



## RSC Environment, Sustainability and Energy Division Update

Dear ESED member,

As the RSC and its Divisions continue to operate remotely, please note the following updates on some of the RSC's recent activity, as well as some calls for evidence that may be of relevance to you and your colleagues.

For up to date information about our response to the COVID-19 outbreak, please visit our dedicated [webpage](#).

### ESED Online Symposium – Wednesday 18 November 2020, 10:00-12:00

Join us at the ESED online symposium on **18 November 2020** to hear from keynote speaker **Professor Iseult Lynch** of the University of Birmingham, our **2020 John Jeyes Award winner** for 'enhanced understanding of the role of biomolecule–nanomaterials interactions and the ecological corona in environmental fate and toxicity of nanomaterials'.

Professor Lynch will be joined by early career researcher speakers and the session will be concluded by an online networking session, open to all, providing an opportunity to discuss the latest research and make new connections.

### RSC Grants – Deadline 3 November 2020

The following RSC grants schemes are now accepting applications:

- The new [Research Enablement Grant](#) gives up to £10,000 for UK/Republic of Ireland members to start new projects or to mitigate the impact of research disruption (including contribution to salary to extend projects where other funds are unavailable). The first application round is now open and will close on **3 November 2020**. A second round is planned for early 2021.
- The [Research Fund](#), which gives up to £4000 to members with limited access to research funds to start new projects, particularly those working in less well-funded institutes, those in developing countries and early career researchers. For the next two rounds, we will broaden the scope to include funding to mitigate the impact of research disruption. Applications are now open and will close on **3 November 2020**.
- The new [Researcher Development Grant](#) gives up to £250 to PhD students and postdoctoral researchers for development activities. Examples include (but are not limited to) virtual conference registration, training courses and organising virtual

meetings. The scheme is now open and applications will be reviewed monthly by staff.

### **Drivers and scope for a UK chemicals framework**

Building on our initial vision for chemicals strategy, we have drafted a [document](#) outlining the drivers and scope for a new UK-wide chemicals framework.

The drivers to develop a new UK chemicals framework that is fit for the future of the UK and international trade ambitions are economic prosperity, wellbeing and quality of life improvements for citizens and wildlife, and related to 'trust in chemicals' for the purposes of business and trade. This piece can be considered alongside our vision for a sustainable chemicals strategy. Visit our [website](#) for more information.

### **Share your views on the REF 2021**

This survey aims to provide researchers with an opportunity to evaluate the REF process while simultaneously completing their submissions. It will remain open until the REF closes for submissions on 31 March 2021. **Any researcher who is eligible to submit to the REF can complete the [survey](#).**

This is an opportunity to help to assess REF policy and to inform its development in the future, so please share with your colleagues.

### **EPSRC survey on gender diversity – Deadline 3 December 2020**

Following on from its *Understanding our Portfolio: a Gender Perspective* report, the EPSRC is looking to gather views on potential causes for the trends seen, including experiences of applying for large grants, and to reflect on the report findings.

The survey findings will help to inform next steps and responses are welcomed from **all researchers** in the EPSRC community. Complete the [survey](#) by **3 December 2020**.

### **RSC Awards and Prizes**

The way we recognise excellence is evolving – and you'll see the first series of changes when our next round of prizes opens for nominations in November. These changes will bring to the fore the importance of teams and collaborations as well as the diversity of people and contributions that are important for 21<sup>st</sup> century science. Read more [here](#).

### **RSC Energy Sector PhD Thesis Award 2020**

The Royal Society of Chemistry Energy Sector Interest Group will award a £500 cash prize for the best PhD thesis awarded in the field of Chemistry for the Energy Sector. Deadline for competition entries is **5 January 2021**. Find out more [here](#).

With best wishes,

Dr Ross Jagers  
ESED Secretariat

#### **Contact us**

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