

EPSRC Clean Energy ICURE Engage – November 2026

Clean Energy Focused

Thursday 5th to Wednesday 25th November 2026

KEY DATES AND EXPECTATIONS**

• Monday 21 st September 2026	Applications open
• Monday 19 th October 2026 @ 23:59	Applications close
• By close of Friday 23 rd October 2026	Notification of results sent to applicants
Programme Outline	
• 2 Day Bootcamp: Thursday 5th and Friday 6th November 2026 (09:00-16:00) • Session 1: Wednesday 11th November 2026 • Session 2: Wednesday 18th November 2026 • Session 3: Wednesday 25th November 2026 All sessions are scheduled for 10:00-12:00.	
• The research student/technician will be expected to attend all sessions scheduled above and should hold these dates in their diary when applying. • Technology Transfer Representatives are also welcome to attend bootcamp and sessions, but it is not obligatory.	

** Timetable subject to change.

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

UKRI Pathway

Through 2026/27, Innovate UK ICURE is working 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.

EPSRC Clean Energy is leading research on the discovery, development and deployment of clean energy technologies through a whole systems approach. It aims to:

- deliver affordable, sustainable, and secure energy solutions that enable the UK to achieve net zero by 2050
- drive green growth by ensuring economic prosperity and climate resilience

The clean energy theme aims to position the UK to meet its energy and environmental targets and policy goals through investing in world-class research.

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What is EPSRC Clean Energy ICURE Engage?

This sector specific Innovate UK EPSRC Clean Energy ICURE Engage is a 4-week, part-time programme tailored for research students and technicians. This programme aims to identify potential beneficiaries of research, introduce participants to tools for commercialisation, and foster consideration of entrepreneurship as a pathway for achieving societal impact and a viable career choice. It is focused on innovations in the fields of *clean energy*.

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: <https://iuk-business-connect.org.uk/programme/icure/>

This ICURE Engage programme is focused on innovations in the sectors described below. If you are unsure whether your technology or research fits these sectors, please get in touch icure@setsquared.co.uk.

What does it include?

- 2-day training bootcamp from Impact experts.
- Introduction to ICURE, ideation, design thinking, and Value Proposition Canvas.
- Weekly hour-long conversations with peer group support and mentors for 3 Weeks.
- Around 5 hours of self-study and research over the 3 weeks.
- Consideration of how a venture delivering Impact may be funded.
- Production of a short video report reflecting on knowledge gained and research area Impact potential.

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

- ICURE Engage provides a route towards other ICURE Programmes.

(Please note ICURE Discover and ICURE Explore programmes will require their own application, there is no automatic entry if ICURE 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 introduces ICURE and provides the space and opportunity to think differently about impact, commercialisation, and entrepreneurship. Our pioneers get access to leading university resources, and fantastic networks of mentors and investors who join them early on their journey. We're de-risking very exciting technologies which have enormous potential to change the world for the better.

Who is eligible?

The EPSRC Clean Energy ICURE Engage programme is open to all research students (including those pursuing research master's degrees, 1st or 2nd year PhD students, and post-Docs) as well as technicians who are interested in entrepreneurship who are working specifically within the fields of clean energy. These areas include, but are not restricted to, carbon capture, usage and storage (CCUS) and greenhouse gas removal (GGR), heat pumps, Hydrogen, nuclear fission, nuclear fusion and wind (onshore, offshore and floating offshore). This opportunity is available regardless of whether they already have an idea, as the programme introduces them to ICURE and provides the space and opportunity to think about entrepreneurship differently.

We particularly welcome applications from individuals in:

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

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research within the specified domains.

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.

How do I apply?

- The online application form will ask a series of questions about you and your research project.
- There is a limited number of spaces on each Cohort, but we try to provide support for as many applications as possible.
- The application form may be accessed from the links on this website.

If you have any further questions, please direct them to icure@setsquared.co.uk or use the contact form via this website.