

You are being invited to take part in the Inclusion Matters Research Project. Before you decide whether to take part, it's important for you to understand the purpose of the research and what is involved for you as a participant. Please take time to read the following information carefully, and if there is anything that isn't clear, or if you would like more information please contact us.

Thanks for your interest in the project.

Participant – Networking for Career Development

What is Networking for Career Development?

This activity allows Early Career participants* from under-represented groups in Engineering and Physical Sciences (EPS) the opportunity to participate in networking activities which will support their personal development objectives. A personal development plan will be used as the basis for participants to co-create networking opportunities with a networking information broker and will have access of up to £400 to attend networking events.

The activities in this project have been designed with the aim of supporting participants to build networks and gain exposure to opportunities which will allow them to progress and develop their academic careers to their full potential.



*see webpage for the projects' definition of Early Career Participant

What is involved in taking part in Networking for Career Development?

If you are offered a place as a participant in Networking and Career Development, and agree to take part in the study, you will:-

- Complete a questionnaire to provide information that will determine eligibility for the 'networking for career development' initiative. Data will be stored securely and confidentially.
- Attend a one to one interview that will take place either in person or via video conferencing with a networking information broker. The purpose of the interview is to develop a personal development plan in which your networking needs and priorities are identified. This interview is likely to take up to one hour.
- Attend a follow-up interview either in person or via video-conferencing with a networking information broker in which potential networking opportunities will be identified and discussed with you. This interview will take up to one hour.
- Undertake networking opportunities. The number and location of activities will vary according to your need and your ability to attend the event(s). You will be required to organise your own travel arrangements and complete reimbursement forms. Economy class travel expenses will be reimbursed. Up to £400 will be available to participants and must be spent by end July 2020.
- Attend a short 'mid-point' telephone or video-conferencing meeting to discuss networking progress.
- Attend a short post-participation interview either in person or via video conferencing to discuss your experiences and answer a brief evaluation questionnaire.

What happens next?

If you wish to take part in Inclusion Matters project, we will ask you to complete an online registration form in which you will be asked to specify in order of preference the activities you are interested in participating in. As this is a research project, it is important that we also collect data to evaluate what has worked well within the project, what could be improved in the future and the impact that participating in the project has had for participants. We will therefore collect some demographic information about you, and find out a bit about your experiences within your career to date. A detailed list of information that will be collected is provided in the privacy notice.

A subset of the information you provide at registration will be used by the Participant Allocation Panel who will use this to allocate participants to activities. You will then have the opportunity to accept or decline to participate in the activity and may be asked to provide some additional contextual information to support your participation in the activity. Please note that all participants will have access to the online platform, whether or not they are participating in another activity.

Are there any potential risks involved in taking part?

There are no additional risks or discomforts associated with being involved in this study beyond those typically involved with travel in the UK. Participants are advised to undertake a risk assessment commensurate with those expected in their home institutions.

What are the potential benefits of taking part?

There may be potential benefits of participating in the programme. These include: greater awareness of career development opportunities; access to peer support networks; increased visibility within your own institution and beyond.



Evaluation

An essential part of this project is the evaluation of the activities to understand the impact of the project, what has been effective, where there have been challenges and where refinements can be made. Evaluation for this activity will include: baseline and follow up surveys; review of completed PDPs; collection of attendance/participation data and interviews with a sample of participants. All activities within the project are subject to agreement with the participants for the activities to take place.

The evaluation is being carried out by a team of researchers from Durham University and Northumbria University. As well as considering the impact of the project for participants, the evaluation will also be analysing information and policies from the participating HEIs and conducting interviews with key staff within these organisations to assess the wider impact of the project.

About the Project

What is Inclusion Matters?

EPSRC have funded 11 projects across the UK through the Inclusion Matters call. This is the first initiative of its kind, launched as part of the collective approach by UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) to promote equality, diversity and inclusion.

<https://epsrc.ukri.org/newsevents/news/inclusionmatters/>

The title of this project is 'Northern Power: Making Engineering and Physical Sciences (EPS) Research a Domain for All in the North of England.' The study has received ethical approval from the Ethics Committee, School of Education of Durham University.

The rights and responsibilities of anyone taking part in Durham University research are set out in our 'Participants Charter':

<https://www.dur.ac.uk/research.innovation/governance/ethics/considerations/people/charter/>

What is the purpose of the Inclusion Matters research project?

The overarching aim of this study is to shape an actively inclusive culture in the EPS community (academic and beyond) in the North of England that supports, drives and sustains greater equality for all, including traditionally under-represented groups (e.g., women, disabled people, LGBT+, and black, Asian and minority ethnic (BAME) researchers).

Our objectives are:

to develop a better understanding of the challenges and opportunities faced by groups under-represented in EPS across our consortium and beyond;

- to share this understanding with HEIs, research councils, industry and policy makers;
- to present cross-institutional networking, mentoring and disciplinary opportunities for members of groups under-represented in EPS within our consortium;
- to establish and share best practice with regard to developing inclusive EPS communities from HEIs and industry (and beyond) with other HEIs, research councils, industry and policy makers through seminars, publications and an online platform.



Do I have to take part?

Your participation is voluntary and you do not have to agree to take part. If you do agree to take part, you can withdraw at any time, without giving a reason. Your rights in relation to withdrawing any data that is identifiable to you are explained in the accompanying Privacy Notice.

Why have I been invited to take part?

Statistics show that the Engineering and Physical Sciences community is under-represented in a number of groups, including women, disabled people, LGBT+ and Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic people. Participation in the Inclusion Matters project is being promoted to people who identify as being in one or more of these under-represented groups.

What opportunities are available as part of the Inclusion Matters project?

Having identified 7 critical challenges to recruitment, retention and progression for people in these groups, the Inclusion Matters project has developed 8 activities to address these challenges:

1. Shared characteristic and/or interest mentoring
2. Reciprocal mentoring
3. Online platform
4. Leadership Development Workshop
5. Networking for Career Development
6. University Industry Partnership – Work Shadowing
7. University Industry Partnership – EDI within EPS Events
8. University Industry Partnership – Engaging Collaboration: Being Prepared for Business Workshops

Will my data be kept confidential?

All information obtained during the study will be kept confidential. Information which is specific to the evaluation will not be shared with other activities in the project and where information is to be shared, we will always make it clear to you which information will be shared beyond the evaluation team. If the data is published it will be entirely anonymous and will not be identifiable as yours. Full details are included in the accompanying Privacy Notice.

What will happen to the results of the project?

We expect the outcomes of this project will fundamentally influence and shape policy and practice across the partner Universities and beyond in relation to increasing diversity in the EPS community. Reports, academic publications, other outputs and conference attendance are some of the dissemination activities which we will utilise to effect better working practices as a whole across the sector.

The end date of the project is 31 March 2021. All research data and records needed to validate the research findings will be stored for 10 years after the end of the project.

Who do I contact if I have any questions or concerns about this study?

General Queries about the Registration Process and Project – inclusion.matters@durham.ac.uk

Data Protection and GDPR - information.governance@durham.ac.uk

Questions about the activity –

Dr Sharron Kuznesof, Leadership Development Workshop Project Coordinator, University of Newcastle.

Sharron.kuznesof@ncl.ac.uk

If you remain unhappy or wish to make a formal complaint, please submit a complaint via the University's [Complaints Process](#).



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Who will conduct the research?

The project is being conducted by a consortium of Universities and industry partners in the North of England.



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