



UK Research  
and Innovation

# Welcome





Natural  
Environment  
Research Council

# Working Internationally – Opportunities to Engage

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23/03/2021



# Agenda

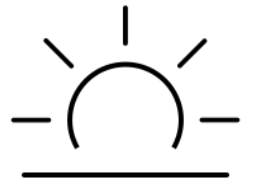
- Official Development Assistance (ODA) Funding
- Horizon Europe Opportunities
- Student Exchange programmes - examples
- EMBL examples
- UKRI – where to find information
  - Future Leaders Fellowships
  - Global Partnerships Seedcorn Fund Opportunity
- COP26





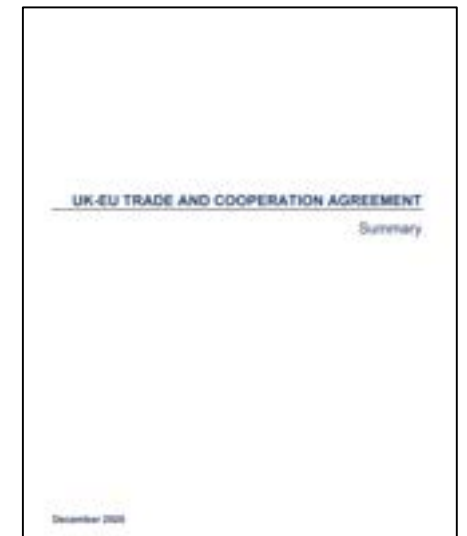
# What is Horizon Europe?

- The EU's flagship programme for research and innovation running from 2021-2027.
- **Overall budget of €95.5 billion.**
- **Ambition:** To shape the future of Europe and making Horizon Europe the most ambitious research and innovation programme ever introduced.
- **Aim:** To create opportunities for the world of tomorrow from the challenges of today and:
  - Strengthen the European Research Area (ERA)
  - Boost Europe's innovation capacity, competitiveness and growth
  - Deliver on citizens' priorities

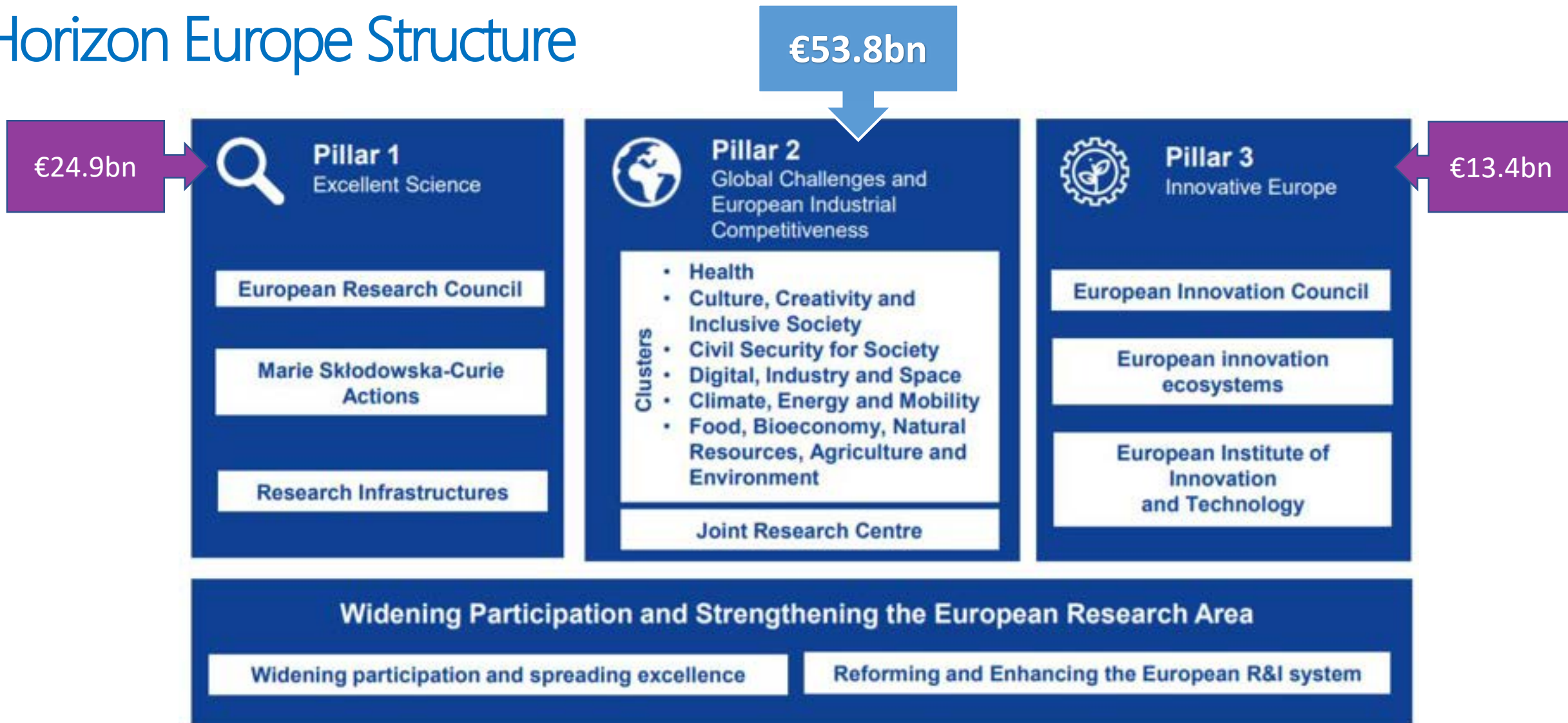


# UK participation in Horizon Europe

- On 24 December 2020, the UK Government announced the conclusions of the negotiations with the European Commission.
- The [announcement](#) included confirmation that the UK will associate to Horizon Europe subject to ratification of the overall deal and finalisation of the Horizon Europe Programme regulations.
- This includes full participation in Horizon Europe, with the exception of...
- UK entities **will not be able to participate in the European Innovation Council (EIC) Fund** which is part of the EIC Accelerator and provides investment through equity or other repayable form primarily for businesses.



# Horizon Europe Structure



- **€95.5bn** total funding agreed for **2021-2027**
- NB budget figures exclude UK and other Associate Country contributions
- Others likely to associate incl. Switzerland, Norway & Israel
- Canada, Japan, Australia etc. status TBC

# Key messages

- There are opportunities for Early Career Researchers across Horizon Europe but the choice depends upon the level of involvement required/desired.
- The [Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions](#) (MSCA) 'Postdoctoral Fellowships' are specifically focussed on individuals who have recently been awarded a PHD, to design their own project and move to another country/sector to deliver it. **Predicted to open in April.**
- MSCA 'Staff Exchange' provide opportunities for short-term exchanges within the context of a project so ideal for smaller scale actions and those looking to 'start small'.
- European Research Council (ERC) Starting Grants are for those with a PHD 2-7 years before the call. StG 2021 is closing imminently so may be wise to look at STG 2022 (Feb 2022).
- For Horizon Europe collaborative grants, you can join a consortium without the need for lots of experience but it is your employing organisation that joins these consortia and projects are large-scale and involve multiple partners across EU countries. The main collaborative grant opportunities under Horizon Europe in the area of environmental science are:
  - Cluster 5 - 'Climate, Energy and Mobility'
  - Cluster 6- 'Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment'

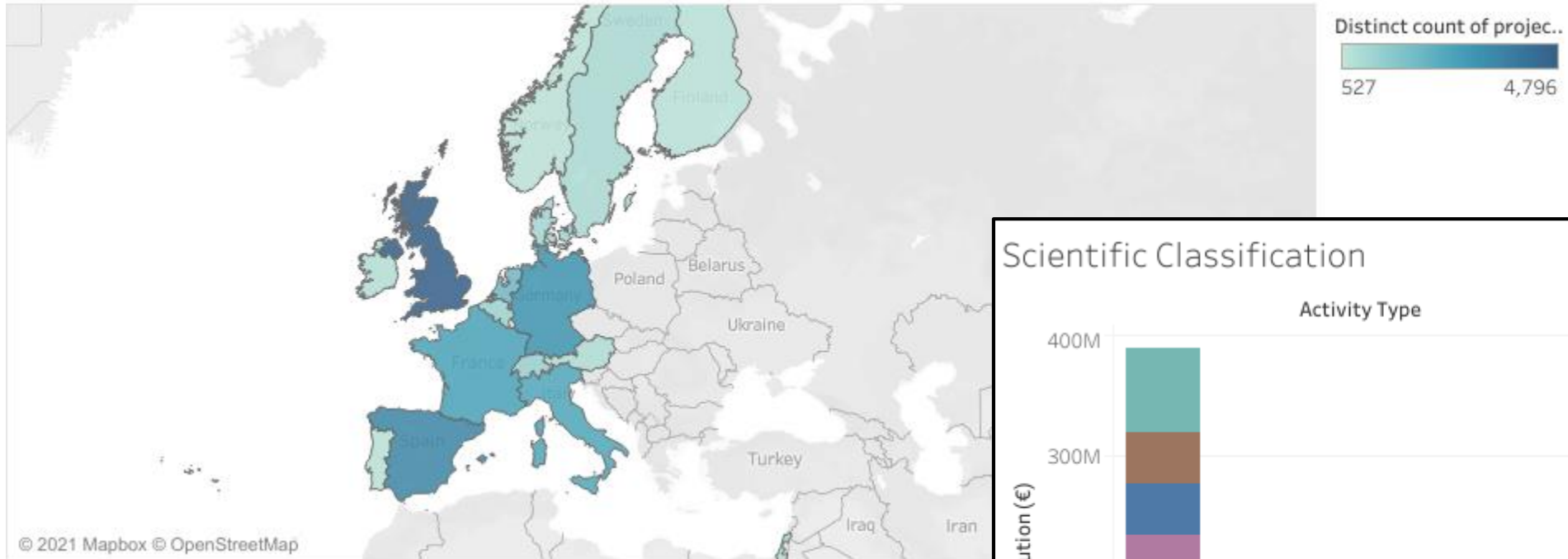


# Key messages continued

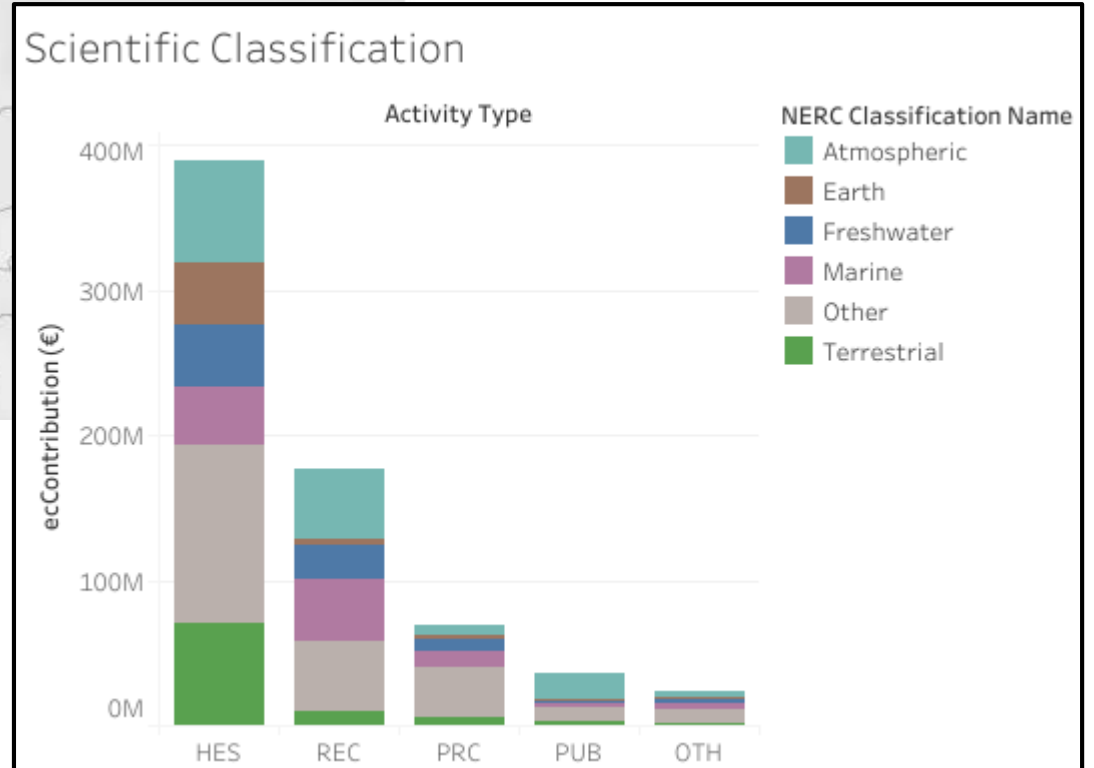
- The **European** Cooperation in Science and Technology (COST) programme also allows individuals to join existing large-scale networks for best-practice and knowledge exchange.
- Individuals don't necessarily need to set-up their own networks, they can join existing ones, so perfect for those looking to 'dip their toe' in EU projects without having to go for large grants.
- Outside of the formal funding opportunities there are multiple public-private/public-public partnerships with various collaboration opportunities, including network events, policy dialogues etc. Most of these are called 'European Partnerships' and the main relevant partnerships are:
  - Clean Energy Transition
  - Sustainable, smart and inclusive cities
  - Transforming EU's rail system
  - Clean Hydrogen
  - JPI Climate
  - JPI Oceans

# Opportunities for UK participation in Horizon Europe

Map - Number of EU funded projects



UK Researchers are actively engaged in many Eu funded projects, in fact we have far greater concentration that EU Member states



# Single Action with Two Destinations

## European Postdoctoral Fellowships

- Open to researchers of any nationality who wish to engage in R&I projects by either coming to Europe from any country in the world or moving within Europe.
- 12-24 Months in duration
- optional secondments cannot exceed one third of the standard fellowship duration
- additional period of up to six months to support researchers seeking a placement at the end of the project in an organisation from the non-academic sector established in an EU MS/AC

## Global Postdoctoral Fellowships

- Open to European nationals or long-term residents who wish to engage in R&I projects with organisations outside EU Member States and Horizon Europe Associated Countries.
- outgoing phase of maximum 24 months in a non-associated Third Country, and a mandatory 12-month return phase to a host organisation based in an EU Member State or a Horizon Europe Associated Country
- optional secondments are permitted for up to one third of the outgoing phase
- additional period of up to six months to support researchers seeking a placement at the end of the project in an organisation from the non-academic sector established in an EU MS/AC

# MSCA Staff Exchanges

- **Built on current RISE Actions to support collaborative R&I projects**
- Supports the exchange of staff members between institutions within Europe and Internationally
  - Open to any type of staff
- **Emphasis on added value of the collaboration**
- Integrating the triple I (I3) approach – International, Inter-sectoral, Interdisciplinary
- **Allow a limited number of interdisciplinary academia to academia exchanges within Europe (~30% of secondments)**
- No changes to total duration
- **Reduction from 540 person months to 360 person months**



# What is a National Contact Point (NCP)?

- Team of sector specific advisors to support UK entities to successfully participate in EU Framework Programmes.
- Support available for each areas of Horizon Europe



- **Informing, awareness raising** – on Horizon Europe and other EU programmes



- **Assisting, advising and training** – to improve the quality of Horizon Europe proposals



- **Signposting and cooperation** – direct to relevant support and work with each other to support consortium development



# The best ways to form winning teams

Being an *effective networker* is much more useful than submitting a profile into a portal and awaiting contacts.

- Use your existing professional networks – if you don't know who the sector leaders are in Europe then you should find out
  - Use Linked In to connect to people from possible partners
- Join the relevant Partnership if any, ask your NCP for details
- Search [CORDIS](#) for previous, related projects and contact the participants. All projects must disseminate their results and often hold workshops, etc.
- Join the relevant networks and associations – again ask your NCP for suggestions
  - Be an *active* member – say 'hi' when you join the virtual room. Ask questions, support others' opinions, act as if you are already well known to all in the virtual room
  - Volunteer to draft working papers, take notes, send in useful information – be helpful
  - Speak up at workshops – demonstrate Thought Leadership
  - Show that you would be a valuable partner for collaborative projects and that without you they won't win – you have the secret sauce that is necessary for their success



# Who is eligible for Horizon Europe and how to apply

- **Eligibility – any legal entity can participate**

- Collaborative projects - Must be a consortium of minimum 3 independent legal entities, each established in a different EU Member State (MS) or Associated countries, with at least 1 of them established in a MS
- Monobeneficiary projects – coordination & support actions, some MSCA and co-fund actions.

## Main Types of Actions

- **RIA** – Research and Innovation Actions – up to **100%** funding rate
- **IA** – Innovation Actions – up to **70%** funding rate (except non-profit, 100% applies)
- **CSA** – Coordination and Support Actions – up to **100%** funding rate

## Award Criteria

- **Excellence**
- **Impact**
- **Quality** and **Efficiency** of implementation

- Proposal submission and grant management – all electronically, via the EU portal
- **Application:** [https://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/docs/h2020-funding-guide/grants/applying-for-funding\\_en.htm](https://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/docs/h2020-funding-guide/grants/applying-for-funding_en.htm)



# Next steps

I'm interested in exploring the opportunity, what should I do?

- Contact the relevant NCP to discuss your proposal idea and discuss its relevance to the Calls for Proposals
- Prepare a proposal summary
- Approach potential partners
- Attend relevant webinars and info days
  - European Innovation Council – March 18-19
  - NCP Cluster-focused events – March 22-25
  - EU HEu implementation events – April/May
  - EU Research & Innovation Days – June 23-24





# Links to official documents and further information

- The UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) [website](#) provides latest information on UK participation
- The official statements on the EU-UK relationship are available on a [dedicated European Commission website](#) and the [UK Government page](#).
- UK Government provides information on [EU Funded Programmes under the Withdrawal Agreement](#).
- [Turing scheme](#) for students to study and work abroad



# Student Exchange Programmes

## IIASA Young Scientists Summer Program

- Offered by the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA).
- Available for doctoral students and offers extensive opportunities to the successful applicants to research on any of the focus areas of the IIASA.



## 5 Top Student Exchange Programs In The World You Should Know About

By Ayushi Kulkarni | Executive Education | March 9, 2021



[5 Top Student Exchange Programs In The World You Should Know About > CEOWORLD magazine](#)

# EMBL Case study

## What is it?

- European Molecular Biology research laboratory for the life sciences
- An intergovernmental organisation performing scientific research in disciplines including molecular biology, physics, chemistry and computer science.
- International, innovative and interdisciplinary laboratory with more than 1700 employees from many nations, operating across six sites, in Heidelberg (HQ), Barcelona, Hinxton near Cambridge, Hamburg, Grenoble and Rome.

## Opportunities to work abroad

- Excellence Postdoctoral Program.
- Collaboration between at least one lab at EMBL and one faculty member from the Stanford University School of Medicine or the Stanford University School of Humanities and Sciences.



<https://www.embl.org/jobs/position/EF00003/>

Closing Date 6 June 2021



## NERC highlight topics

You can apply for funding for research projects which address environmental challenges covered by six new highlight topics.

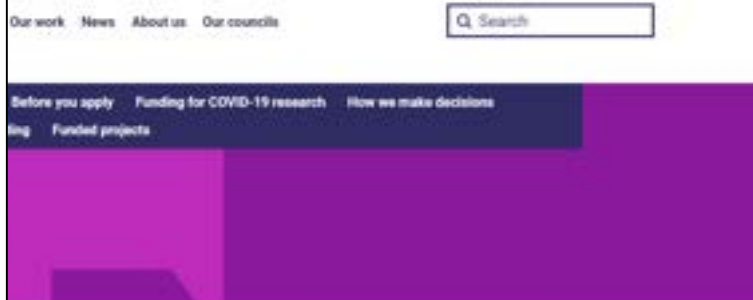
Your proposal must address issues within a single highlight topic.

Projects can last up to four years.

You must be a resident in the UK and employed by an eligible UK research organisation.

Opportunity status:	Open
Funders:	<a href="#">Natural Environment Research Council (NERC)</a>
Funding type:	Grant
Total fund:	£16,000,000
Maximum award:	£4,000,000
Publication date:	30 November 2020
Opening date:	30 November 2020 16:00 UK time
Closing date:	25 March 2021 16:00 UK time

# UKRI Funding Finder



## Knowledge Transfer Partnership

Knowledge Transfer Partnerships help businesses to partner with an academic organisation, research organisation or a Catapult, to employ a graduate with the skills and knowledge that can help the business to innovate and grow.

Opportunity status:	Open
Funders:	<a href="#">Innovate UK</a> , <a href="#">Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC)</a> , <a href="#">Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC)</a> , <a href="#">Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC)</a> , <a href="#">Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC)</a> , <a href="#">Natural Environment Research Council (NERC)</a> , <a href="#">Science and Technology Facilities Council (STFC)</a>
Co-funders:	Government departments and devolved governments
Funding type:	Grant
Publication date:	20 September 2020
Opening date:	N/A
Closing date:	Open - no closing date

## Funding council

- AHRC
- BBSRC

## Funding finder

Sorted by publication date (newest first)

Sort by opening date (oldest to newest)

Sort by closing date (oldest to newest)

## Global Partnerships Seedcorn Fund 2021

Apply for support to develop new long-term partnerships with international researchers.

Your partnership can be in any research area from across NERC's remit and must have the potential to become self-sustaining.

You and your organisation must be eligible for NERC funding and you must not hold another active Global Partnerships Seedcorn Fund grant, as a PI or Co-I, at the closing date for this grant.

Opportunity status:	Open
Funders:	<a href="#">Natural Environment Research Council (NERC)</a>
Co-funders:	<a href="#">State of São Paulo Research Foundation (FAPESP)</a> , <a href="#">Taiwan Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST)</a>
Funding type:	Grant
Total fund:	£1,000,000
Maximum award:	£100,000
Publication date:	1 February 2021
Opening date:	1 February 2021
Closing date:	30 March 2021 16:00 UK time

Results found using the current filters

### Developing the UK's low carbon automotive capability

Businesses can apply for a share of up to £25 million for UK-developed research and development (R&D), to support growth in advanced low carbon technology in the automotive sector and its associated supply chain.

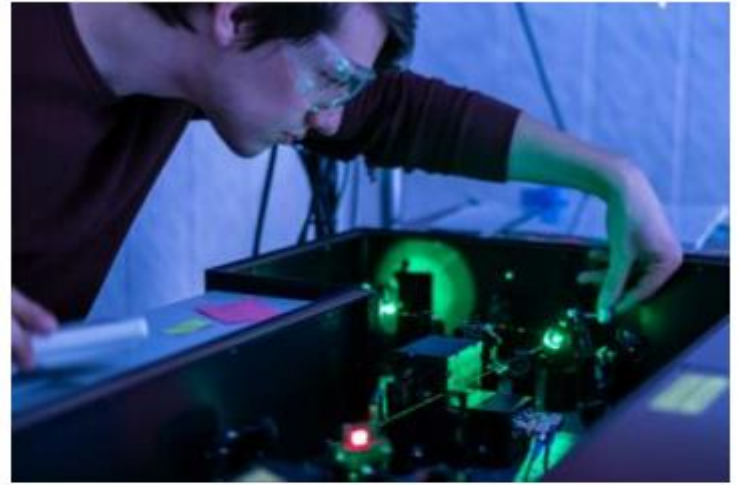
## Daphne Jackson fellowship

These fellowships are for those looking to return to a research career after a break. Fellowships combine a personalised retraining programme with a challenging research project. They are flexible, usually lasting two years at 0.5 full-time equivalent, although some UKRI funders may award longer.

Opportunity status:	Open
Funders:	<a href="#">Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC)</a> , <a href="#">Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC)</a> , <a href="#">Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC)</a> , <a href="#">Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC)</a> , <a href="#">Medical Research Council (MRC)</a> , <a href="#">Natural Environment Research Council (NERC)</a> , <a href="#">Science and Technology Facilities Council (STFC)</a>
Co-funders:	<a href="#">The Daphne Jackson Trust</a>
Funding type:	Fellowship
Publication date:	20 September 2020
Opening date:	N/A
Closing date:	Open - no closing date

# Future Leaders Fellowships

- Future Leaders Fellowships support talented people in universities, businesses, and other research and innovation environments.
- The aim of the scheme is to develop the next wave of world-class research and innovation leaders in academia and business. It is also open to international applicants looking to take up a role at a UK-based organisation
- Open to researchers and/or innovators with outstanding potential, who are transitioning to or establishing independence. You may be based in universities, UK-registered businesses, and other environments including Catapults and institutes.
- You can receive funding for work in all research and innovation areas supported by UKRI.



## What are Future Leaders Fellowships

You can apply for up to £1.5 million to support your research or innovation and develop your career



# Global Partnerships Seedcorn Fund Opportunity

- To develop **new** long-term partnerships with **international scientists**, that have potential to become self-sustaining beyond the lifetime of the grant collaborations
- Across whole NERC remit
- **New Investigators** (eligible as a Principal Investigator, but in addition at the outset of their independent scientific career, within five years of first becoming eligible for NERC funding as a Principal Investigator) are encouraged to apply with new investigator status being considered in the final decision by the NERC office, after ranking by the panel, to allow an increased chance of success
- The GPSF programme is run annually. Proposals of up to £100k for up to 2 years

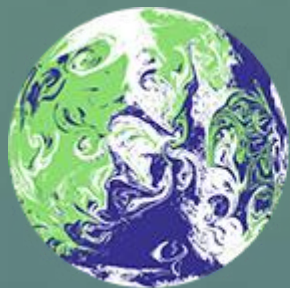




## NERC-NSF joint funding

- NERC's discovery science (responsive mode) funding stream supports excellent environmental research that is curiosity-driven.
- NERC and the United States National Science Foundation (NSF) have agreed to work together to make it easier for world-leading environmental scientists to collaborate on discovery science projects and to tackle global environmental challenges.
- The goal of this opportunity is to reduce barriers to work internationally, based on a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)- on research cooperation agreed between UK Research & Innovation and NSF.
- Proposals must be an integrated UK-US effort to address a research topic of interest to both NERC and a relevant NSF division that would benefit from a collaborative approach.





**UN CLIMATE  
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IN PARTNERSHIP WITH ITALY

# CAMPAIGNS





# Thank You

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