposal and strategic fit to EPSRC
- These can be avoided at the proposal preparation stage
- Negative comments in the blue area are likely to be about the proposed science.
- Think Objectively about what a reviewer might ask: if you address it in the proposal you shouldn't have to deal with it in the PI response



The PI Response

Ideally you will have answered all questions before they're asked!

What you should do:

- Be factual
- Be specific
- Back-up comments with facts
- Throw away your first attempt
- Agree to follow-up suggestions if appropriate

What you shouldn't do:

- Write nothing at all
- Criticise the reviewer
- Ignore certain criticisms
- Use positive comments to counter negative ones
- Repeat all the good points!

Remember who your audience are – the Panel, not the Reviewers!

Conclusion

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- Seek out critical friends
- Address what is being asked
- Consider your audience
- The PI response is one of the most important documents
- ‘Research Quality’ is primary criteria
- ‘National Importance’ is your chance to sell
- ‘Impact’ doesn’t mean overselling

Panel

Prior to the Panel

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- Every application has 3 introducers.
- They read the reviews and the response of the applicant to the issues raised and assign a score out of 10 for several categories and an overall score.
- They do not re-review a proposal.
- They do read the proposals to make a decision as to whether points have been addressed.
- There is a form to fill in for every proposal introduced.
- The average of the overall scores will be used for a first ranking of the proposals.
- Panellists tend to read as many of the other proposals as possible.
- Time: Approximately 2 hours per proposal and 6 hours to finalize your scores.
- Panellists have guidance notes for scoring and are conscientious

During the Panel

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- Conflicted panel members leave the room
- The first introducer gives a brief summary of the proposal, their score and justification of that score
- 2nd and 3rd introducers make additional points
- A consensus as to final score is reached after discussion with input from all panel members
- A rank ordered list is prepared
- At the end of the meeting this list is signed by the panel chair

Interacting with EPSRC

Becoming a Reviewer

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- Make a Je-S account.
- Fill in and update your research interests. You have to talk the EPSRC language (example).
- Provide plenty of keywords that can help the Council to choose you as an appropriate reviewer.

- Read the proposal and answer the questions in a clear way. Be polite.
- Be honest. You need to check feasibility of the project. Don't fabricate problems.
- Book time in your schedule to do this properly. If you cannot do the job just say no.
- Keep in mind that the names of the reviewers can be seen by the panel.
- Giving well written and considered reviews helps build your reputation.
- A review that is minimal in comments and justification is useless to the panel.
- Don't be a bad reviewer. Give appropriate information.

Questions?