

NERC

SCIENCE OF THE
ENVIRONMENT

RCUK (UKRI) 2017 NPIF Fellowships Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

LAST UPDATED – 1st September 2017

Useful Links & Contacts

The [NERC Research Grants and Fellowships Handbook](#)

NERC Fellowships: fellowships@nerc.ac.uk or researchcareers@nerc.ac.uk

Tips

- Consider the assessment criteria and objectives for the scheme against which you are making a fellowship application and present information so it can be clearly mapped against these.
- NERC Fellows, Members of the NERC Peer Review College, and experienced members of our community are based at research organisations across the UK – these individuals are very familiar with NERC's application processes and should be able to provide advice and guidance.

Award Details

Q1) Why is the timetable for these awards so short?

A1) These fellowships are supported through the National Productivity Investment Fund which has a lifetime of 2017/18 – 2021/22. All awards supported through the NPIF must adhere to this funding timetable and, more specifically, to the profile of tranches of funding released through the NPIF. These funding profiles dictate the award timetables and are inflexible.

Q2) Should I apply if I am unable to start by the January 1st 2018 latest start date?

A2) We strongly encourage applicants to adhere to this start date and arrange so that they will be able to begin their fellowship award by this point. There is little flexibility in these dates to ensure awards align with the funding available to support them. However, if you are unable to begin by this date by a matter of a few weeks, please contact NERC to discuss your application.

Eligibility

Q3) What is meant by the term “Early Career Researcher”?

A3) Reflecting the very wide remit of these calls in terms of NERC remit, potential collaborators, and the objectives of the scheme, this definition is intentionally broad. These fellowships are to provide early career innovation support to enable ECRs to engage with industry around core Industrial Strategy Challenge Areas, and develop a pipeline of talent prepared to enter both industry and the research base flexibly in the future. Applications are therefore invited from applicants who consider themselves aligned with achieving these objectives.

These fellowships are not targeted at established researchers acting as leaders within NERC’s community, such as Principal Investigators, Team Leaders, Senior Lecturers, etc. Please note that we consider the requirements of an individual’s role when determining eligibility and not just their role title. If you have any queries concerning your eligibility, please contact NERC.

Q4) Are there any eligibility restrictions concerning maximum years’ experience that apply to applicants for these schemes?

A4) No.

Partner Organisations and Collaborators

Q5) What is meant by the term Users of NERC research?

A5) A User of NERC research is an organisation that makes use of the outputs of NERC funded research as part of their organisational functions.

Q6) What organisations can I partner/collaborate with for this opportunity?

A6) This decision lies with the applicant. All fellowships supported through these opportunities must align with the objectives of the Industrial Strategy and the Challenge Areas therein. The organisation(s) you choose to partner/collaborate with must also align with these objectives and your rationale for collaborating with them must be made clear within your proposal. Applications unable to demonstrate alignment with the Industrial Strategy in both their research objectives and choice of collaborators will not be considered for these awards.

Q7) What do you mean by the term “Industry” within the AO?

A7) Private sector profitmaking non-academic organisations. Certain organisations whose primary function does not align with this definition but who have a department or function that does may also be suitable if appropriate justification is included within your application and the organisation can be clearly linked with the objectives of the Industrial Strategy and its Challenge Areas. If you are unsure whether a non-academic organisation is aligned with this opportunity, please contact NERC.

Application Process

Q8) Do I need to include a Justification of Resources document in my application?

A8) No

Q9) What should I include in my Pathways to Impact?

A9) The Pathways to Impact section of these awards is to capture any additional impact activities beyond those with industry already integrated into the Case for Support. This could include activities involving other stakeholders such as policy organisations, the public, etc. who would be impacted by your research but not in a manner relevant to achieving the objectives of the Industrial Strategy.

Please note, information within your Pathways to Impact will not be considered when scoring your proposal so do not include information in this section relevant to meeting the objectives of this scheme and the Industrial Strategy.