



COVID CAREER RECOVERY PROGRAMME

Summary

A key focus for the Connected Everything network is skills development for PhD students and Early Career Researchers (ECRs). We believe that the people pipeline is critically important and faces rapid change, particularly in digital manufacturing context. So, we are offering a training and support programme to support this changing industrial context.

To help address this challenge, which recognises the severe disruption from the pandemic, Connected Everything has created a Covid Career recovery programme which will offer small amounts of funding to enable career progression that would not be possible otherwise.

Connected Everything has seen that the impact of Covid has adversely affected both PhD candidates and ECRs, with fewer opportunities available to them to progress their careers.

Awards will be made up to a maximum of £5,000 with £40,000 available in the budget. A short application form and subsequent EDI monitoring form must be completed by each applicant. All applicants must demonstrate how their activity will support the **Connected Everything themes**. Each applicant will submit a short summary of the outputs from the funding by July 2022. For example for a placement this maybe a poster or film, for a training course a short blog on its value, or for a publication its DOI.

Examples of eligible activities are:

- Short (max 6 week) placements with Industry
- Training courses
- Caring costs associated with training courses
- Caring costs funded to enable publication writing time
- Other reasonable costs justified by the applicant

The call for the funding will be from May 2021 – 14 September 2021 with all activity completed and invoiced by 30 June 2022. Funding decisions will be communicated in October 2021.

Successful applicants to the programme will be considered as a cohort and will be invited to participate in a number of activities to support their career development. This could include:

- Webinar attendance - Each CEII Investigator to host a webinar to share their career journey – the successes and challenges including how they have adapted to coping with Covid as an academic. Each webinar will be 45 minutes with 20 minutes informal presentation on 20 minute Q&A.
- A 1:1 drop in session with CEII investigators to share experiences and have the opportunity of talking through issues with an impartial sounding board.
- Supported networking within the cohort and wider Connected Everything. A kick off meeting for the cohort on 21 October 2021 will help to broaden successful applicants network.

Available resource & eligibility

There is up to £40,000 available. This can support placements, training courses, caring costs associated with proposed activity. An individual application will not exceed £5,000 and only one application per person is allowed.

The activity must happen between 1 November 2021 and completed before July 2022.

Eligible costs would be salaries of both applicant and host supervisor (if required), consumables and travel and subsistence but not estates or indirect costs. Training and caring costs need to be evidenced.

Awards can only be made to institutions eligible for funding from EPSRC. Industry cannot be funded.

Each successful candidate may be the recipient of a single award only. The award can be used in conjunction with other funding to support the proposed activity.

Conditions of the award

Successful applicants will be expected to deliver the outcomes stated in their application, participate in cohort events, contribute to a podcast to share their experiences and to attend the Connected Everything Conference 2022.

Eligible costs are restricted to economy travel and subsistence at the agreed institutional rate. The costs of the research are not eligible. Extensions will not be permitted.

Assessment Procedure

Applications will be assessed against the following criteria:

- Opportunity for the candidate to acquire new skills and knowledge
- Outcomes and outputs that can contribute to the advancement of the Connected Everything [thematic areas](#)
- Suitability of Host (specifically for placement proposals)
- Feasibility of application, including any social distancing / covid-safe practices
- Value for Money

A sub-group of Connected Everything's Executive Group will assess the applications and make recommendations to the CEII Investigator project team for approval.

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

Connected Everything knows that diverse teams deliver high quality research outcomes. Furthermore, Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) approaches lead to happy and healthy research teams. Connected Everything wants to encourage, support and respect ideas from everyone and ensure our inclusive activities are representative of our network's community. To help us achieve this, we ask that everyone participating in a Connected Everything activity also completes an EDI monitoring form. This data will be held anonymously and the form will be sent separately after receipt of your application.

Social distancing and covid-safe practices

If the applicant is applying for funding for a placement, the applicant must complete a risk assessment. The host organisation must support this process. All activities must comply with current government guidance on travel and movement.

All applications should include contingency plans should social distancing guidance continue during the funded period.

Timetable

- 14 Sep 2021 - Deadline for your application (3 sides A4 form).
- w/c 11 Oct 2021 - Applicants notified of outcome and contracting begins for awards
- 21 Oct 2021 – Kick off meeting for the cohort
- From 1 Nov 2021 – Activity can start
- Jun 2022 – Cohort to present at Connected Everything conference
- By Jul 2022 – All activity must be complete and outputs from the activity submitted.

More information and contact details

Contact [Debra Fearnshaw](#) Connected Everything Network Manager for more information or go to: connectedeverything.ac.uk/people-movement-and-skills/