Contact: Dr Suzanne Husein epsrc.studentships@imperial.ac.uk

1. Purpose
The EPSRC Doctoral Prize Fellowship scheme is intended to help universities attract and retain the very best newly qualified PhDs that received EPSRC doctoral studentship funding and help them to launch a career in research. All fellowships must be within EPSRC remit. Previous awards under this scheme have been made to new postdoctoral fellows in the Departments of Aeronautics, Chemical Engineering, Civil and Environmental Engineering, Electrical and Electronic Engineering, Bioengineering, Earth Science and Engineering, Computing, Materials, Mechanical Engineering, Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, Surgery and Cancer, Life Sciences, Mathematics, the Institute of Clinical Sciences and the Business School. All fellows will have access to transferable skills training from the Postdoc and Fellows Development Centre, covering subjects such as peer-review and presentation skills.

Alongside the EPSRC Doctoral Prize Fellowship scheme, note that two additional awards are available for finishing Mathematics PhD students or those in strongly-related Mathematical subjects. This funding opportunity is offered via the Department of Mathematics. Candidates applying to the Department of Mathematics remain eligible to apply to the EPSRC Doctoral Prize Fellowship scheme.

2. Funding
Imperial has the opportunity to use a portion of the 2022-24 EPSRC DTP allocation to distribute internally as postdoctoral fellowships on a non-FEC basis (i.e. only directly incurred costs will be awarded. Directly allocated, estates and indirect costs are excluded). Funds are primarily for the provision of salary expenses for up to 12 months, with additional funds available for research expenses, consumables, travel (up to £2,000) and costs associated with public engagement and knowledge transfer activities. The total requested budget, excluding salary, is not expected to exceed £10,000. It is envisaged that as newly qualified Postdoctoral Researchers, most candidates for this scheme will be placed at the lower end of the appropriate Academic and Research Family Research Associate pay scale (Spine Point 17).

The total budget available for the ‘EPSRC Doctoral Prize Fellowship 2022’ competition is £618,371.

3. How to apply
To be eligible for the EPSRC Doctoral Prize, recipients must have recently received support for their doctoral studies from EPSRC in the form of fees and/or stipend or they must be a recent CDT incorporated student in an EPSRC Centre for Doctoral Training (and registered as such in Je-S). The work supported by the EPSRC Doctoral Prize must be predominantly within EPSRC’s remit.

All recipients must have submitted their doctoral thesis before the EPSRC Doctoral Prize support begins.

Please note that:

- Departments are not limited in the number of candidates that may be supported but should note that the funding available is likely to allow approximately 10 awards in total and so only the very best eligible candidates should be put forward for consideration
- Funding is dependent on the fellow having submitted their PhD thesis (to Spiral) before the start date of the Doctoral Prize fellowship. Candidates who have not submitted their PhD thesis at the time of application for a Doctoral Prize fellowship are still eligible to apply; however, they are required to have submitted their thesis before the start date of their fellowship. Letters of support from supervisors should clearly state the expected submission date. Applications will not be accepted for extension support to write up a PhD. Any corrections to PhD theses should be done outside of the time allocated for the Doctoral Prize Fellowship
- Duration of projects may be up to 12 months
- Start date of projects must be 1 October 2022 or later

Heads of Departments must submit the following:

- Departmental shortlisting form. A departmental shortlisting form (found here, see under ‘EPSRC Doctoral Prize Fellowship’) must be submitted showing the Departmental shortlisting comments and Departmental ranking. Any department that is supporting an EPSRC Doctoral Prize Fellowship application must submit a shortlisting form, including those with only one candidate, as this form captures the departmental support of the proposal and comments from the departmental review. See below for deadline and details of the submission process.
Candidates must submit an application using the online application form, which must include the following attachments:

- **Case for support (3 pages max.)** using the template provided (found here, see under ‘EPSRC Doctoral Prize Fellowship’). This will provide the assessing groups with details of the proposed fellowship proposal, career development plan and the requested budget. The Case for Support must not exceed 3 pages and formatting must not be adjusted. Where formatting is adjusted or the page limit is exceeded, note that the application will be returned un-reviewed to the applicant and withdrawn from further consideration.

- **CV (2 pages max.).** This will be the main source of information used to assess the success of the PhD period and must therefore include a convincing statement demonstrating this, supported by evidence of outputs and outcomes

- **Letters of support from the PhD supervisor and from the proposed host Head of Department.** All letters should be merged into a single PDF. If the candidate has not submitted their PhD at the time of application, letters of support from the PhD supervisor must clearly and accurately predict the expected PhD submission date.

- **A Worktribe statement** (prepared by departmental Worktribe superuser, selecting “Internal Scheme” as project type, and approved by department – projects marked “Internal Scheme” will be routed to the Research Office instead of Research Services/JRO. Costs should be developed as FEC projects; only directly incurred costs will be met [at 100%])

4. **Deadlines**

- The deadline for Heads of Departments to submit their Departmental shortlisting form to epsrc.studentships@imperial.ac.uk is 12.00pm (noon) on Friday 1 July 2022

- The deadline for candidates to submit applications (via Qualtrics) is also 12.00pm (noon) on Friday 1 July 2022. The online form will close after this time. Applicants are reminded that Departments may have an earlier internal deadline for departmental review and support

- Decisions are expected in August 2022

- Earliest possible start date for projects is 1 October 2022

5. **Review and Selection of Applications**

All eligible applications will be considered for funding by the Cross-College Research Proposal Review Group (CCRPRG) under the direction of the Vice-Provost (Research and Enterprise). CCRPRG will rank the proposals after considering the success of the previous EPSRC funded PhD period as measured by the submitted CV and letters of support, and taking into account the Departmental shortlisting comments and Departmental ranking.

EPSRC is looking to ensure that funding supports the career development of early stage researchers. This may include ensuring work from their PhD is published but should also include something new that takes their research career to the next level. Therefore, CCRPRG will be looking for proposals that encourage adventure and risk. Applications that specifically look at securing the impact of the proposed activities will also be positively considered.

Applicants (copying in Departments) will be informed of the results via email. A formal letter from the Chair of CCRPRG confirming the outcome and details of the award offer will then be sent to applicants. Applicants will be asked to indicate within 2 weeks whether they will accept or decline the award offer. Feedback will be limited to a statement of the success or otherwise of the proposals, unless CCRPRG decides that additional feedback is necessary or useful.

6. **Accessing Funds**

Details on how to access funding will be provided to those departments that have received awards. Awardees will be expected to manage the accounts as per normal Faculty/Department rules.

7. **Reporting**

Award recipients will be required to provide the following information within two weeks of the end of the funding period. It is likely that some of this information will be gathered with input from the host department:

- Value of the total funding received
- Start and end date of the funding
- What the funds were used for
- Outputs obtained during the award period (including publications and conference presentations)
- The outreach/impact activities that the recipient participated in
- The benefits of the award as reported by the recipient
- The ‘impact’ of the award
- The recipient’s plans following funding
- The EPSRC theme for this research
- Information on any additional leveraged funding