EPSRC Postdoctoral Pathway Scheme 2025 - Call for nominations

PURPOSE

The EPSRC Postdoctoral Pathway scheme (formerly known as Doctoral Prize scheme) is intended to help universities retain and recruit the best PhD students receiving EPSRC support, to increase the impact of their PhD and to improve retention of the very best students in research careers.

Awards can comprise between three and twenty-four months salary (at grade 07S.2 of the University salary scale) and research support costs for an EPSRC-funded student following the submission of their DPhil thesis.

DEADLINES

The deadline for submission of applications is midday on **Monday 19th May 2025**.

ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible to apply:
• You must be EPSRC funded (that is, you must have received fees and/or stipend from an EPSRC training grant, such as EPSRC DTP, I-CASE, DTP-CASE, CDT or have been funded on an EPSRC research grant);
• You should meet the EPSRC's expectation that you are 'academically in the top 10-15% of your cohort';
• You must have either already submitted your DPhil thesis or be reasonably expected to do so in advance of the proposed start date of funding (consideration might also be given to starting the award after the candidate has completed his or her viva).

Departments:
• should ensure that the nominee's project is a viable one, will further the aim of increasing the impact of the student's doctoral research in terms of publications, KT and outreach, and will be helpful in retaining the student in a research career (EPSRC will ask the University to report at the end of the award period on the use of the awards and the outputs obtained, in terms of these objectives);
• should ensure that appropriate support/space etc. is available;
• and that an induction procedure will be followed at the time the awardee commences employment.

Funding may be requested to cover three to twenty four months salary, research support costs and other specific costs, with the majority of awards expected to be of six months duration. Awards longer than 12 months in duration will only be considered in exceptional circumstances. Salary will be at Grade 07S.02 with employer costs of pension and National Insurance allowed for. The panel reserves the right to make awards at a lower level and/or for a shorter time period than that applied for.

It is possible to use matched/leveraged funding to further extend the award. If this is intended, please make it clear in the application below which part of the work would be funded by the EPSRC Postdoctoral Pathway and which elements would be funded by the additional funding.

Please direct any enquiries to graduate.studies@mpls.ox.ac.uk with the words 'Postdoctoral Pathway' in the subject of the email.

1. Department *

( ) Biology

( ) Chemistry

( ) Computer Science

( ) Doctoral Training Centre

( ) Earth Sciences

( ) Engineering

( ) Materials

( ) Mathematical Institute

( ) Physics

( ) Statistics

( ) Other

2. Full Name *

[   ]

3. Student Number *

Usually a 6-8 digit number (next to the photo on the student's card), not the Single Sign-On or barcode number

[   ]

4. Email Address *

[   ]

5. Name of Supervisor *

[   ]

6. Supervisor's Email Address *

[   ]

7. Professional Services Contact *

[   ]

8. Professional Services Contact Email Address *

ABOUT THE STUDENT

9. Are you an EPSRC funded research student? *

   ◯ Yes

   ◯ No

10. Type of grant the candidate received (e.g. DTP/CDT/ICASE) *

    [   ]

11. Grant Reference Number *

    [   ]

12. Is appropriate support/space available for the proposed work? (please briefly describe) *
    This should include standard IT equipment, which cannot be covered by EPSRC.

    [   ]

13. Will a mentor, who is not the awardee's supervisor or line-manager, be provided for the awardee? *
    All awards will be subject to a mentor being confirmed.

    ◯ Yes - mentor provisionally agreed

    ◯ Yes - TBC

    ◯ No

14. Have you submitted your DPhil? *

    ◯ Yes

    ◯ No

15. Are you reasonably expected to submit your DPhil thesis in time to take up this funding? *

    ◯ Yes

    ◯ No

16. Please provide the actual or expected submission date *

This date must be prior to the proposed start date of funding and some latitude should be allowed between the two dates. If a student who is offered an award does not submit their DPhil thesis by the expected submission date, the offer of the award will be reviewed by the Chair of the Postdoctoral Pathway panel. The award may be withdrawn if there is no prospect of a timely submission.

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CASE FOR SUPPORT

This should outline how the award would contribute to the EPSRC's objectives for the scheme: developing your research beyond your Doctoral topic; increasing the impact of the PhD in terms of publications, knowledge transfer and outreach etc.; improving retention of the very best students in their research careers. It should present your objectives and expected outcomes of the Postdoctoral Pathway award, and comment on the benefits of the award to you and how the department and supervisor will support you during the award and help you develop a career in research. The proposal should be written for non-specialist, scientifically literate individuals.

17. Project title *

18. Please indicate the proposed start date of funding *

Awards may start at any time from 1 October 2025, but funding cannot extend beyond 1 April 2027.

19. Please indicate the proposed duration of the award (in months) *

Applications may be for a period of three to twenty four months. The normal length of awards is six months. A strong supporting case will be needed for applications for awards for periods of between six and twenty four months.

20. Does the department intend to use matched/leveraged funding to further extend the award? *

◯ No

◯ Yes

21. If alternative funding is obtained in order to further extend the award, please detail the additional work that would be achieved as a result. *

22. Please indicate what EPSRC theme the research comes under *

- [ ] Advanced materials and physical sciences

- [ ] Artificial intelligence and robotics

- [ ] Digital security and resilience

- [ ] Energy and decarbonisation

- [ ] Engineering

- [ ] Healthcare technologies

- [ ] Information and communication technologies

- [ ] Manufacturing and the circular economy

- [ ] Mathematical sciences

- [ ] Quantum technologies

23. Please upload the case for support *

Akin to the format of a grant application, written collaboratively by yourself and your supervisor - maximum of two sides of A4 (minimum font size 10) - The proposal should be written for non-specialist scientifically literate individuals.
Please include your full name in the file name.

⤒ **Upload file**

File number limit: 3   Single file size limit: 10MB   Allowed file types: Word, Excel, PPT, PDF, Image, Video, Audio

24. Please upload your academic CV *

This should outline your publications, results and achievements

Please include your full name in the file name.

⤒ **Upload file**

File number limit: 3   Single file size limit: 10MB   Allowed file types: Word, Excel, PPT, PDF, Image, Video, Audio

25. Please upload the supervisor's reference (supervisors may submit by email to graduate.studies@mpls.ox.ac.uk)

This should include information on how the candidate meets the criteria of being 'academically in the top 10-15% of their cohort'.

Maximum of one side of A4 (minimum font size 10).

⤒ **Upload file**

File number limit: 1   Single file size limit: 10MB   Allowed file types: Word, Excel, PPT, PDF, Image, Video, Audio

BUDGET SUMMARY

This should include the salary, research support costs and any other specific costs. The average value of awards in previous years has been around £31K. Budgets should be in line with the project duration. Salary should be set at the second point on the salary scale of grade 07S (OUW included) with employer costs of pension and National Insurance allowed for. It is not intended that the funds will cover the research on a Full Economic Cost basis.

26. Salary (including OUW, employer costs and NI) *

27. Research support costs *

28. Travel costs *

29. Other costs (please specify) *

30. Please upload a detailed budget. *

Please include your full name in the file name.

This should include a breakdown of the intended use of all additional funding (research support, travel and other costs).

⤒ **Upload file**

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Department Approval

31. Please confirm that this application has been approved by the department *

It is likely that departments will have slightly earlier internal deadlines for the applications to be reviewed, so please take this into account.

○ Yes

DECLARATION

In putting forward this nomination for an EPSRC Postdoctoral Pathway scheme, the department, nominating supervisor and nominee agree to comply with the terms of the grant, including the obligation of reporting on the use of the funds and the outputs obtained in terms of publications, knowledge transfer, and outreach, and whether the nominee is continuing in a research career. The department also confirms that it regards the student as being among the top 10-15% of its EPSRC funded students.

The information on this form will be processed in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). Further information about the University's Data Protection Policy can be found at https://compliance.admin.ox.ac.uk/data-protection-policy
(https://compliance.admin.ox.ac.uk/data-protection-policy).

32. **Please confirm that you, the proposed supervisor and Head of Department agree to the above declaration.** *

   ○ Yes