An EPSRC perspective: the value of KE skills, maximising impact, ECR opportunities

Dr Chris White, Living With Environmental Change Theme
Introduction

- Who are EPSRC?
- Knowledge Exchange & Impact
- Early Career Opportunities
Who are EPSRC?

- EPSRC is the main UK government agency for funding research and training in engineering and the physical sciences, investing more than £850 million a year.

- We invest in world-leading discovery, ingenious people and in promoting innovation that all fuel long-term growth.

- Our research and training investments underpin the UK Government’s Industrial Strategies and the “8 Great Technologies”.
The UK Innovation Landscape

- Discover
  - Research Councils UK (RCUK)
- Understand
  - Technology Strategy Board (TSB)
- Integrate
  - Charities & Intermediate Bodies
- Validate
  - European Commission (EC) & Overseas Bodies
- Deploy
  - Industrial Organisations
  - Universities & Research Institutes
EPSRC
Strategic Goals

- Developing leaders
- Shaping capability
- Delivering impact
Delivering Impact

One of EPSRC's strategic goals as a long-term investor in UK research and training is to increase and accelerate the impact from our investments and maximise its potential for exploitation.
Delivering Impact

New Impact is the demonstrable contribution that excellent research makes to society and the economy. Impact embraces all the extremely diverse ways in which research-related knowledge and skills benefit individual, organisations and nations by:

- fostering global economic performance, and specifically the economic competitiveness of the United Kingdom;
- increasing the effectiveness of public services and policy;
- enhancing quality of life, health and creative output.

**BUT REMEMBER – MOST IMPACT IS NOT USUALLY DELIVERED BY ACADEMICS**

To deliver impact, potential uses or influences of research need to be considered at the earliest time

So impact needs to be embedded in all activity from the concept of an idea – not an add-on
On Grants: Pathways to Impact

Funding to Facilitate Potential Impacts

- Some specific examples of activities that could be requested are:
  - Secondments
  - Increased investigator time
  - Training activities
  - Employment of specialist staff
  - Marketing and publicity
  - Workshops, seminars and networking
  - Public engagement
  - Early-stage commercialisation exploration

- Evidence shows that these resources are heavily under-used by applicants!
With Universities: Impact Acceleration Accounts

- Focus on secondments and Proof of concept/follow on
- Strategic focus for impact engagement with key HEIs
- Based on algorithmic funding, covering 95% of our portfolio
- Let us know your success stories
ECR Opportunities

- Doctoral Prize – 2 years additional support post-PhD
- Fellowships: Post Doctoral
  - Sustainable & Resilient Infrastructure
  - End Use Energy Demand
  - Engineering Grand Challenges
  - Complexity
- Fellowships: Early Career, open in many research areas