



Announcement of Opportunity

UKRI 2017 Industrial Innovation Fellowships

Application Je-S Closing Date: 16:00 GMT, September 19th 2017

PLEASE NOTE – AO UPDATED 12/09/2017

Section – para.	Change Type	Change
All document	Update	Updated name to <i>UKRI 2017 Industrial Innovation Fellowships</i>
Call Remit – 14.	T&C Added	Condition referring to Rutherford Fund Fellowships added
Eligibility – 25.	T&C Removed	Condition referring to Tier 1 Visas removed.
Eligibility – 25.	T&C Updated	Condition referring to Rutherford Fund Fellowships added
Eligibility – 27.	T&C Removed	The requirement for Research Centre staff to resign from their position in order to take up this award has been removed.
Eligibility – 28.	T&C Added	Fellowship award holders must relinquish their current responsibilities to dedicate 100% of their working time to completion of this award.
Required documents – 36.	T&C Amended	Corrected table to include Publication List.
Call Timetable	Update	Je-S dates amended

Summary

1. NERC invites proposals for fellowship awards of up to 3.5 years in duration aligned with the objectives of the [Industrial Strategy](#).
2. These research fellowships are to support the delivery of the Industrial Strategy by supporting early career researchers in exploring interdisciplinary solutions as well as addressing focused sectoral needs, both in the short term and long term, to the economic benefit of the UK.
3. It is anticipated that 24 Industrial Innovation Fellowships will be supported through this call and the successful applicants will commence their fellowships by January 1st 2018 at the latest.
4. A total budget of £8.86M is available between 2017/18 to 2020/21 to support these awards.

Please note – where not explicitly mentioned within this document, please refer to the [NERC Research Grants and Fellowships Handbook](#) for guidance and information relevant to preparing your application.

Background

5. Developing and supporting a strong and agile research base is integral to supporting the UK Government's vision of industrial growth driven by research and innovation needs. Reflecting this, skills form a key component of the UK government's 2017 Industrial Strategy.
6. The Green Paper, January 2017, "[Building Our Industrial Strategy](#)" states that "We will ... [s]ubstantially increase investment in R&D and ensure that UK research continues to be world class."
 - *Build the **pipeline of talent for an innovative economy**.*
 - *Ensure that the **UK attracts top international talent**.*
7. In response to this, UKRI has developed a fellowship programme to be supported through the National Productivity Investment Fund. Targeted at early career researchers (ECRs), UKRI Industrial Innovation Fellowships will be a step change in the support provided by the Research Councils to the research leaders of the future enabling some of the UK's most talented researchers to undertake major new innovation oriented, intellectual endeavours.
8. NERC will be delivering these fellowships through Industrial Innovation Fellowships and Industrial Mobility Fellowships

Industrial Innovation Fellowships

9. Industrial Innovation Fellowships are 3.5 year research fellowship awards where the award holder undertakes a programme of research clearly aligned with the objectives of the Industrial Strategy – and particularly the core challenge areas identified within the Green Paper – whilst maximising the impact of this research through working in collaboration with users of research.
10. Reflecting the importance of interdisciplinarity in sustaining a strong and agile research base, these fellowships will enable ECRs to explore interdisciplinary solutions as well as addressing focused sectoral needs to the economic benefit of the UK, both in the short term and long term. This scheme will ensure that the UK industrial sector has a supply of skilled researchers and will nurture future leaders in both industry and the research base.

Remit of the Call

11. Industrial Innovation Fellowships are research fellowships for early career researchers (ECRs) to support them in undertaking research aligned with the objectives of the [Industrial Strategy and the challenge areas recognised therein](#); all applicants must clearly demonstrate this alignment within their applications.

12. All fellowships must fall at least 50% within the [NERC science remit](#).
13. Reflecting that innovation often occurs at the intersection of disciplines, NERC strongly encourages applications for interdisciplinary fellowships that tackle challenges spanning traditional Research Council remit boundaries.
14. In recognition of the importance of attracting global talent to the UK, 25% of the fellowships supported through this call will be awarded as Rutherford Fellowships to non-UK applicants.
15. Applicants are expected to complete a 3.5 year programme of research aligned with the objectives of the Industrial Strategy. Applicants will be required to demonstrate alignment within their proposal to one or more of the challenge areas as outlined in the Industrial Strategy. These are:
 - Clean energy
 - Robotics and AI
 - Satellites and space
 - Leading edge healthcare and medicine
 - Manufacturing and materials
 - Biotechnology and synthetic biology
 - Transformative digital technologies (including big data and analytics)
 - Quantum technologies
 - Technologies for the creative industries
 - Building a resilient economy
16. In addition to the challenge areas, several focus topics have been identified for Industrial Innovation Fellowships at the boundary of Research Council remits and of relevance to NERC:
 - Driving forwards the development and applications of cutting edge data science to study major societal challenges. The Fellowships will be thematically focused on the complex challenges 1) facing the development of cities and 2) in maintaining a healthy population.
 - Support development of immersive technologies, such as AR and VR, which are already transforming the delivery of creative content and which are recognised to have significant potential spillover effects into other sectors (e.g. health care).
 - Links between the environment and human health.
 - Big data.
 - Design.
17. Applicants will be required to demonstrate within their proposals how they will engage with users of NERC research throughout the completion of their research to ensure a legacy of collaboration and impact during and beyond the lifetime of their fellowship.

Funding

18. A total budget of £8.86M is available between 2017/18 and 2020/21 to support these awards.
19. There are no funding limits for Industrial Innovation Fellowship proposals, but the

fellowship applicant must be the only named researcher on the proposal and no equipment (costing more than £10,000 including VAT) can be requested.

20. NERC is anticipating announcing awards in October 2017 with fellowships commencing soon after the announcement date. The latest awards will be able to start through this opportunity will be January 1st 2018 but, if you are interested in applying and would not be able to start by this date, please contact the NERC Fellowships team to discuss your application.
21. For the full financial conditions relevant to these awards, please refer to **Section E-Financial Conditions** of the [NERC Research Grants and Fellowships Handbook](#).

Eligibility

22. Industrial Innovation Fellowships are available for Early Career Researchers. For the purposes of this competition an ECR is defined as a postdoctoral researcher in either academia or industry who does not currently hold a leadership position within their organisation. This definition is deliberately flexible to reflect the wide remit of this call but we would not typically expect applicants to qualify as an ECR if they hold the position of Senior Lecturer or equivalent, or higher. Please contact the NERC Fellowships team should you wish to discuss your eligibility.
23. The fellowship applicant is the Principal Investigator. No Co-Investigators are allowed.
24. All Fellowships may be held full or part-time and NERC welcomes proposals from candidates who wish to work on a part-time/flexible basis in order to combine domestic responsibilities with a career.
25. NERC Fellowships are open to applicants of any nationality, including those currently based at non-UK research organisations, although all Fellowship proposals must be submitted through and held at an eligible UK Research Organisation. An intention of this programme is to attract global talent to the UK so applications from non-UK nationals are encouraged and 25% of awards will be made as Rutherford Fellowships to non-UK nationals.
26. Visa costs may be included as Directly Incurred within the fellowship application.
27. NERC staff in Bands 5 and 6 only can apply for a fellowship.
28. Industrial Innovation Fellowships are 1.0 FTE awards. Staff awarded a fellowship must relinquish their former responsibilities to allow them to spend 100% of their working time undertaking their fellowship research.
29. Applicants for NERC Industrial Innovation Fellowships must expect to submit their PhD thesis and have received intent to award from their studentship awarding body before being able to commence their fellowship.
30. Applicants can submit their proposal to both the Industrial Innovation Fellowship

competition and a concurrent NERC fellowship competition (such as IRF) should both be open over the same period. Proposals must still meet the requirements of the competition to which they have applied to be considered eligible for funding

Application Process

31. Proposals must be submitted using the Research Councils Joint Electronic Submission system (Je-S). To use this system, the applicant's Research Organisation must be registered as a Je-S user. Full details are available on the Je-S website. Further information can also be obtained by contacting the Je-S Helpdesk by email at JeSHelp@rcuk.ac.uk or by telephone on 01793 44 4164.
32. The Je-S Call Name for this opportunity is "NPIF Innovation Fellowships SEP17".
33. Applicants must ensure that their proposal is received by NERC by 4pm (16.00) on **September 19th 2017**. The Je-S system will close at 16.00 and proposals will not submit to NERC after that time. They should leave enough time for their proposal to pass through their organisation's Je-S submission route before 16.00 on the relevant closing date. Any proposal that is incomplete or does not meet the eligibility criteria of NERC will be rejected and will not be considered.
34. All attachments, with the exception of letters of support and services/facilities/equipment quotes, submitted through the Je-S system must be completed in single-spaced typescript of minimum font size 11 point (Arial or other sans serif typeface of equivalent size to Arial 11), with margins of at least 2cm. Please note that Arial narrow, Calibri and Times New Roman are not allowable font types and any proposal which has used either of these font types within their submission will be rejected. References and footnotes should also be at least 11 point font and should be in the same font type as the rest of the document. Headers and footers should not be used for references or information relating to the scientific case. Embedded diagrams or pictures or numerical formulae may contain text that is smaller than 11 point but applicants should ensure that the font is legible. Text in tables and figure labels not within embedded diagrams should be at least 11 point. If applicants are not able to use Arial font and are unsure whether the font type they plan to use will meet NERC guidelines then they should contact the NERC Fellowships Team at fellowships@nerc.ac.uk before submitting their proposal for confirmation of whether or not the font type they plan to use is acceptable. The correct attachment type should be used in Je-S as that determines whether attachments are visible to reviewers and/or moderating panel members.
35. Letters of support must be on headed paper and signed/dated. Attachments must not exceed the page limits specified for the attachment type and scheme (see below), regardless of the number of component Research Organisations. Attachments should be converted to PDF and checked prior to attaching to the proposal in Je-S, as PDF conversion of documents with any non-standard fonts (scientific notation, diagrams etc.) can result in changes, such as missing data or increased document length. It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure that font size and margins remain the same when documents are converted to a pdf.

36. Applicants will be required to submit the following documents to this call:

Document/attachment type	Requirements (see also Section F of the NERC Research Grants and Fellowships Handbook)
Proposal Form	Je-S pro forma
Case for Support	This should include the Previous Track Record and Description of Proposed Research and Research Vision (up to 8 sides A4).
Outline Data Management Plan (ODMP)	up to 1 side A4
C.V.	CV for the fellowship applicant only (up to 2 sides A4).
Publication List	No page limit, but this should not duplicate information in the CV. No publications should be attached.
Pathways to Impact	Up to 2 sides A4
Project Partner Letter of Support	Fellowship proposals do not have the Project Partner screen or attachment type – see below
Letter of Support	For fellowship proposals, any significant collaborators (from outside the host Research Organisation) should be named in the Partnership Details section of the form and a letter of support (up to 2 sides A4) should be attached from each person named in that section. Collaborators from the host Research Organisation submitting the proposal should not be named in this section and should not provide a letter of support. Internal collaborators can be mentioned in the section on “Choice of Host Institution”. Personal References should not be included with the proposal.
Head of Department Statement	This is mandatory for Fellowship schemes – see Section F of the NERC Research Grants and Fellowships Handbook. This attachment is added at the submitter/approver stage of Je-S submission.
Facility Form	Use only for application forms for Ship-time/Marine Equipment (SME), Antarctic Logistic Support and for High Performance Computing (HPC) when

	use of ARCHER exceeds 160MAU (in any one year).
Technical Assessment	Mandatory for any NERC Facility selected on the Je-S pro forma except those listed in the previous row. The full list is on the NERC website. The attachment should be a quote from the relevant facility.
Proposal Cover Letter	This attachment does not go out to reviewers, so should not be used except to flag up a significant issue to the NERC Office (e.g. a request not to use a certain reviewer). This attachment should be used to declare any relevant interests .

37. The Case for Support (Parts 1 and 2) should be a maximum of 8 sides of A4 and address the points listed in **Section F** of the [NERC Research Grants and Fellowships Handbook](#) as well as those below. Within the Case for Support an applicant should:

- demonstrate their research vision and philosophy and outline ways in which their research could be developed;
- explain how their proposed research aligns with the challenge areas of the Industrial Strategy, and how it will contribute to research relevant to both academia and industry;
- explain how they will engage with relevant academic and industry partners to ensure the potential economic and societal impact of their research is realised.

38. The detailed research proposed (and costed) on the proposal should be manageable by the Fellow. Some fieldwork or technical assistance can be requested on Fellowship proposals, but the proposal must not include costs for a research assistant and should not assume access to PhD Students. As part of the demonstration of research vision, the applicant would be expected to outline their future research direction and how they would position themselves as a recognised research leader at the interface of academia and industry.

39. Applicants should discuss with their host institution what would be a reasonable starting salary (based on the applicant's age when taking up the appointment and their previous salary level and experience). The Head of Department's statement should include justification for a higher than average starting salary.

40. The Head of Department of the host institution will be required to demonstrate:

- the availability of structured institutional support, including infrastructure and facilities, funds to support research;
- support for personal development of the fellow, including mentoring, appropriate review and training courses.

41. Any significant collaborators (from outside the host Research Organisation) should be named in the Partnership Details section of the form and a letter of support (up to 2 sides A4 on headed paper) should be attached from each person named in that section. Collaborators from the host Research Organisation submitting the proposal should not be named in this section and should not provide a letter of support. Internal collaborators can be mentioned in the section on “Choice of Host Institution”. Personal References should not be included with the proposal.

Assessment Process

42. Written applications will be assessed by an experienced panel of independent experts relevant to NERC’s Research, Training, and Innovation communities. There will be no interview stage.

43. Applications must demonstrate alignment with the Industrial Strategy Challenge Fund and will be assessed against two criteria:

- Applicant Excellence: an assessment of the applicant’s potential to become a recognised research leader.
- Research Excellence: an assessment of the proposed research in terms of quality, significance, and impact aligned with achieving the objectives of the Industrial Strategy, maximising social and economic impact and ensuring a legacy beyond its lifetime

44. Further information concerning these criteria and the scoring process is available in **Annex A**.

Timetable

Date	Activity
7th August 2017	Announcements of Opportunity Live
25 th August 2017	Calls open on Je-S
19th September 2017	Calls close on Je-S
4 th October 2017	Assessment Meeting
October 2017	Award outcomes announced
From October 2017	Awards Commence
1 st January 2018	Latest Start Date for Awards
30 th June 2021	All Industrial Innovation Fellowships end

Contact

For all enquiries please contact:

NERC Fellowships

Email: fellowships@nerc.ac.uk

Annex A: Industrial Innovation Fellowships Scoring Criteria

A. Suitability of Applicant

Score	Suitability of Applicant
6	Outstanding The applicant is on a clear trajectory to become a recognised research leader at the interface of academia and industry.
5	Excellent The applicant is likely to become a recognised research leader at the interface of academia and industry.
4	Very Good The applicant demonstrates potential to become a recognised research leader at the interface of academia and industry.
3	Adequate The applicant is a solid research scientist but has demonstrated insufficient evidence of leadership potential at the interface of academia and industry.
2	Poor The applicant has demonstrated some scientific weaknesses and/or no evidence of leadership potential to become a recognised research leader at the interface of academia and industry.
1	Very Poor The applicant has demonstrated substantial leadership weaknesses.

B. Research Excellence and Legacy Criterion

Score	Research Excellence and Legacy
6	<p>Outstanding</p> <p>The proposed work meets outstanding standards in terms of originality, quality, significance, and impact aligned with achieving the objectives of the Industrial Strategy and ensuring a legacy beyond its lifetime.</p>
5	<p>Excellent</p> <p>The proposed work meets excellent standards in terms of originality, quality, significance, and impact aligned with achieving the objectives of the Industrial Strategy and ensuring a legacy beyond its lifetime.</p>
4	<p>Very Good</p> <p>The proposed work meets high standards of originality, quality, significance, and impact aligned with achieving the objectives of the Industrial Strategy and ensuring a legacy beyond its lifetime</p>
3	<p>Good</p> <p>The proposed work is of merit, meets satisfactory standards of originality, quality, significance, and impact aligned with achieving the objectives of the Industrial Strategy and ensuring a legacy beyond its lifetime</p>
2	<p>Not Competitive/ Modest</p> <p>The proposed work is potentially of some merit but overall is of inconsistent quality, significance, and impact aligned with achieving the objectives of the Industrial Strategy and ensuring a legacy beyond its lifetime</p>
1	<p>Unfundable/ Poor</p> <p>The proposed work is unsatisfactory in terms of originality, quality, significance, and impact aligned with achieving the objectives of the Industrial Strategy and ensuring a legacy beyond its lifetime.</p>
0	<p>Non-Scoring</p> <p>For special cases e.g. flawed in scientific approach, subject to serious technical difficulties, irrelevant to achieving the objectives of the Industrial Strategy, insufficiently clearly written that it cannot be properly assessed, or is duplicative of other research.</p>

Annex B: Overall Scoring Criteria

Each proposal will be assigned a 0-10 grade using the definitions provided below. Please note these definitions are illustrative and not exhaustive. The definitions are based around the reviewer guidance criteria (Suitability of Applicant A1-6 and Research Excellence R0-6 – Annex A).

Score	Usual Indicators
10	<p>The applicant is on a clear trajectory to become a recognised research leader at the interface of academia and industry (A6). The proposed work is outstanding in terms of originality, quality, significance, and impact aligned with achieving the objectives of the Industrial Strategy and ensuring a legacy beyond its lifetime (R6).</p> <p>Highest priority for funding.</p>
9	<p>The applicant is on a clear trajectory to become a recognised research leader at the interface of academia and industry (A6). The proposed work is excellent in terms of originality, quality, significance, and impact aligned with achieving the objectives of the Industrial Strategy and ensuring a legacy beyond its lifetime (R5).</p> <p>OR</p> <p>The applicant is likely to become a recognised research leader at the interface of academia and industry. (A5). The proposed work is outstanding in terms of originality, quality, significance, and impact aligned with achieving the objectives of the Industrial Strategy and ensuring a legacy beyond its lifetime (R6).</p> <p>Very high priority for funding.</p>
8	<p>The applicant is on a clear trajectory to become a recognised research leader at the interface of academia and industry (A6). The proposed work is very good in terms of originality, quality, significance, and impact aligned with achieving the objectives of the Industrial Strategy and ensuring a legacy beyond its lifetime (R4).</p> <p>OR</p> <p>The applicant is likely to become a recognised research leader at the interface of academia and industry (A5). The proposed work is excellent in terms of originality, quality, significance, and impact aligned with achieving the objectives of the Industrial Strategy and ensuring a legacy beyond its lifetime (R5).</p> <p>OR</p> <p>The applicant demonstrates potential to become recognised research leader at the interface of academia and industry. (A4). The proposed work is</p>

outstanding in terms of originality, quality, significance, and impact aligned with achieving the objectives of the Industrial Strategy and ensuring a legacy beyond its lifetime (R6)

High priority for funding.

- 7 The applicant is on a clear trajectory to become recognised research leader at the interface of academia and industry (A6). The proposed work is good in terms of originality, quality, significance, and impact aligned with achieving the objectives of the Industrial Strategy and ensuring a legacy beyond its lifetime (R3).

OR

The applicant is likely to become a world class research leader (A5). The proposed work is very good in terms of originality, quality, significance, and impact aligned with achieving the objectives of the Industrial Strategy and ensuring a legacy beyond its lifetime (R4).

OR

The applicant demonstrates potential to become recognised research leader at the interface of academia and industry (A4). The proposed work is excellent in terms of originality, quality, significance, and impact aligned with achieving the objectives of the Industrial Strategy and ensuring a legacy beyond its lifetime (R5).

Should be funded if possible.

- 6 The applicant is likely to become a recognised research leader at the interface of academia and industry (A5). The proposed work is good in terms of originality, quality, significance, and impact aligned with achieving the objectives of the Industrial Strategy and ensuring a legacy beyond its lifetime (R3).

OR

The applicant demonstrates potential to become recognised research leader at the interface of academia and industry (A4). The proposed work is very good in terms of originality, quality, significance, and impact aligned with achieving the objectives of the Industrial Strategy and ensuring a legacy beyond its lifetime (R4).

Suitable for funding in principal, but in a competitive context is not a priority.

- 5 The applicant is likely to become a recognised research leader at the interface of academia and industry (A5/6), but the proposed work is not competitive in terms of originality, quality, significance, and impact aligned with achieving the objectives of the Industrial Strategy and ensuring a legacy beyond its lifetime. (R2/1)

OR

The applicant demonstrates potential to become a recognised research leader at the interface of academia and industry. (A4). The proposed work is not competitive in terms of originality, quality, significance, and impact aligned with achieving the objectives of the Industrial Strategy and ensuring a legacy beyond its lifetime (R3/2/1)

Not recommended for funding

- 4 The applicant is a solid research scientist but has demonstrated insufficient evidence of leadership potential at the interface of academia and industry. (A3)

The proposed work is competitive in terms of originality, quality, significance, and impact aligned with achieving the objectives of the Industrial Strategy and ensuring a legacy beyond its lifetime. (R4/5/6).

Not recommended for funding.

- 3 The applicant is a solid research scientist but has demonstrated insufficient evidence of leadership potential at the interface of academia and industry. (A3)

The proposed work is not competitive in terms of originality, quality, significance, and impact aligned with achieving the objectives of the Industrial Strategy and ensuring a legacy beyond its lifetime. (R3/2/1)

Not recommended for funding.

- 2 The applicant has demonstrated some scientific weaknesses and/or no evidence of leadership potential to become a recognised research leader at the interface of academia and industry. (A2)

Not recommended for funding.

- 1 The applicant has demonstrated substantial scientific weaknesses. (A1)

Not recommended for funding.

- 0 Not enough information available to judge quality of candidate (A0).

For special cases e.g. flawed in scientific approach, subject to serious technical difficulties, irrelevant to achieving the objectives of the Industrial Strategy, insufficiently clearly written that it cannot be properly assessed, or is duplicative of other research. (R0).