

Frontier aims and funding opportunities

Context: Liverpool PP Frontier ambitions & Funding situation UK

Funding opportunities

Meetings

Research Frontiers



AI for life

Developing solutions AI technologies to advance human potential and address major societal challenges.



Infection resilience

Breaking down barriers between fundamental science and frontline medicine to defeat infectious diseases and



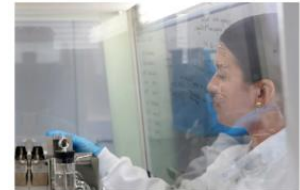
Materials discovery

Providing game-changing solutions for net zero challenges in clean energy, healthcare, sustainable living, and



Particle physics

Developing technologies and making discoveries that deepen our understanding of the universe.



Therapeutics innovation

Making critical scientific discoveries across the drug development pathway to transform health and medicine.

Frontier aims

- Attract talent – fellowship candidates, studentships, visiting researchers / professorships (in and out)
- Increase profile Liverpool PP - host conferences, workshops, collaboration meetings, outreach, publicity, ..
- Increase funding – new (large) grants

We can only achieve this if all experiment groups and staff contribute.

Develop process with each experiment group

Proposal of how to organise this:

- Start regular meetings with each experiment group or research area, to discuss how to achieve the aims.

Discuss: funding, newsworthy results and stories, scope for hosting meetings, outreach, networking activities, outreach, ...

For all academics, early-career or senior research staff individually

- Set out ambitions for future work, collaboration, funding opportunities and explore pathways to achieve this
 - Network activities: new collaborations, hosting meetings,
 - Establish and maintain a live list of funding opportunities and applications that are in progress or preparation.

PP meetings hosted in Liverpool

Recent meeting and workshops:

- Annual Muon Precision Workshop
- NUFACT 2025
- Recent collaboration meetings: ATLAS ITk, LHCb UG2, g-2, MuEDM, FASER
- LATTICE2024

Planned:

- CERN School of Computing 2026
- CHEP2027 (tbc)

We have a strong track record on instrumentation.

Should we aim to host an instrumentation workshop?

Funding Opportunities

Very generically

There are many schemes (see following slides).

It is useful to sign up to <https://www.researchprofessional.com/> and to register for research/funding news from RS, Leverhulme, ERC, STFC, etc

In general it is easier to get funding for: new experiments, work across experiments, novel analyses/approaches, AI development*, R&D, applications, work with industry, travel and exchanges

Harder for: M&O existing experiments, analyses in running experiments (fellowships are an exception), detector construction and upgrades (aside from STFC/UKRI project funding)

Note: substantial funding ringfenced for AI and QT – range of funding opportunities

On the next slides:

★ suited for technology R&D / instrumentation development

Fellowships

All of these are suited for technology R&D! 

- STFC Ernest Rutherford Fellowship 2025 (need applicants on instrumentation!!)
- Royal Society University Research Fellowships
- UKRI Future Leaders Fellowships
- UoL University Fellowships (2025: AI for Research Frontiers)
- ERC (Starter, Consolidator, Advanced)
- Other: MSCA, Leverhulme, Royal Commission for the Exhibition 1851

We need internal/external candidates (up to ~10 yrs after PhD) with a strong CV, leadership and a novel/strong proposal.

STFC (in addition to the CG)

[Large Projects - Projects Peer Review Panel \(PPRP\) 2025](#) to develop a large or complex scientific projects. You must have already discussed your ideas with one of our programme managers and have been invited to submit a full proposal.

[Public Engagement Spark Awards 2025A](#) to engage the public with Science and Technology Facilities Council (STFC) supported science, people, technology or facilities. ([Public Engagement Legacy Awards: 2025A](#), [Nucleus Public Engagement Awards 2025](#))

[Funding for short courses and summer schools in 2025](#) - Apply for funding to hold short courses, summer schools and online training resources in science or technology. ★

[Proof of concept](#) to support the commercialisation of research and the development of new products, processes or services. ★

[Early stage research and development scheme 2024](#) Apply for funding to commercialise your technology or science developed from the STFC particle physics, astronomy and nuclear physics (PPAN) community. ★

[Late-stage commercialisation scheme 2024](#) Apply for funding to commercialise your technology or science developed from the STFC particle physics, astronomy and nuclear physics (PPAN) community. ★

UKRI and other councils

UKRI cross research council responsive mode pilot scheme: round two full stage ★

- Apply for funding for breakthrough or disruptive interdisciplinary ideas that transcend, combine or significantly span disciplines that are not routinely funded through existing UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) responsive mode schemes.

EPSRC research project grant : possible scope for AI and quantum related work

Strategic infrastructure for engineering and physical sciences: June 2025 ★

- Apply for funding to purchase strategic infrastructure that will improve UK scientific capability and enable cutting-edge research of high priority to EPSRC.

Other ..



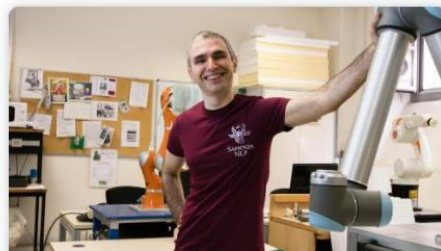
European Research Council
Established by the European Commission



ERC Starting Grant

For promising early-career researchers with 2 to 7 years experience after PhD

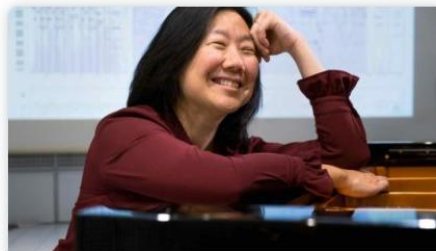
[Explore >](#)



ERC Consolidator Grant

For excellent researchers with 7 to 12 years experience after PhD

[Explore >](#)



ERC Advanced Grant

For established research leaders with a recognised track record of research achievements

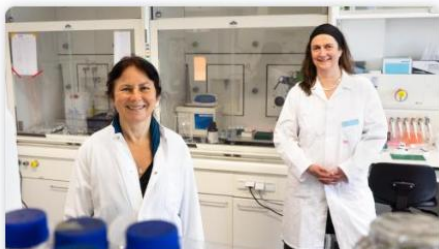
[Explore >](#)



ERC Proof of Concept

For ERC grant holders to explore the innovation potential of their ERC frontier research project

[Explore >](#)



ERC Synergy Grant

For 2-4 researchers combining skills and resources to tackle ambitious research challenges.

[Explore >](#)



For non-EU researchers

Extra funding for non-European researchers moving to the EU or associated countries

[Explore >](#)

+ other grants:

- Industry led project innovation grants
- Public Engagement grants
- Horizon Europe programme
- New in 2026 programme launched ERC+

Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions

MSCA COFUND 2025 (24 June 2025)– needs matching funding

- regional, national and international programmes for training and career development, through co-funding mechanisms
- Doctoral Programmes

MSCA Doctoral Networks 2025 (25 November 2025)



- doctoral programmes, by partnerships of universities, research institutions and research infrastructures, businesses including SMEs, and other socio-economic actors from different countries across Europe and beyond.

MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships 2025 (10 September 2025)



- Individual early career fellowships

MSCA Staff Exchanges 2025 (8 October 2025)



- Travel awards

COST | European Cooperation in Science and Technology (21 October 2025)



- Networking grants



APEX awards

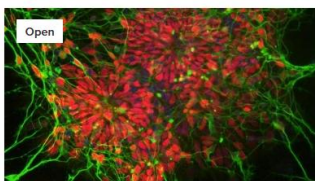
In partnership with the British Academy, the Royal Academy of Engineering and the Royal Society...



Career Development Fellowship

This scheme provides the most talented early career scientists from underrepresented groups in...

Closing 19 November 2025



Dorothy Hodgkin Fellowship

This scheme offers a recognised first step into an independent research career for outstanding...

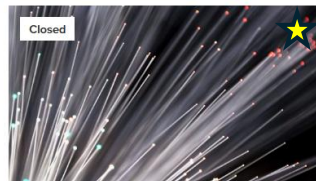
Closing 28 October 2025



Partnership Grants

Grants for UK schools and colleges to work in partnership with a STEM professional from academia...

Closing 02 December 2025



Paul Instrument Fund

A scheme for scientists in the UK who want to design and construct a novel instrument to measure...

Opening 30 October 2025



Places of Science

Royal Society grants for museums to engage their communities with science, helping to encourage...

Closing 12 November 2025



Entrepreneur in Residence

A scheme to increase the knowledge and awareness in UK Universities of cutting edge industrial...



Faraday Discovery Fellowships

The Faraday Discovery Fellowships are prestigious long-term awards that will support emerging...

Opening 27 November 2025



Faraday Discovery Fellowships Accelerated International Route

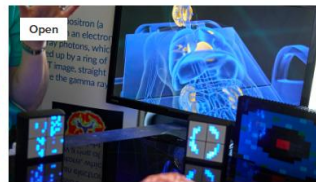
The Faraday Discovery Fellowships Accelerated International Route provides a fast-track option for...

Closing 25 November 2025



Professorship for Public Engagement in Science

A scheme for a well-established scientist with exceptional scientific communication skills and...



Public Engagement Fund

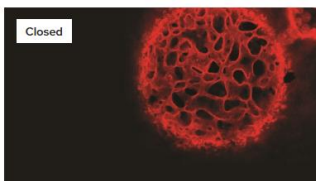
Supporting Royal Society Research Fellows to create and lead high-quality public engagement...

Closing 12 November 2025



Research grants

A scheme for scientists in the UK who are at an early stage in their career or returning from a...



Industry Fellowships

A scheme for academic scientists who want to work on a collaborative project with industry and for...



International Exchanges

These schemes are for scientists based in the UK who want to stimulate collaborations with leading...



International Science Partnerships Fund International Collaboration Awards

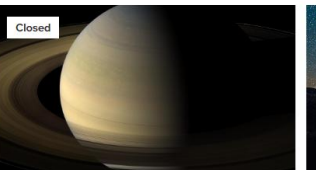
This scheme provides support for newly independent researchers who are building their own research...



Royal Society Leverhulme Trust Senior Research Fellowship

This scheme is for experienced senior and mid-career researchers who would benefit from a period...

Closing 12 November 2025



Royal Society Research Professorship

The Royal Society Research Professorships are the Society's premier research awards, which provide...



Royal Society Wolfson Fellowship

The five-year Royal Society Wolfson Fellowships enables UK universities and not-for-profit...



JSPS Postdoctoral Fellowship

This scheme is for scientists in the UK who are at an early stage of their career and wish to...



Kan Tong Po Fellowship

This scheme is for scientists based in the UK and US who want to stimulate collaborations with...



Newton International Fellowships

This fellowship is for non-UK scientists who are at an early stage of their research career and...



Royal Society Wolfson Visiting Fellowship

The Royal Society Wolfson Visiting Fellowships provide an opportunity for talented international...



The Royal Society Yusuf Hamied Visiting Fellowships

The Royal Society Yusuf Hamied Visiting Fellowships are designed to support the exchange of...



Short Industry Fellowship

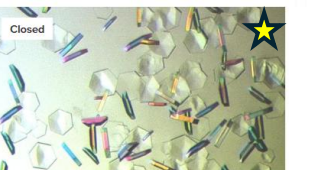
This scheme, part of the Royal Society's Industry programme, enables scientists employed in...

Closing 23 October 2025



The Lisa Jardine Grant Scheme

Travel grants to support archival research and career development in interdisciplinary studies.



University Research Fellowship

This scheme is for outstanding scientists who are in the early stages of their research career and...

LEVERHULME TRUST

Research Project Grants

For researchers based at universities, institutions of higher education or registered charities with university-equivalent research capacity, to undertake an innovative and original research project

Value
Up to £500,000

Duration
Up to 5 years

Frequency
Open all year

Next round opens
There are no deadlines for Outline Applications. Successful applicants will be invited to submit a Detailed Application, for which there are three deadlines a year

Research Leadership Awards

For talented scholars who are embarking on a university career who need to build a research team of sufficient scale to tackle a distinctive research problem

Value
up to £1 million

Duration
4 to 5 years

Frequency
Triennial

Current round closes
06 June 2025, 12pm

Visiting Professorships

For UK institutions to invite an eminent senior professor from overseas, to bring genuinely novel expertise and enhance the skills and knowledge of academic staff and students in an underrepresented area in the UK. Priority will be given to new or recent

Value
£10,000 to £150,000

Duration
3 to 12 months

Current round closes
02 October 2025, 4pm

Next round opens
Offered twice a year. Closing dates: 1 May 2025 and 2 October 2025

Early Career Fellowships

For early career researchers, with a research record but who have not yet held a full-time permanent academic post, to undertake a significant piece of publishable work

Value
£102,000

Duration
3 years

Frequency
Annual

Currently closed

Next round opens
1 January 2026

Research Fellowships

For experienced researchers in any discipline, to complete a piece of research

Value
Up to £70,000

Duration
3 to 24 months

Frequency
Annual

Currently closed

Next round opens
2025

Leverhulme Research Centres

For UK universities to set up a Leverhulme Research Centre for outstanding original research aspiring to achieve a step-change in scholarship – closing date is for outline applications

Value
£1m per year

Duration
10 years

Frequency
Periodic

Currently closed

International Fellowships

For established researchers to develop new knowledge, skills and ideas in one or more research centres outside the UK

Value
Up to £50,000

Duration
3 to 24 months

Frequency
Annual

Currently closed

Next round opens
2025

Leverhulme Doctoral Scholarships

For UK universities to fund up to 18 Leverhulme Doctoral Scholarships in an interdisciplinary priority research area for that institution

Value
£2.15m

Duration
8 years

Frequency
Triennial

Currently closed

Next round opens
2026

Other

Simons Foundation

- Scientific Software Research Faculty Award
- Targeted Grants to Institutes

ARIA Funding for topical research areas

- [AI Scientist](#) 5-6 projects (each with up to £500K) using AI Scientists to explore and understand what role AI Scientists may take in creating and performing research.

Templeton Foundation: Science and Philosophy