

Opportunities for early career researchers

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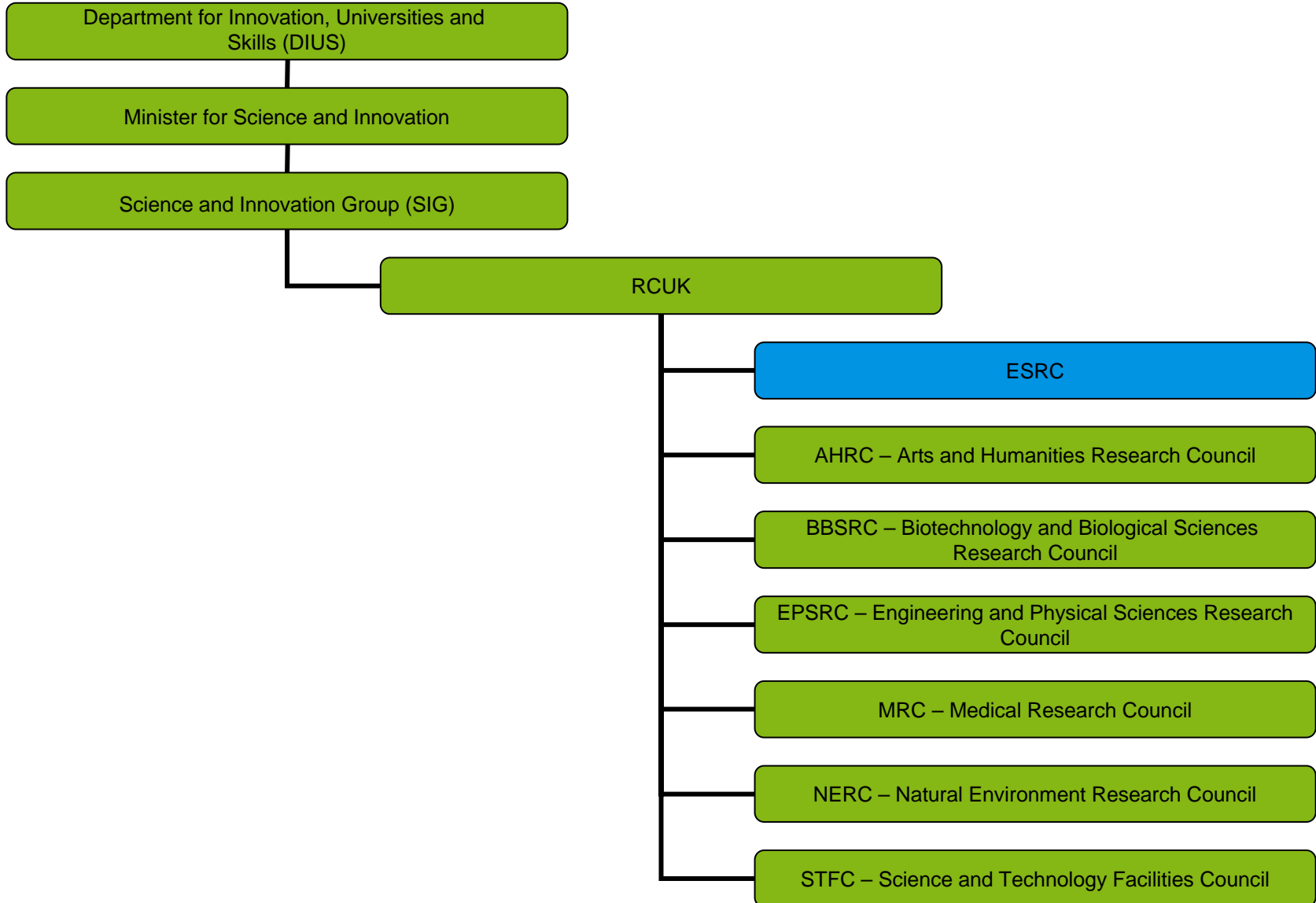
ESRC in Context

- The Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) is a non-departmental public body principally funded through the Science Budget by the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS)
- Committed to enabling UK social scientists to collaborate with the best researchers across the globe

International strategy aims:

- To enhance capacities for leading edge international research
- To remove barriers to trans-national research collaborations
- Further information available at <http://www.esrc.ac.uk>

UK Research Councils



ESRC Principles

A vertical decorative bar on the left side of the slide, composed of several horizontal segments in shades of orange, yellow, green, light blue, and dark blue.

Impact

Quality

Independence

Impact

Ensuring that our activities contribute fully to economic development and improved quality of life

Quality

Funding research and training of the highest quality by world standards

Independence

Ensuring independence from political, commercial or sectional interests

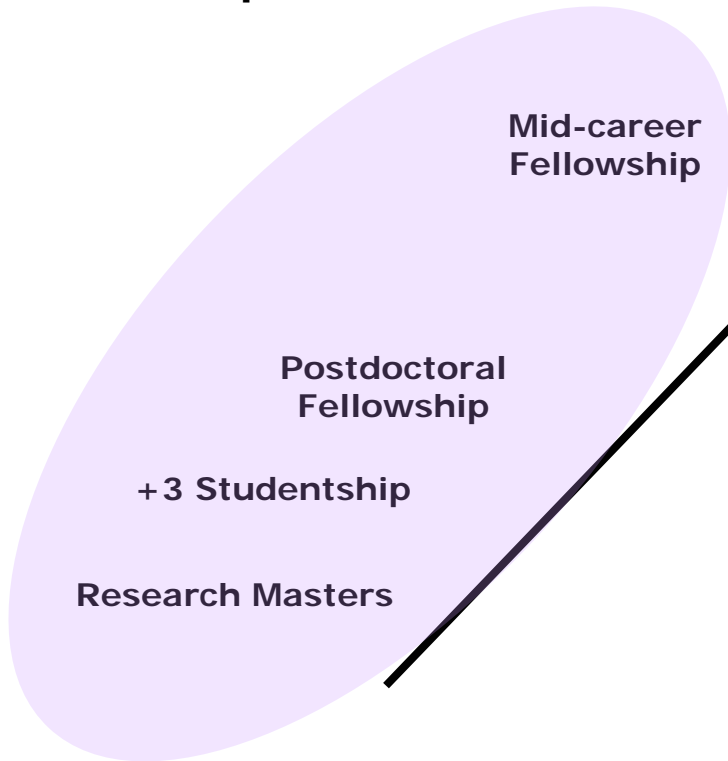
Impact: the principal objective

Maximising the impact of our work through excellence:

- Academic impact
- Societal impact
- Economic impact
- Policy impact

Research Careers – ESRC Funding Pathway

**On-going
Training and
Development**



**Professorial
Fellowship**

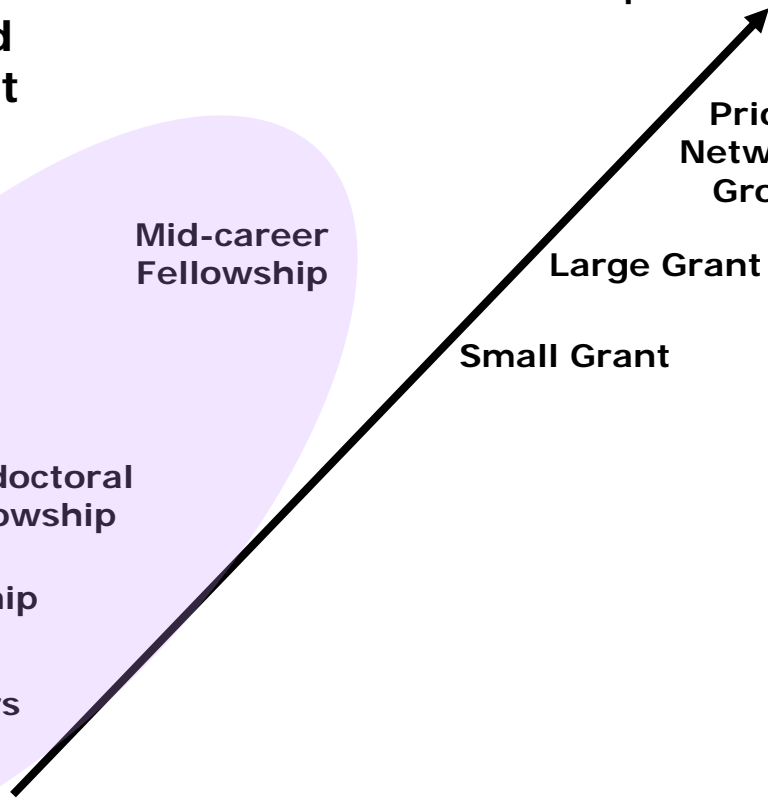
Centres

**Priority
Networks/
Groups**

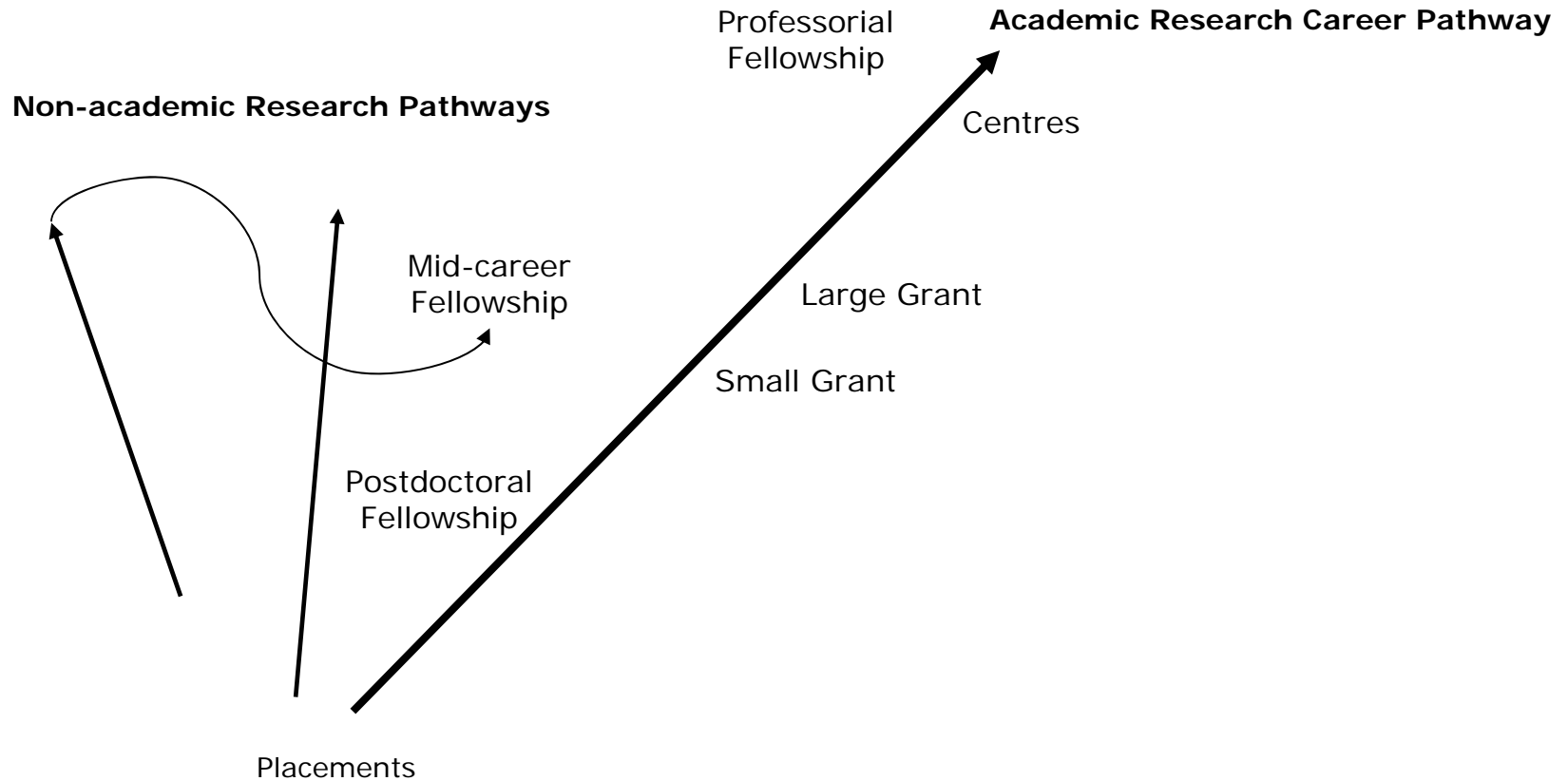
Large Grant

Small Grant

**Research
Opportunities**



Research Careers – ESRC Funding Pathways



Developing and maintaining a healthy social science base

- Demographic Review of the Social Sciences
 - UK social science community is generally ‘ageing’
 - Quality and strength of social science base variable
- ‘Health of Disciplines’ Strategy - focus on ‘shortage’ disciplines and develop discipline specific solutions
- Priority areas: Advanced Quantitative Methods; Economics; Education; Language Based Area Studies; Management and Business Studies; Social Work; Socio-legal Studies

ESRC Postdoctoral Fellowships

- Scheme aims to identify, recruit AND retain the best new research talent by supporting their career development (25-30% success rate)
- Awards are tenable for one year on a full time basis; two years for Economics
- Awards are designed to enable publication, dissemination and further training, although limited new research is permitted
- Applications from priority disciplines and 'discipline hopping' are encouraged; 10 fellowships for macroeconomics in 2009/10
- Applicants should have no more than three years' active postdoctoral experience when they take up the award

ESRC Mid-Career Development Fellowships

- Scheme aims to enable outstanding researchers to develop their careers by taking their research in a new direction or to a new level
- Awards are tenable for two years
- Applications are welcome from researchers seeking support for a programme of work linked to substantive career development
- Interdisciplinary research is particularly encouraged
- Applicants should have between five and fifteen years' active research experience

ESRC Research Grants Scheme

- Responsive mode system includes small grants up to £100,000; standard grants up to £1.5million
- Open dates scheme – applications can be made at any time. Current success rates are approximately 20%
- Funding decisions based on scientific quality, timeliness, track record and value for money
- Encourage proposals that include talented new researchers and international co-investigators
- Schemes aim to support a range of projects of the highest quality. Greater emphasis on innovative and interdisciplinary work

International Training and Networking Opportunities

- New scheme provides opportunities for international mobility, exchange and networking for early career researchers
- Scheme is open to individuals and groups within ESRC recognised research organisations but can include non-UK based researchers in proposals
- Three strands of activity:
 1. International workshops, summer schools and other events
 2. Short-term mobility opportunities
 3. New virtual networking opportunities
- Call for proposals closes on Tuesday 24th March 2009