



Engaging In Energy Poverty in Early Career (EPEC) Grant Programme Guidance

November 2020

1 Introduction

The FPRN was created in 2015 with the intention of fostering constructive dialogue and collaboration between research and practice communities in relation to all aspects of the alleviation of fuel and energy poverty. This has been realised through the organisation of regular networking and knowledge exchange events and by helping to shape relevant policy as policy consultees. We have also created a lively email list (subscribed to by ~200 individuals from around the world) and our website regularly features blogs from FPRN board members and fuel poverty scholars and practitioners.

In 2019 the organisation became a registered charity and amongst its objectives is the provision of support to researchers and practitioners early in their career. In 2020 we advanced this aim by securing funding from the Eaga Charitable Trust (upon its closure) to deliver the EPEC project which is intended to encourage a focus on energy poverty amongst early career researchers and practitioners with related interests. In 2021, we will deliver our first international workshop in Portugal with funding from the EU Engager COST Action.

The FPRN is governed by a board of eight trustees, all of whom are engaged in the production or application of fuel and energy poverty related research and are conducting their research across a number of different countries (including the UK, various European countries and Australia). More information on the FPRN, our board and our guiding principles can be found on our website: <https://www.fuelpovertyresearch.net/>.

2 EPEC grant programme

EPEC is a two year project to support postgraduate students (PGRs), early career researchers (ECRs) and early career practitioners (ECPs) to contribute to efforts to tackle fuel and energy poverty through original research and publication of research papers. A PGR is defined as anyone studying for a master's degree or PhD which relates, at least in part, to fuel or energy poverty. An ECR or ECP is anyone within the first 10 years since completion of their PhD, or within the first 10 years of their career as an academic or practitioner.

Through EPEC we will award, via a competitive process, small research grants of up to £2,500 for research and publication of research related to fuel/energy poverty and related topics. Grants will be made to PGRs, ECRs and ECPs internationally, with priority given to proposals representing collaboration between academics and practitioners internationally. These grants can be used for the following purposes:

- To enable original research;
- To reanalyse existing data to advance knowledge;
- To promote policy impact associated with existing research;
- To support the writing of research papers;
- To enable open access academic publications for existing and new papers which contribute new insights that would otherwise go unpublished.

The grants can also be used to fund larger, more expensive projects as part of a package of funding where the applicant makes a robust case for this.

3 Research Priorities for 2020/21

For the 2020/21 grant round we are prioritising a number of research themes which are detailed in the accompanying paper entitled 'EPEC: suggested topics for small grants'.

4 Application Process

To apply for a grant, please complete the EPEC grant application form, along with a project summary, and submit them to FPRN.

5 Application Timing

Please submit all proposals for the first round of grants by 5pm on Friday 15 January 2021 to naomi@fuelpovertyresearch.net.

6 The grant assessment process

As soon as possible after you have submitted your application, the Executive Officer will email you to confirm that we have received it. Your application will be assessed by the Trustees and Executive Officer. If they have any queries about your application, the Executive Officer will contact you for clarification. We will notify all applicants on whether they have been successful by Friday 5 March 2021 at the latest.

If your application is unsuccessful

If your application is not approved for a grant we will email you with brief feedback on your application and why it was not successful.

If your application is successful

If your application is approved for a grant, we will inform you by email and letter. The letter will state the total amount of the grant and will provide details of any special conditions related to the grant offer. We will also send you a copy of the grant terms and conditions and ask you to confirm in writing that you agree to comply with these conditions.

7 Grant payments

We prefer to pay grants directly to the individual who has submitted the application. However, if this arrangement isn't suitable please contact the Executive Officer and we can discuss other options. If a grant payment is made to a person or organisation outside the United Kingdom, the amount paid will be the grant awarded minus the overseas bank transfer fee.

Normally, the grant will be paid to the grantholder(s) or to the grantholder's organisation/institution in two tranches: 25% of the grant will be paid at the start of the project; the remaining 75% of the grant will be paid following submission of a satisfactory final report to the FPRN Trustees. However, if this payment schedule disadvantages your project in any way, please contact us.

8 Mentoring

All successful applicants will have the option of accessing mentoring support through the Fuel Poverty Research Network. Further details will be provided after a grant is awarded.

9 Enquiries

For informal enquiries please contact our Executive Officer Naomi Brown at naomi@fuelpovertyresearch.net.