

A Quick Guide to the EPSRC New Investigator Award

Getting that Grant

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New Investigator Award

Eligibility

“The New Investigator Award scheme is intended to support individuals who hold an academic lectureship position, and have not previously led a research group.”

- Employed at level of lecturer or equivalent (fixed-term is okay as long as the term lasts beyond the end date of the proposed work).
 - Can't be currently employed as staff on a research grant (with some exceptions), or currently hold a postdoctoral-level fellowship.
- Application History:
 - Must be your first application to EPSRC as principal investigator (with a few exceptions).
- Funding History:
 - Must not hold an early career fellowship that includes PDRA time.
 - Must not have been directing the vision of a research group (see EPSRC for formal details).
 - Unsuccessful grants do not affect eligibility.

New Investigator Award

Scale of Project

“The New Investigator Award is designed to support both theoretical and experimental research projects across the breadth of EPSRC’s remit and therefore we expect the level of funding applied for to vary, but be appropriate for the proposed research programme. The scale may also vary significantly, depending on the focus of the award.”

- Typically 10-20% of the Principle Investigator’s time and 1-3 year project.
- Must be self-contained.
- Co-Investigators are only involved if they bring different, complementary skills (typically from another discipline).
- Funding can include 1-3 years of total PDRA.
- Travel costs.
- Equipment (but note standard EPSRC restrictions).

New Investigator Award

Application Process

- Case for support (8 sides A4)
 - Applicant's previous track record 2 sides A4
 - Proposed research and its context (6 sides A4)
- Work Plan (1 side A4)
- Justification of Resources (2 sides A4)
- Host Organisation Statement of Support
- Proposal Cover Letter setting out why you are eligible.

New Investigator Award

Case for Support

- Applicant's track record
- Main Proposal
 - Background
 - Contribution to knowledge
 - National Importance
 - Research Hypotheses and Objectives
 - Programme and methodology
- “Impact” is now integrated into all aspects intrinsically.

New Investigator Award

Also...

...a bunch of online form entries!

- Objectives (4000 char)
 - List main objectives in order of priority
- Summary (4000 char)
 - Describe research in a simple way that can be publicised to a general audience.
- Academic Beneficiaries (4000 char)
 - How will other academics benefit from research?

Other EPSRC Schemes

Standard Research Grant

- Good for longer, more ambitious projects that don't fall under the NIA framework.
- No closing dates, no limit on value or length, no constraint on field.
- International excellence and national importance are main criteria.
- Similar application process as NIA.

Small Grants Scheme

- Specific to the mathematical sciences.
- £10K-£80k and up to 12 months duration.
- PIs and Cols can only hold 1 at a time.
- Support research projects or feasibility studies for projects
- Smaller, “non-standard” application (e.g. 4 page case for support).