

# Additional Applicant Guidance for Discipline Hopping within the EPSRC Mathematical Sciences Small Grants Opportunity

## 1. Overview

Discipline Hopping is a mechanism for supporting researchers in the Mathematical Sciences who either:

- have a background in Mathematical Sciences and propose to use their research skills in a new discipline;
- have other expertise and wish to learn mathematical sciences research skills and apply them in their home discipline.

This “hop” can either be intradisciplinary within the mathematical sciences or interdisciplinary to anywhere within the remit of UKRI, and aims to facilitate either a temporary or permanent move.

You must be “hopping” into or from one of the following Mathematical Sciences research areas:

- [Algebra](#)
- [Geometry & Topology](#)
- [Logic and Combinatorics](#)
- [Number Theory](#)
- [Mathematical Analysis](#)
- [Numerical Analysis](#)
- [Non-Linear Systems](#)
- [Continuum Mechanics](#)
- [Mathematical Physics](#)
- [Mathematical Biology](#)
- [Statistics and Applied Probability](#)
- [Operational Research](#)

You should demonstrate how you would develop skills and collaborations with other disciplines or users. You must show how you will use intra- or interdisciplinary research and collaborative development to benefit the mathematical sciences research community.

The Discipline Hopping route within the EPSRC Mathematical Sciences Small Grants opportunity is aimed at providing a mechanism to support the expansion of knowledge and skills through intra- or interdisciplinary work. The Discipline Hopping route follows the same opportunity guidelines as the EPSRC Mathematical Sciences Small Grants opportunity.

There is no limit to the number of submissions from a single institution. However, Project Leads and Project co-Leads can only hold one Small Grant (including Discipline Hopping) at any one time.

**As the Discipline Hopping route within the EPSRC Mathematical Sciences Small Grants scheme is aimed at expanding your own personal knowledge and skillset (as project lead), EPSRC will not fund costs for additional researchers (for example Research and Innovation associates) through the Discipline Hopping route within the EPSRC Mathematical Sciences Small Grants opportunity. The exception to this is where the**

**additional researchers are those from the other discipline who are providing the necessary training, guidance and support to the project lead.**

## 2.) Scope

You can apply to the Discipline Hopping route within the EPSRC Mathematical Sciences Small Grants opportunity at any time, in any field of research relevant to the UKRI remit, provided you are 'hopping' into, or from, one of the EPSRC Mathematical Sciences Research Areas listed above. You should have the ability to deliver the proposed research and wish to develop skills and/or collaborations with other disciplines or users. You should show how you will use intra- or interdisciplinary research and collaborative development to benefit your own research goals and development and that of the mathematical sciences community.

EPSRC is not prescriptive as to the structure of the discipline hop. You could carry out a discipline hop to, for example (but not limited to):

- gain skills and knowledge to open up a new cross-disciplinary research area or answer a specific cross-disciplinary research question;
- explore a new discipline in order to develop stronger collaborations and links between disciplines;
- learn a new technique, tool, or method that you can apply to your own research.

Your Discipline Hop can last up to 12 months and the pattern of work can vary. For example, you could:

- work in the same university department and focus on a different sub-field of your discipline, for example moving from symplectic geometry to birational geometry, representation theory and algebraic geometry, and combinatorics and representation theory;
- work in a different university department and focus on a different sub-field of your discipline, in the aim to build future collaborations and stronger links between the two sub-fields of the discipline;
- work in another university department at your home institution for one day a week for 12 months;
- travel to a different research institution or company in the UK or go abroad for up to 6 months for a single visit to immerse yourself fully into a different discipline.

The structure and duration of the hop should be appropriate to deliver the research outlined in the application.

You can request funding for:

- salary of the project lead;
- travel and subsistence while away from the home institution;
- training courses or development opportunities, including those for commercialisation and knowledge exchange;
- salary of the project co-lead(s) to provide the necessary training and guidance;
- consumables to carry out the research;

- activities to broaden the impact of the discipline hop and maximise collaborative work between the mathematical sciences and other disciplines, such as through public engagement.

Funding is not available for:

- replacement salary costs, and the associated estate and indirect costs at your home institution for time you are not there;
- project co-lead(s) or project partner(s) from overseas (although overseas collaborator(s) can be part of your application as either visiting researcher(s) or project partner(s)). The exception is where the international project co-lead(s) is based in a Norwegian institution under the [UKRI and Research Council of Norway Money Follow Cooperation agreement](#) or the [International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis \(IIASA\)](#) which is based in Austria in this case relevant eligible costs can be claimed;
- project partner(s) from industry (although industry collaborator(s) can be part of your application as project partner(s));
- equipment over £10,000 (inc. VAT). Smaller items of equipment (individually under £10,000) should be in the 'Directly Incurred – Other Costs' heading.

When submitting an application to the Discipline Hopping route, the title must begin with **'Discipline Hopping Small Grant'**.

### 3.) How we will assess your application

Discipline Hopping Small Grant applications will be assessed on a rolling basis alongside other Small Grant applications, following the same assessment process. Applications will be assessed at the same expert panel, though ranked on a separate list.