

NOT-EQUAL

EPSRC Network+: Social Justice through the Digital Economy

Open Events Guidance

Background

Digital technology has given rise to extensive socio-economic transformation and new and emerging technologies are set to further transform the service economy and public services. Careful design and deployment is needed for this transformation to benefit the many rather than the few. If harnessed to the wrong economic, political and social model, technological innovation has the potential to be detrimental to the most vulnerable; its careless application can amplify existing forms of injustice and create new forms of exclusion in socio-economic life, thus further exacerbate socio-economic inequality and social division. That the whole of society benefits from progress in the Digital Economy is national priority as those who are most vulnerable have the greatest need of opportunities for socio-economic participation.

Not-Equal, Network+ on Social Justice through the Digital Economy funded by the EPSRC, focuses on how the design of new and emerging technologies and their application, can empower, emancipate and more equitably distribute opportunities for economic development to all citizens, consumers and employees.

Not-Equal brings together and resource partners from academia, industry, government and civil society to understand, explore and respond, together, to the potential of new and emerging technologies to make the UK socio-economic life fairer for all. The Network+ activities focus on three challenge areas: **Algorithmic Social Justice, Digital Security for All, Fairer Futures for Businesses and Workforces**, that will:

- (a) Create research opportunities to address fundamental technological innovation that can promote fairness, equality and economic opportunities for all through the Digital Economy.
- (b) Foster cross-disciplinary dialogue and Knowledge-Exchange between different expertise, and between academic and non-academic communities.
- (c) Enable cross-disciplinary collaborations and commissioning of original research promoting an ethics of reciprocity whose outputs respond to the Network+ identified broad challenge areas.

Open Events

Not-Equal will offer funding for engagement activities designed to explore topics within our three challenge areas and help grow and enhance the Network+.

When can I apply?

Applications for Open Events will be accepted on a case by case basis until 31st March 2021, with events taking place before 31st May 2021.



<https://not-equal.tech/>

[@notequaltech](https://twitter.com/notequaltech)

How much can I apply for?

The amount of funding would depend on the type of engagement activity, we expect the budget to be reasonable and realistic for the activities proposed.

What type of activities could this funding pay for?

The Open Events funding programme is designed to be flexible and we welcome proposals for multi-disciplinary activities, such as workshops, hackathons or design sprints exploring a particular issue within Not-Equal challenge areas. We also welcome proposals for extended activities such as an ECR visiting a non-profit organisation for one month to explore and work on a particular aspect.

Who will decide if my application is successful?

Decisions about how funds will be allocated are made by the Not-Equal Core team. Applications will be evaluated against the following criteria:

- Exploring issues or innovations within the scope of Network+ challenge areas;
- Show value for broader network+ partners e.g. industry or community partners;
- Realistic budget.

Applicants will be notified of the outcome within a month of submission or sooner.

What outputs will I be expected to produce?

You will be expected to complete a blog post and short report summarising the event. This must be submitted within one month of the activity being completed.

How do the Open Events funds work?

No contractual agreements will be issued and no money will be transferred, instead Not-Equal will make any payment related to events on your behalf. Details of the funds required and recipient details will need to be included in your application form.

How do I apply?

Please fill out the application form.

Applications are processed on a case by case basis, applicants will be emailed regarding the success of their application within one month of the application being received or sooner.

If you have any questions, please contact the Not-Equal Team at notequal@newcastle.ac.uk.



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