

NOT-EQUAL

EPSRC Network+: Social Justice through the Digital Economy

Second Call for Collaborative Proposals

Closing Date: 29th May 2020

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 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. Not-Equal 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 Not-Equal identified broad challenge areas.

Collaborative Project Funding Call

Not-Equal is looking to fund a second round of pilot research projects. These projects can be between 6-8 months in length. We expect to fund up to 7 pilot research projects of up to £40k (100% FEC) for this second funding call.

For further details on our focus areas for this call please refer to our [guidance brochure](#).

Fostering Opportunities for Collaboration

Not-Equal seeks to promote and facilitate collaborations between academics and non-academic communities. To this end, applicants are invited to share their initial ideas with other Not-Equal members via the [Catalyst website](#). This will help facilitate collaborations that wouldn't otherwise happen and assist finding appropriate or additional project partners if necessary.

To submit your idea to Catalyst, you simply need to fill in this brief [google form](#). This form will populate your Catalyst entry allowing others to browse and connect with you based on your idea and area of work and expertise. If you do not wish your idea to be publicly visible on Catalyst, you have the option in the google form to only share it with Not Equal team, who will use it to help you connect with relevant potential partners and collaborators.



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

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In line with this call, Not-Equal will also host several events to bring together partners and facilitate face-to-face meetings. These include: two Networking Hours at Newcastle University designed to assist interested parties in connecting with a project partner and; two Sandpit Events, in London and Newcastle – these are one day events that aim to inform interested parties about the call, facilitate collaborations, drive innovation and lay the foundations for potential research projects.

For registration details please visit the [Not-Equal website](#).

Review Process and Selection Criteria

The review process is threefold: (i) applications will first be assessed by a multidisciplinary panel of experts; (ii) then by the Not-Equal Community Panel; (iii) the Not-Equal team (e.g. PI and Co-I) will make the final decision on awards allocations using their own expertise and knowledge to assess proposals against reviewers scores/comments.

Applicants should consider that the following criteria will be used by the panel of experts when assessing the proposals:

- Fit to call
 - Responds appropriately to the call and innovatively addresses issues within one or more challenge areas identified by Not-Equal partners;
 - Demonstrates a ‘cross-disciplinary’ collaborative approach within an ethics of reciprocity;
 - Involvement of industry, civil society and/or community groups;
- Innovation & Impact
 - Demonstrate innovative approach and/or innovation within the domain area;
 - Demonstrates significance and rigor;
 - Potential to have a positive social impact and lead to strong dissemination materials;
- Feasibility
 - Capability of the team;
 - Feasibility within the time frame;
 - Proposes a realistic budget and good value for money;
 - Potential to deliver and complete project with social distancing measures in place.

The community panel evaluation will focus on the social impact of the proposal. This panel will assess to what extent does the proposal:

- Consider and respond to the needs of a community;
- Help to overcome/reduce/avoid barriers to access and participation in technology and services;
- Support new connections between communities of interest.

We particularly welcome and encourage applications from Early Career Researchers (e.g. fellows, newly appointed lecturers). For postdoctoral researchers who under EPSRC regulations can only be Co-I of a project, we strongly welcome PI-Postdoctoral partnerships.



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Key Dates

Date	Application Stage
20 th January 2020	Call for Collaborative Proposals goes live
6 th & 13 th February 2020	Networking Hour - Newcastle
27 th February 2020	Sandpit Event - Newcastle
6 th March 2020	Sandpit Event - London
March - May 2020	Virtual Q&A Information Sessions
19 th March 2020	ECR Writing Surgery
29 th May 2020	Deadline for applications
May/June 2020	Expert and Citizen Panel shortlisting
30 th July 2020	Applicants notified of outcome of application
1 st September 2020	Expected start date for projects
September 2020	Award Event

Eligibility

[Eligible lead organisations](#) include all UK Higher Education Institutions that receive grant funding from one of the UK higher education funding bodies. However, SME's/industry and community groups are expected to engage in collaborative applications.

What can the funding be used for?

The budget outline for the proposed project applications can include investigator/researcher time, travel and subsistence appropriate to delivery of the project, and small scale consumables. Equipment is eligible following EPSRC standard conditions. <https://epsrc.ukri.org/research/facilities/equipment/>

As the grant holder, Newcastle University is responsible for allocating funding to successful proposals and will reimburse subcontracting organisations at 80% full economic costing. Academic institutions will be required to itemise bills based on 100% FEC and then invoice at 80% FEC. The applicant must also assume full responsibility for any subcontractors involved in the project, this includes payment to them.

Submitting proposals

Application forms can be accessed [here](#). Proposals should be submitted via email to notequal@newcastle.ac.uk. The deadline for applications is **5pm** on the **29th May 2020**.

A breakdown of the allocation of the funds with a short justification for each category is also required. The categories are:

- Directly Allocated
- Directly Incurred
- Indirect Costs

Expectations for successful proposals

Successful applicants will be expected to produce a report mid-way through the project and a final summary report, on completion of the project. Applicants will also be asked on a yearly basis to identify any funded activity that has followed on from the initial funding, until the close of the project in 2021. This will help evidence the success of the programme.



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Successful proposals will be invited to an event, which will offer the opportunity for researchers to present their project, as well as provide support and guidance on requirements and next steps.

Further Information

You can read our current FAQ document [here](#).

If you have any further questions regarding this call for proposals, please contact Rachel Sparks (Not-Equal Manager) notequal@newcastle.ac.uk or 0191 208 8268.



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