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| **HLC** |  | http://wp.doc.ic.ac.uk/vetss/wp-content/uploads/sites/122/2017/05/inst_logo_2-1024x171.png | http://wp.doc.ic.ac.uk/vetss/wp-content/uploads/sites/122/2017/05/epsrc.png |

# **1st Call for Proposals FOR KICK-START GRANTS**

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| *Closing date:*  *15th May 2018, 16:00* |  | *Funded by the* Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC). |

# Summary

The EPSRC Network+ on Human-Like Computing is inviting proposals for Kick-start grants.

This call is for approximately £40K to be spent between 1st December 2018 and 31st May 2019, funded by the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC)

<http://hlc.doc.ic.ac.uk/>

# Background

Human-Like Computing (HLC) research aims to endow machines with human-like perceptual, reasoning and learning abilities which support collaboration and communication with human beings. Such abilities should support computers in interpreting the aims and intentions of humans based on learning and accumulated background knowledge.

The development of computer systems which exhibit truly human-like computing and co-operative properties requires sustained inter-disciplinary collaboration between disparate and largely disconnected research communities within AI and Psychology. The proposed Network is needed in order to forge a new UK-based scientific community involving collaboration between leading groups in these disciplines. The Network builds on the successful interactions of leading AI and Psychology groups represented at the EPSRC work- shop on Human-Like Computing meeting (Bristol, 17-18 February 2016) and the EPSRC funded Machine Intelligence 20 workshop on Human-Like Computing (Cumberland Lodge,  23-25 October 2016).

# This Call

The Network+ will provide funds for Kick-start projects. These funds will cover PDRA time and a contribution towards staﬀ supervision at the Institution to which the Kick-start is awarded by the Network. Two Kick-start projects are planned to be awarded per year. Each project will be funded at an approximate level of £40K.

Key objectives for the HLC area were identified by the community during the MI20 HLC meeting (October, 2016). We aim to order these community-generated objectives into a series of Roadmap Themes which relate to key topics associated with the development of HLC from **Foundational Components of HLC** (Years 1+2), **Scaling-up HLC systems** (Year 3) to **Applications of HLC** (Years 4+5).

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| **Year** | **Phase** | **Topic 1** | **Topic 2** |
| Y1 | Foundational (1) | Comprehensibility | Representation Change |
| Y2 | Foundational (2) | Small data learning | Memory and forgetting |
| Y3 | Scaling-up | Bridging high and low-level | Verbal and non-verbal |
| Y4 | Applications (1) | Intelligent tutoring | Programming assistance |
| Y5 | Applications (2) | Social agents | Scientific assistance |

The topics above will be used by the Management and Grants Committee as a guide to preferred areas for funding of submitted Kick-start projects in successive years of the network. Although Kick-start submissions will be encouraged in the indicated areas, the committee will also support strong Kick-start applications in other areas of HLC research.

# Application guidelines.

The application process for this call is deliberately lightweight. The submission should contain:

* A maximum of a 2-page project proposal with an additional page for references, following EPSRC formatting guidelines. Your proposal should contain at least a track record and a research plan. All submissions should be in single column format and use 11-point fonts for the main text. We strongly encourage using EPSRC proposal styles: "all (PDF) attachments must be completed in single-spaced typescript in Arial 11 or other sans serif typeface of equivalent size, with margins of at least 2cm Arial narrow and Calibri are not allowable font types. Text in embedded diagrams or pictures, numerical formulae or references can be smaller, as long as it is legible. Text in tables and figure labels not within embedded diagrams or pictures should be at least 11 point."
* 2-page CVs of the investigators and named researchers.
* A 1-page detailed breakdown of costs with justification including, for example, investigator time & research assistant time. Prices should be quoted without VAT.
* The research will be funded at 100% Full Economic Cost and we will provide the following maximum **fixed costs (per month)** : Research Assistant/Associate salary (approximately 4 to 4.5 months) @ £4,439.00, Academic Supervision @ £508, Overheads @ £4,078.00, Estates @ £1,583.00, & Technician costs @ £116.00
* Please note that no travel, subsistence, consumables and other related costs will be allowed.

# Eligibility and Conditions

Applicants must be based in institutions eligible to apply for EPSRC funding. An investigator can submit at most one Kick-start proposal for this call. Grants will not be made retrospectively.

Your submission title should include "Proposal for X: ...", where X is either for Network membership or for a Kick-start grant. Please note that only Network members are permitted to apply for this Kick-start funding so please remember to submit a proposal for Network membership, via the website (http://ilp.doc.ic.ac.uk/hlc/calls.html), unless you are already a member. Only investigators need apply for network membership although researchers are also welcome to apply.

The investigators of projects funded in this call are expected to become core members and play an active role in Human-Like Computing Network+. They are required to complete a final report.

The funders are committed to full and open publication of the research outputs, in line with normal academic practice. The funding and contract will be subject to the EPSRC's standard terms and conditions; a draft copy of the contract can be made available on request.

# Application and Selection

All submissions are via the [EasyChair page for HLC 2018 Call for Proposals](https://easychair.org/conferences/?conf=hlc2018) and should be submitted by 4pm on Tuesday 15th May 2018. In the box for "Keywords", please include HLC topics which are most relevant to your proposal.

Proposals will be assessed by a panel of analysis, testing, and verification experts from academia, industry and government, who will judge the proposals on quality, viability and significance.

Enquiries regarding the academic scope and objectives of this call should be directed to  [Dr Alireza Tamaddoni-Nezhad](mailto:a.tamaddoni-nezhad@imperial.ac.uk?subject=EPSRC%20Network+%20HLC%20-%20Kick-Starts%20Call%202018), Technical Director. Enquiries regarding the application process should be addressed to [Bridget Gundry](mailto:bridget.gundry@imperial.ac.uk?subject=EPSRC%20Network+%20HLC%20-%20Kick-Starts%20Call%202018), Administrator.

# **Key Dates:**

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| Call published | *28th March 2018* |
| Proposals submitted | *15th May 2018 by 16:00* |
| Result announcement | *By 2nd July 2018* |
| Research period | *1st December 2018 – 31st May 2019* |