

NERC ICURe Engage [SET-EG-OCT26-IUK-NERC]**[1st –22nd October 2026]****KEY DATES & EXPECTATIONS**

27 th July 2026	Applications open	
7 th September @23:59	Applications close	
W/c 14 th September 2026	Notification of results sent to applicants	
Programme Outline <i>(please note all sessions will be online)</i>		
Bootcamp Day 1:	01/10/2026	09:00-16:00
Bootcamp Day 2:	02/10/2026	09:00-16:00
Session 3:	08/10/2026	10:00-12:00
Session 4:	15/10/2026	10:00-12:00
Session 5:	22/10/2026	10:00-12:00

Please note that this opportunity forms part of a pilot programme with select UK Research Councils to gauge interest and test the market, NERC has been approached to be involved. Beyond this pilot, a range of ICURe programmes operate throughout the year, offering additional routes for participation and there is no guarantee that NERC will be directly involved in future programme iterations.

Participants will be expected to attend all sessions scheduled above and should hold these dates in their diary when applying.

To fully benefit from the programme you should allocate approximately half a day of your own time in weeks 2-4 of the programme.

Application Process

Before applying, we advise you to look at the application template to understand what information is required.

Please complete the application form clearly and concisely. Sections with * must be completed.

Before submitting your application, please ensure both your superior and, if possible, your Technology Transfer Office (TTO) is aware and supportive of your application and therefore programme attendance.



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What is Engage?

NERC's ICURE Engage is a 4-week, part-time programme for those projects previously funded by NERC, to be delivered by the SETSquared Partnership, and tailored for researchers and technicians of NERC. This programme aims to identify potential beneficiaries and users of academic research, introduce participants to commercialisation tools, and foster entrepreneurship.

Innovate UK's ICURE (Innovation to Commercialisation of University Research) Programme is a nationwide programme which supports students and researchers to explore the commercial applications and potential impacts of their research. For further information on ICURE visit:

www.icureprogramme.com

UKRI Pathway

Through 2026/27, Innovate UK ICURE is working more closely with UKRI councils to bring the programme directly into the research communities they support. The UKRI council pathways initiative is delivered via the same ICURE Engage, Discover, Explore and Exploit stages, but the cohorts, examples, networks and onward routes are shaped around the research priorities of the partner council. The aim is that researchers attached to a UKRI-funded environment experience ICURE as part of their own sector, with the programme shaped around the work they are already doing.

The practical implication is that ICURE is being actively built into the research environment around you, as a researcher or technician. There are low-commitment entry points you can take without stepping away from your current work. ICURE Engage is a four-week part-time introduction with no funding attached and no business idea required. The programme does not require you to know in advance whether your work has a commercial future.

NERC is a thought leader for UK environmental science, driving new research and innovation to advance the frontiers of science and benefit society. NERC invests in building a community of environmental scientists who work across disciplines in research and industry. The knowledge and data generated is used for the benefit of citizens across the UK, enhancing their prosperity, safety and quality of life. NERC funding supports the UK as an international leader in evidence-driven environmental policy.

What's Included?

- 2 Day online training bootcamp covering:
 - Entrepreneurial Thinking
 - The Language of Business
 - Emotional Resilience and Wellbeing
 - Introduction to Verbal Business Card and Value Proposition
 - Impact and marketing testing online
- 3 weekly sessions covering:
 - Value Proposition and your market
 - Testing your Value Proposition
 - Your video reflecting your learning.

All programme materials have been aligned with the [EntreComp model](#).

- Engage provides a route towards other ICURE Programmes.

(Please note Discover and Explore programme will require their own application,

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there is no automatic entry if Engage is completed).

Why Attend?

Past participants say that having dedicated time to spend understanding what commercialisation of research means has dramatically changed their perspective on their research, ideas, and innovations. The programme provides the space and opportunity to consider research impact, commercialisation, and entrepreneurship.

Who is eligible?

Please note that this programme is open to those who have previously received NERC funding directly as an individual or been affiliated with NERC-funded programmes, e.g., studentships, fellowships, research grants etc.

The NERC ICURE Engage programme is open to researchers at all levels of seniority, technicians and students from all disciplines undertaking master's degrees, PhDs, and Post-Docs, based at universities, independent research organisations (IROs) and NERC's six Centres across the UK and who are interested in entrepreneurship. A full list of NERC's Centres can be found via:

<https://www.ukri.org/who-we-are/nerc/who-we-are/nerc-research-centres/>. This opportunity is available regardless of whether you already have an innovative idea, as the programme introduces you to ICURE and provides the space and opportunity to think about entrepreneurship differently.

Your course of study, your idea and/or your research MUST be directly related to the commercialisation of NERC-funded research to solve climate adaptation challenges by bringing new or improved technologies, processes, products and services to market to enhance UK's climate resilience. This ensures physical and social systems are resilient and well adapted to a changing climate. This includes, but is not limited to food security, water supply, transport, urban design, large infrastructure resilience community preparedness and response, and physical risks for the finance sector.

"Climate adaptation, environment and resilience" is one of UKRI's new priority programmes and UKRI will invest in improving the UK's climate resilience, including in support of the National Adaptation Programme as published in its [new strategy](#) and [delivery plan](#).

Click on the links for further information on:

- The [Climate Adaptation Research and Innovation Framework – April 2025](#) provides a non-exhaustive collation of adaptation R&I needs across sectors and 'systems', key to strengthening the UK's climate resilience
- Climate Adaptation Research and Innovation Programme Inventory provides an overview of the main Government-funded R&I programmes that support climate adaptation, where adaptation is a core or significant component. It may not capture all relevant activity – some Government programmes include adaptation-related research as part of broader portfolios that may not be substantial enough to be included here.
(<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/climate-adaptation-research-and-innovation-programme-inventory/climate-adaptation-research-and-innovation-programme-inventory>)



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We also welcome applications from individuals in:

- Universities who have not participated in the ICURe programme.
- Universities who do not receive HEIF funding.
- Under-represented groups including women, people of colour, those living with disabilities and those from the LGBTQI+ communities.
- Approved public sector research enterprises (PSREs).

We are committed to supporting Equality, Diversity and Inclusion and welcome applications from anyone who is eligible.

How do I apply?

Apply here: <https://app.launchcan.com/application/start?programmeId=00c2582f-6b50-4fc1-b809-a0bb8c8d1abd>

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