

# Things you should know about EPSRC...



## GET THAT GRANT!

30TH NOVEMBER 2021

# My experience with EPSRC

- EPSRC advanced research fellow (2005-2010)
- Member of EPSRC's college since 2006
- Referee of 1-2 EPSRC grants per year
- Taken part in grant prioritisation panels (last in 2018)
- Submitted 3 standard grants since 2012 (not successful)

# Key facts:

**It is the SMS's main source of external funding:**

- 6 out of 9 grants awarded in 2020/2021
- **Total awarded in 2020/2021: £1,900K**
- The School gets a proportionally large piece of the grant cake (some years ago it was around 6%)
- **Typical grants: NIA, standard grant and small grants**

**Before starting a grant application check their site  
(not brilliant, but has a lot of information!)**

<https://epsrc.ukri.org/research/ourportfolio/themes/mathematics/>

# Some tips:

- See how your research area fits within EPSRC Maths portfolio —there are areas which are expanding and others contracting
- **Make sure it fits EPSRC's remit (most relevant for Physics/interdisciplinary projects)**
- Choose the keywords carefully —these will be used to select referees!
- **Spend some time writing the layperson summary**

# On the refereeing:

- Chosen out of the “EPSRC college”
- Get to suggest referees (up to 4)
- Usually a project will require at least 4 referees
- EPSRC usually will send about 10 requests to review per project... not all 4 will be specialists!
- Referee’s make comments about the various parts of the project and give a score (1 to 6)
- Referee’s must indicate the confidence with which they give the score (low/medium/high)
- They must indicate their area of expertise
- Opportunity to reply to the referee’s comments

# Prioritisation panel

- Usually 4 per year
- “Digests” the reports from the referees
- Every project in the panel is allocated a first and a second reporter
- The reporters use the reports and replies to generate a ranking of their lot
- This generates an initial ranking for the panel
- Each project is then discussed and the ranking adjusted
- The panel does not know how much money will be allocated in the particular sitting
- Asked to look into the quality of the science and value for money

# A word of encouragement

- If not successful, keep applying!
- **EPSRC does not allow resubmissions and only a fraction of a project can be recycled**
- Grant writing can help to put in context your research and identify new avenues of research/connections
- **Do not put it off! Set a personal deadline!**

