

EPSRC Postdoctoral Pathway Assessment Criteria

Criteria

An application for an EPSRC Postdoctoral Pathway should show:

- A. that the award will lead to increased impact of the student's DPhil research in terms of publications, Knowledge Transfer (KT) and, particularly, outreach;
- B. that the award will not merely be used as an opportunity to continue or complete DPhil work, but will enable a step-change enhancement to the applicant's scientific career (EPSRC has noted that it would like the scheme to "encourage adventure" and see awardees move into new research areas);
- C. that the student is academically of the highest calibre (within the top ~10-15% of EPSRC funded students) and well-placed to pursue a career in research;
- D. that the award will provide benefits for the awardee, including how the department and supervisor will support them during this period – in line with current EPSRC guidance, provision should be made for the awardee to have, in addition to a supervisor, a 'mentor' who is not the awardee's line manager or supervisor;
- E. that the proposed project has both a well-defined and reasonable budget and timeline, with detailed justification offered for any project over six months in duration.

Scoring

1. Academic performance/trajectory of the applicant [**criteria C**]:
 - a. Publication record or equivalent
 - b. Strength of supervisor support (if affirming student is in top 10–15% band of candidates)
2. The Postdoctoral Pathway as a considered, positive 'step-change' [**criteria B, D, E**]:
 - a. Ambition to develop research, rather than continuing DPhil work
 - b. Considered plan of departmental/mentor support in place
3. The Postdoctoral Pathway as a vehicle for increased impact via publications, Knowledge Transfer, and 'as a particular expectation', outreach [**criteria A**]:
 - a. Considered plan for outreach/KT [*assuming academic publications or equiv. are an implied ambition for all applicants*]
4. Discretionary scoring, based on possible combinations of:
 - a. Stellar DPhil performance, indicative of c. top 5% of cohort
 - b. Exceptionally strong support from department/industry/references