



**Economic  
and Social  
Research Council**

## **ESRC Celebrating Impact Prize 2021 Frequently Asked Questions**

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### **Who can apply?**

The competition is open to all researchers supported by the ESRC and associates i.e. individuals and organisations (other than universities) that are carrying out strategic commissioned work for ESRC. Applicants must have received or currently hold ESRC research funding awards, or ESRC doctoral studentship funding, or be applying jointly with an eligible ESRC-funded data resource investment. For team or joint entries, the lead contact and majority of the named individuals must meet the above requirements.

### **Can I apply if my impact isn't linked to ESRC funding?**

No. The impact must be demonstrably linked to ESRC research or doctoral studentship funding, or to an eligible ESRC-funded data investment you are applying in partnership with. You may also have received funding from other sources which has supported activity linked to the impact, but there must be a direct link between the ESRC funding and the impact submitted. You can cite more than one ESRC award in your application.

### **I've used data from an ESRC-funded data investment – can I apply?**

If your research was directly funded by ESRC you are eligible to apply on that basis. We ask all applicants about their use of our data investments and we would ask you to provide details as appropriate. You do not need to contact or inform the ESRC data investments whose resources were used in the conduct of your research, although you are welcome to submit a joint application with the data investment if both parties wish to pursue this.

If your research was not funded by ESRC you may still be able to apply jointly with the associated ESRC-funded data investment. Joint applications can be submitted for impact arising from secondary analysis of data that has been generated or curated by eligible ESRC-funded data resource investments. Applications must be submitted jointly by the ESRC-funded data investment and the researcher(s) who made use of the data; researchers cannot apply without the explicit engagement of the data investment. A list of eligible ESRC-funded data investments is provided in Annex 1 of the Application Guidelines. The secondary analysis does not need to have been funded by ESRC but must be at least 50 percent social science i.e. within ESRC's disciplinary remit and use of data generated or curated by the ESRC-funded investment must be central to the research. Applications will be expected to demonstrate how the impact directly relates to both the ESRC-funded data collection/generation and provision, and its use by the researcher, emphasising the value and contribution of each stage to the impact submitted.

### **Can ESRC IAA funded projects/PIs apply?**

Applicants who have solely received ESRC IAA funding and have not received ESRC research or doctoral studentship funding related to the impact submitted are not eligible to apply. Where relevant, applicants may include in their submission information how any IAA-funded activity they have undertaken has supported the achievement of the impact submitted.

### **I have received funding for an application for the ESRC Festival of Social Science. Can I apply for the Impact Prize?**

Applicants who have solely received ESRC Festival of Social Science funding and have not received ESRC research or doctoral studentship funding are not eligible to apply. Where relevant, applicants may include in their submission information how any Festival-funded activity they have undertaken has supported the achievement of the impact submitted.

### **I have received a KTP which was part-funded by ESRC. Am I eligible to apply for the Impact Prize?**

A KTP alone with no other ESRC funding associated would not be sufficient for the eligibility criteria. However, if you have received other ESRC research grant funding or ESRC doctoral studentship funding and are able to demonstrate a clear link between the impact and the ESRC research grant or doctoral funding in the application, then you would be eligible to apply.

### **My research was funded through an ESRC call that involved other funders as well – can I apply?**

If ESRC was the lead funder on the call, you are eligible to apply, even if other funders were also involved. If you are unsure about whether this applies to your funding, please contact [impact@esrc.ukri.org](mailto:impact@esrc.ukri.org) for guidance.

### **I received ESRC funding but am not based in the UK – can I apply?**

Yes, but please note that prize funds can only be paid to and held by an organisation eligible to receive UKRI research council funding. More information on eligibility for research council funding is available at <https://www.ukri.org/funding/how-to-apply/eligibility/>

### **Does the category ‘Outstanding Early Career Impact’ only apply to candidates that have been awarded ESRC doctoral studentships?**

Yes. The category ‘Outstanding Early Career Impact’ does only apply to candidates who have been awarded ESRC doctoral studentship funding. However, early career researchers holding a different type of ESRC funding are eligible to apply to the other categories.

### **How has eligibility for the ‘Outstanding Early Career Impact’ category changed?**

Current ESRC-funded doctoral students remain eligible for this category. Previously there was a limit on eligibility for former ESRC-funded doctoral students based on the time since their studies completed. This has been removed. The applicant must demonstrate why they should be considered an early career researcher based on their individual circumstances.

### **Why have you made this change?**

We know there is no clear definition of what constitutes an early career researcher and increasing diversity in career trajectories. Some researchers will embark on an active research career directly following their PhD but others will not and, as such, could be considered as an early career researcher for a longer period. Examples could include those who have spent periods of time outside of academia i.e. due to parental leave, illness, unemployment or employment outside of academia in non-research roles; or those who may have been employed in academia but in posts with limited or no scope for their own research such as teaching-only contracts. We have therefore removed the time bound eligibility criteria.

### **How are you defining Early Career Researcher for this competition?**

For the purposes of this scheme an early career researcher is someone who has yet to make the transition to being an independent researcher. Early career researchers may have participated in research projects as co-investigators or research staff but not had the opportunity to lead a research project in their own right. In contrast, independent researchers will have taken the lead for both the intellectual leadership and conduct of research as well as managing the project and team funded to deliver it.

Applicants to the Outstanding Early Career Impact category who held ESRC doctoral funding but have completed their doctoral studies will be asked to briefly explain why they should be considered to be an Early Career Researcher based on their individual circumstances. This should reflect their research experience, whether within academia or not. This will be considered by reviewers in determining eligibility for this category.

### **The application has only one lead contact name. Does this mean that if the application is successful the prize will be awarded to the named person only and not to the rest of the team?**

For joint or team applications, the lead applicant will be the primary contact for ESRC in the competition and subsequent communications, press and publicity activity. However, all joint applicants will be recognised as winners by ESRC at the ceremony and in case studies and other publicity material.

### **Can I nominate someone else for the Prize?**

Only self-nominations are permitted to the competition. If you know someone who you think should apply, please encourage and support them to do so.

### **Can I submit multiple applications?**

Yes, although you can only submit one application per category of impact, and three in total per year.

### **Can I resubmit a previously unsuccessful application?**

Yes, you may resubmit on a new application form, with updated information and a clear statement of how this application differs substantially to your previous submission. You will need fresh letters of support.

**Several of my supporting documents are strictly ‘confidential’ (e.g. from the UK Government). They are therefore not available for public usage. How would I explain this?**

All information submitted will be shared with reviewers, although not put into the public domain. If there is any information which is particularly sensitive please ensure you flag this in your application within the free text boxes, so that reviewers and ESRC will be aware of the particular situation.

**Is it acceptable to include hyperlinks in the application?**

Hyperlinks are allowable within the application, although we cannot guarantee that reviewers will click into them. Applications will be assessed as standalone documents so ensure you include all key information in the main submission. The only exceptions are for peer review publications and online CVs, for which hyperlinks are specifically requested.

**Who should the letters of support be addressed to?**

Address your letters of support to the ESRC. Letters must be specific to this application; generic letters of endorsement will not be considered by the panel.

**Can I upload more than one letter of support?**

You may upload multiple letters of support, although for ease you may wish to merge all letters of support into a single PDF for uploading. Supporting documents must be submitted in PDF or Word (.doc / .docx) format. Attachments should be no larger than 1MB each.

If you are unable to submit attachments for technical reasons, you may submit your application without the attachment and email the letters of support separately to [impact@esrc.ukri.org](mailto:impact@esrc.ukri.org) including your submission details before 16:00 10 May 2021 UK time, and we will add them to your application.

**I am having problems obtaining my letters of support by the deadline. Is it acceptable to submit the application and send the letters in separately at a later date?**

Please contact [impact@esrc.ukri.org](mailto:impact@esrc.ukri.org) for further advice as soon as possible before the closing date.

**My research hasn't yet been published in a peer reviewed output – what can I do?**

We know that not all research linked to applications, particularly from early career researchers, may have been published in a peer reviewed journal or other peer reviewed source. For the purposes of this competition, we consider a doctoral thesis that has been passed by an awarding panel to be a peer reviewed output. If you are unable to provide any peer reviewed outputs, you can provide a link to any other open access publication linked to the underpinning research. If no publicly available output is available at all, you should explain clearly in your application why that is the case.

## **I haven't received a confirmation that my application has been received.**

You will receive an email acknowledgement confirming receipt of your application, two working days after your submission. If you do not receive this email, please check your spam folder before contacting [impact@esrc.ukri.org](mailto:impact@esrc.ukri.org)

## **When is the closing date?**

Completed forms must be received no later than 16:00 on 10 May 2021 UK time.

## **When will I find out if I've been shortlisted?**

Shortlisted applicants will be notified by e-mail in early July 2021. Virtual interviews will take place on 20 and 21 July 2021. One week's notice of date and time of the interview will be provided to shortlisted applicants.

## **What does the interview stage involve?**

Shortlisted applicants will be invited to attend a virtual panel interview on 20 and 21 July 2021. Panel members will be selected by ESRC based on relevant experience and expertise. The interview is an opportunity for the panel to raise any queries arising from the application, specifically but not exclusively in relation to the impact of their research. Interviews will last for approximately one hour, and applicants will be expected to bring a non-academic supporter who can help describe the impact of their work. No formal presentation will be required. Full details will be communicated to shortlisted applicants when they are notified of their selection.

## **What can I use the Prize funds for?**

A prize of £10,000 is awarded to the winners of each Prize category. Funds will be paid to and held by the associated academic institution to be spent on activity that furthers research impact within the social sciences at the discretion of the prize winner. This includes but is not limited to knowledge exchange, public engagement or other impact related activities to promote economic and social impacts of research and may include staff as well as travel and subsistence and other directly incurred costs where these are appropriate to support the impact sought. ESRC will request updates on how the prize funds are being utilised to further research impact and reserves the right to recoup funding not utilised within 12 months of being awarded. For joint or team applications, prize money will be paid to the lead applicant's institution and they will be responsible for its appropriate distribution across the winning applicants.

## **I have a question that isn't answered here**

Please contact the Impact Prize team at [impact@esrc.ukri.org](mailto:impact@esrc.ukri.org)