

UK ICT Pioneers 2015

Type: Expression of interest

Closing date: Thursday 16 April 2015

Related themes: Digital Economy, ICT

UK ICT Pioneers is a unique partnership between Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) and key stakeholders that aims to recognise the most exceptional UK doctoral students in ICT-related topics who are able to communicate and demonstrate the excellence and exploitation potential of their research. The 2015 competition is being sponsored by: Dstl, HP, EPSRC, BCS, BT, Facebook and Samsung.



This exciting competition is open to all UK students in the final two years of their doctoral training. You must be undertaking research in an ICT-related subject which includes but is not restricted to Electronics, Communications, Computer Science, Human-Computer Interfaces and Photonics. Your doctoral training does not have to be funded by EPSRC to participate in this competition.

Following the success of previous rounds of the competition, EPSRC's ICT theme launched the UK ICT Pioneers 2015 competition on 05 March 2015. The competition is currently accepting expressions of interest from applicants.

To receive updates on the competition, please visit and 'like' our Facebook page where we will be posting regular updates on the progress of the completion.

<https://www.facebook.com/UKICTPioneers>

How to apply

You should complete and submit the expression of interest form by the closing date of **12:00, Thursday 16 April 2015**. Please read this document carefully before submitting your application.

There are three stages to the UK ICT Pioneers 2015 competition.

Stage 1

Initially, your expression of interest will be considered by representatives from the competition sponsors. We will be looking for individuals who can clearly communicate why their research is exciting and show clear ideas on how it could

be exploited. As part of your initial submission, you should make sure you describe:

- How your research is pioneering
- Your personal contribution to the research
- How your research will be of potential benefit to industry, either in the UK or further afield

You may submit your application in up to two of the competition categories, listed below. Please read the descriptions of the categories prior to selecting and submitting your application.

- [Technology everywhere](#)
- [Transforming society](#)
- [Information overload](#)
- [Future ICT](#)

Please note that the final decision regarding the category into which your application is submitted is at the discretion of the judges.

Stage 2

Applicants who are successful at stage 1 of the competition will be asked to present their research to the competition sponsors in an innovative, eye-catching way. As with stage 1, the judges will be looking for evidence of high quality research backed up by clear ideas on how your research could be exploited. Each submission will have a maximum of three minutes' consideration by the shortlisting panel. Therefore you have a very short opportunity to stand out from the crowd and get the message across about your research.

Stage 3

If you are selected to be one of the finalists, you will be given the opportunity to produce a more in-depth presentation of your work which will be judged on the day of the event. We expect to shortlist around four candidates for each prize.

Finalists and their supervisors will be invited to a VIP research exhibition and awards event on 29 October 2015, attended by senior government and business representatives; providing a superb opportunity to get yourself noticed and make fantastic contacts in both the industrial and academic research communities.

Winners on the day will then be given the opportunity to win a further cash prize in the [Elevator pitch \(see below\)](#).

Prize categories

Technology everywhere

ICT pervades nearly every aspect of modern society. Its technologies are sometimes obvious and aspirational (for example laptops, smart phones...) and sometimes hidden and operating in the background (for example wireless protocols, communication networks, embedded systems, and so forth). In the future, vast numbers of connected devices will communicate with us and with each other and transform the way in which we interact with technology and with the rest of society. There are huge technological, social and ethical challenges to be overcome to realise this vision of the future. Can your research make a difference?

Transforming society

The impact of novel and emerging ICT on society cannot be overstated. In the past fifty years it has completely revolutionised almost every aspect of modern life. Healthcare, transport, education, social interaction, entertainment, commerce and leisure – the positive effects of enabling technologies are there to see. There remain many challenges facing society over coming generations and it is clear that ICT research can and should make a major contribution. Can you demonstrate a clear societal impact to your research? Can you articulate how this impact could be realised?

Information overload

Today's society has seen an explosion in the growth and availability of data, both structured and unstructured. Capturing value from all this data – for economic growth and social benefits - requires a transformation in our approach to it. If the current trend of growth continues, the number of information-generating technologies will increase dramatically every year. How do we both manage and gain maximum value from the flood of data generated by sensors, computers, cameras, phones and other devices in a world where we no longer have the capacity to store it? Can your research help to transform the need for digital information, make sense of the vast wealth of data generated daily around the globe or contribute to ensuring the future information security needs of 600 million Internet users?

Future ICT

ICT underpins and supports almost every industry and sector in today's society. From healthcare to heavy industry you are never far from a computer system. The amazing influence digital computing has had on our lives has come about in less than a century. To ensure the next century is as exciting as the last we need pioneering research that develops ICT. Does your research have the potential to change the future of computing? Will your research help to solve some of the problems facing ICT today?

Bonus prize: Elevator pitch

To excel in a research career, whether academia or industry, it is essential to be able to communicate your ideas and convince others of your vision. We will invite prize winners to participate in a Dragon's Den type live pitch at the

finalists' event. The panel will consist of industry experts and investors and you will be given five minutes to pitch your ideas to potential funders of the next stage for your research, this could be to a Research Council, Charity or to venture capital investor depending on your research. The winner of the elevator pitch will be given an additional cash prize.

Frequently asked questions

1. I am funded for more than three years - Can I apply if I am in my fourth year (for example studying in a Centre for Doctoral Training)?

Yes, providing you are still registered at your institution, you can apply.

2. Can I apply if I have just finished my third year but am still writing up?

Yes, providing you are still registered at your institution, you can apply.

3. Can I apply for more than category?

You can apply for up to two of the categories if you feel that your research is relevant.

4. Can I use the same entry to apply for more than one prize?

You can submit one submission across up to two prizes.

5. Can I post my entry?

We will only accept electronic submissions at this stage.

6. How many people will be shortlisted at stages 1 and 2?

This will depend on the volume and quality of the submissions; overall, we will aim to shortlist approximately 40 candidates at stage 1 and four finalists for each prize in stage 2.

7. When will I know if I am shortlisted?

We will inform successful applicants (stage 1) by the end of May 2015.

8. What happens next?

If you are shortlisted, we will contact you with more details about stage 2.

9. I am an international student, does this affect my eligibility?

No, as long as you are studying in the UK, you are eligible.

10. I am a UK student studying abroad, can I apply?

Providing you are registered at a UK institution, you are eligible.

11. I don't work in an ICT department, am I eligible?

Providing you can demonstrate that your research is delivering against the prize descriptions, you are eligible.