

# SuperAIRE Early Career Researcher (ECR) Grant

## Call for Proposals (Round 1)

The Supergen Network+ in Artificial Intelligence for Renewable Energy (SuperAIRE) invites proposals to advance the development of Early Career Researchers (ECRs) by supporting small research activities. **SuperAIRE will consider proposals that align with [SuperAIRE's research themes](#) to promote revolutionising the renewable energy sector by supporting AI-driven innovations that enhance performance and improve cost-effectiveness.** Support may cover an individual's discrete research activities, or facilitate collaborations that strengthen existing partnerships and foster new connections with the aim of enabling future substantial proposal development. More opportunities for ECRs, including information on how to join our ECR community, can be found at our [ECR Webpage](#).

### Summary of Call Details

**Total budget:** £15,000 (100% FEC).

**Maximum award per applicant:** £2,500 (100% FEC). In line with EPSRC policy, 80% of the FEC will be funded, with the remaining 20% to be covered by the applicant's institution.

**Call opens:** 1 July 2025 **Call closes:** 5pm on 31 July 2025 (UK time)

**Proposal Review Meeting:** w/c 25 August 2025

**Decision notification:** w/c 1 September 2025

**Start/End date of successful grants:** Award can be held for 6 months. Projects must start before 1 December 2025

### Applicant Eligibility

Applicant must:

- Hold a PhD or equivalent qualification.
- Be employed by an organisation that is eligible to receive EPSRC funding. A list of eligible organisations is available on the [EPSRC website](#).
- Hold a contract of employment that extends beyond the end date of the proposed activities.
- Be an early career researcher, i.e., the applicant has not been leading projects with more than 6 months PDRA time, capital equipment exceeding £20,000, or a single research activity with full economic cost over £100,000.
- An applicant can submit only one proposal as Principal Investigator under this call.

For any queries regarding applicant eligibility, please contact [superaire@warwick.ac.uk](mailto:superaire@warwick.ac.uk)

## Costs

Total eligible cost per project is £2,500 (100% FEC). **Only direct costs will be permitted.** This will be funded at 80% FEC in-line with EPSRC funding policy. Your institution needs to fund the remaining 20% FEC. Applicants are required to follow their institution's grant costing procedures and consult with their departmental costing team as part of the application process. Applicants must only include eligible EPSRC costs and Terms and Conditions of standard UKRI FEC grant awards apply.

Support from SuperAIRE may take various forms, including but not limited to:

- A discrete research activity, a seed fund to contribute towards a future substantial proposal.
- Internships or secondments across industrial, academic, or public sectors.
- Travel for national or international collaborations.
- Activities aimed at disseminating the project outcomes, including organisation of outreach events such as workshops, seminars, or stakeholder briefings.

Please note that equipment costs are **NOT** eligible.

For any queries regarding eligible activities, please contact [superaire@warwick.ac.uk](mailto:superaire@warwick.ac.uk).

## Application Process

Applications, including the following two sets of documents, should be submitted via email to [superaire@warwick.ac.uk](mailto:superaire@warwick.ac.uk) with the subject line '**SuperAIRE ECR Grant Application – Principal Investigator Surname**' before **5pm on 31 July 2025**.

### 1. Application Package

- Completed Application Form.
- Curriculum Vitae of the Applicant (up to 2 pages).
- Letter(s) of Support, if any.

These documents must be **compiled into a single PDF file** for submission.

### 2. Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Information Form

As part of the application process, applicants are required to complete the **SuperAIRE ECR Grant – EDI Information Form**. This should be submitted as a separate attachment. Please include the proposal title in the form. The data collected through this form will not be used in the assessment process or shared with the panel. It will be used solely to inform and improve our EDI practices, helping to ensure accessibility and inclusivity for all.

## Assessment Process

### 1. Eligibility Check

The SuperAIRE Senior Project Manager will conduct an eligibility check for each application to determine whether all mandatory documents have been provided, and whether the applicant satisfies the eligibility criteria.

### 2. Proposal Review

Eligible proposals will be reviewed by the SuperAIRE Management Board.

Funding decisions will be made based on the following criteria:

- Research Excellence: The extent to which the proposed activity demonstrates high scientific and academic quality.
- Deliverability: The feasibility of delivering the proposed activities, based on the applicant's track record, available resources, planning, and the overall cost-effectiveness of the proposal.
- Personal Development: The extent to which the requested funding will contribute to the applicant's professional growth as a researcher or early career academic.
- Impact: The potential of the proposed activity to generate meaningful impact, both within and beyond academia.
- Strategic Alignment: The extent to which the proposed work complements, or enhances, the SuperAIRE research themes.

The successful applicants may be asked to make amendments or reasonable adjustments if deemed necessary.

## Post-Award Requirements

Successful applicants will be required to submit a final report detailing the project outcomes, use of funds, and how the work aligns with one or more SuperAIRE research themes. Recipients are also expected to actively engage with SuperAIRE network activities.

## Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

One of the core values of the SuperAIRE is to promote EDI across all its activities and within the wider research community. Applications are welcome from all eligible individuals, particularly those from under-represented groups, as well as those returning from a career break or who have followed non-traditional career paths. EDI principles will be considered throughout the whole process.