

ESRC Celebrating Impact Prize 2019

Frequently Asked Questions

Version: 29 November 2018

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. For team entries for the Outstanding Impact categories: the lead contact and majority of the team must meet the above requirements.

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

No. The impact must be demonstrably linked to the ESRC research or doctoral studentship funding.

Can ESRC IAA funded projects/PIs apply?

Where applicants have had ESRC IAA funding, they must also demonstrate they are:

- current and/or previous ESRC-funded researchers including ESRC centres and large investments, ESRC resources and current and previous ESRC Fellows
- current ESRC-funded doctoral students or have completed their ESRC doctoral studentship funding in the last four years (these are eligible to apply for the Outstanding Early Career Impact prize)

Applicants who have solely received ESRC IAA funding and have not received ESRC research or doctoral studentship funding are not eligible to apply. For team entries for the Outstanding Impact categories: the lead contact and majority of the team must meet the above requirements

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

You may submit to an appropriate category if you are claiming that impact (ie a positive social or economic impact) has arisen as a result of your Festival activity. In addition to being funded via the Festival applicants must also demonstrate they are:

- current and/or previous ESRC-funded researchers including ESRC centres and large investments, ESRC resources and current and previous ESRC Fellows
- current ESRC-funded doctoral students or have completed their ESRC doctoral studentship funding in the last four years are eligible to apply for the Outstanding Early Career 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. For team entries to the Outstanding Impact categories: the lead contact and majority of the team must meet the above requirements.

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. If you are unsure about whether this applies to your funding, please contact 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 UK 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, or are ECRs holding a different type of ESRC funding (for example, Future Research Leaders Grant) also eligible?

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. To be eligible to apply for the ‘Outstanding Early Career Impact’ category, your ESRC doctoral studentship funding must have completed on or after 8 January 2015.

It’s been more than four years since I completed by studentship funding, but I have had career breaks or haven’t worked full time – am I still eligible for the ‘Outstanding Early Career Impact’ category?

Yes. ESRC are able to make allowances for periods of maternity/ paternity leave, part-time working or for those returning to research after a career break. If applicable, please ensure this is highlighted in your application so we can take it into account in eligibility checks.

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?

If the application is successful, it’s the lead applicant’s name only that will be on the Prize and key publicity material. The lead applicant will be the primary contact for all communications, press and publicity. However, the team will be recognised in full in case studies and articles.

For the category of Impact Champion does the application have to be from an individual or can we submit a team application?

This category applies to individual ESRC funded researchers only (either self-nominated or by a third party) where they are:

- a current and/or previously ESRC-funded researcher including ESRC centres and large investments, ESRC resources and current and previous ESRC Fellows, or
- a current ESRC-funded doctoral student or have completed their ESRC doctoral studentship funding in the last four years

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 the new application form, with updated information, a clear statement of how this application differs to your previous submission and with fresh letters of support.

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

All information given will be shared with the reviewers, although not put into the public domain. We would not, of course, expect you to share any confidential information, but suggest that you could explain this on your application within the free text boxes, so that the reviewers will be aware of the situation.

Is it acceptable to include hyperlinks in the application?

Hyperlinks are allowable within the application, although we cannot guarantee that the reviewers will click into them. If you wish to make sure that the reviewers use the hyperlinks, we suggest that that you make a clear note of this in your application.

Who should the letters of support be addressed to?

Address your letters of support to the ESRC.

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. A maximum of five documents can be uploaded per application.

Alternatively, you may submit your application without the attachment and email the letters of support separately to impact@esrc.ukri.org including your submission reference number, 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 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 thesis that has been passed through viva voce 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 why that is the case.

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

Please check your spam folder before contacting impact@esrc.ukri.org

When is the closing date?

Completed forms must be received no later than **16:00 on 8 January 2019**.

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

Shortlisted applicants will be notified by e-mail in early March 2019. Interviews will take place on 27 and 28 March 2019. At least two weeks' notice before the interviews will be provided.

What does the interview stage involve?

Shortlisted applicants will be invited to attend a panel interview in London in late March or early April. ESRC will notify all applicants of the date(s) when the competition closes. 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 impact of 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. Full details will be communicated to shortlisted applicants in March 2019.

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. This includes but is not limited to knowledge mobilisation and/or associated further research at the discretion of the prize winner, 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.

I have a question that isn't answered here

Please contact the Impact Prize team at impact@esrc.ukri.org