

Funding opportunities from ESRC

1. General funding

ESRC research remit is economic and social research. Recognises the need to develop methodology to carry out such research. There is a separate subject category “**Statistics, methods and computing**” which relates to this need.

- a. **Standard research grants**. Over £100,000 to £1.5 million.(costed at 100%FEC but funded at 80%). Current success rate is about 25%. Assessed by two research grants board members after receiving 4-5 referee comments.
- b. **Small grants** Under £100,000. current success rate about 35%. Assessed by a board member and a member of ESRC college. Can fund 100% buyout.
- c. **Fellowships** (postdocs, research, professorial). Strong encouragement for “advanced quant methods” for postdocs.
- d. **Large grants, first grants**. Etc etc.

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2. New funding initiatives

ESRC have a working party on quantitative methods in the social sciences to try to address the lack of quant skills in social sciences and also the demographic problem of lack of future experts.

a. Fourth round of researcher Developer Initiative funding. Call in September 2008. Previous projects:

- Developing methods repertoires: advanced quantitative methods training in the Midlands
- A Multilevel Approach to Meta-Analysis for the Social Sciences
- Tools and Training for Analysis of Multilevel Data with Missing Observations
- Longitudinal Data Analysis for Social Science Researchers

b. Call for consultant/strategic advisor in the area of quantitative methods in the social sciences at the UG level – will be made soon. ESRC are funding teaching initiatives at the UG level to try to improve UG statistical skills.

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- c. **Stand-alone MSc funding.** Has been discussed for a long time – still no sign of progress on this.
- d. **Dynamics of ageing cross board initiative**
- e. **NORFACE programme on migration** (New Opportunities for Research Funding Agency Collaboration in Europe)