**ExCALIBUR-ECP Hardware & Enabling Software
Knowledge Exchange Programme - Guidance for Applicants**

The ExCALIBUR-ECP Hardware & Enabling Software Knowledge Exchange Programme provides financial support for exchange visits of personnel who have been involved in UKRI projects, and those from the USA . The programme has a particular focus on technical Knowledge Transfer aspects and the Hardware & Enabling Software[[1]](#footnote-1) (H&ES) pre-exascale testbed projects funded under the ExCALIBUR initiative. *This is not a general exchange programme for the wider research community.*

**Scope**

The Knowledge Exchange Programme provides support primarily for travel and subsistence (T&S) costs to enable UK/US exchange visits, up to a suggested limit of £5,000 per person and one month in duration. Requests for larger awards or non-T&S related costs will only be considered in exceptional circumstances - please contact the programme team (excalibur-ecp-exchange@jiscmail.ac.uk) to discuss.

**Eligibility**

Applicants should be able to evidence involvement in either the ExCALIBUR or ECP initiatives, for example as a Principal Investigator or project team member such as Research Software Engineer (RSE) or Research Technology Professional (RTP). UK participants should also be able to evidence that the exchange visit will link to at least one H&ES-supported activity (e.g. test-beds, reports, people). If you would like support in finding a suitable H&ES partner, please contact Nick Brown or Jeremy Yates. Applicants involved in hands-on technical work will have priority, and preference will be given to ExCALIBUR projects[[2]](#footnote-2) on the UK side and those who have been involved in US Exascale Computing Project[[3]](#footnote-3) (ECP) related activities, initiatives or follow on projects from the USA.

**Timeline**

The exchange programme runs from February 2024 through to March 2025. Applications for support are welcome at any time using the form overleaf. Please send your completed application to the programme team excalibur-ecp-exchange@jiscmail.ac.uk.

**Process**

Applications for support from the programme will be collated and reviewed on a monthly basis. Successful applicants will receive their allocated funds from the T&S funding stream for this programme which is held by the University of Leicester. The process for disbursing these funds will be confirmed at the point where successful applicants are notified of the outcome of their applications.

**Outputs**

Successful applicants are required to complete a short written report detailing the activities undertaken during the exchange visit and any outcomes. A recorded presentation summarising the visit is also required - exchange visits which include community workshops and events are encouraged and may provide a suitable venue for this. Documentary evidence must be kept to show how the allocated funds have been spent.

**EDI**

We encourage applications from candidates who are likely to be underrepresented in academia. We particularly welcome female applicants, disabled people, and those from an ethnic minority, as these groups are under-represented within digital research infrastructure. We also encourage applications from those who have carer responsibilities.

**Questions**

If you have any questions or require any further information, please contact the programme team (excalibur-ecp-exchange@jiscmail.ac.uk) to discuss.

**Assessment criteria**

Applications will be assessed by the delivery board based upon the following criteria:

* Importance of the benefits from this visit and UKRI-wide relevance of specific outputs (40%)
* Potential to drive long term collaboration between ECP/US and UK (20%)
* Suitability of the US partners in HPC and/or the specific field being investigated (10%)
* Appropriateness of the time plan and value for money (10%)
* The benefit to undertaking this visit in person (10%)
* Link to ExCALIBUR projects and activities (10%)

**ExCALIBUR-ECP Hardware & Enabling Software
Knowledge Exchange Programme - Expression of Interest**

(there is no word limit, although some sections have an indicative/suggested word count. Feel free to extend any of the boxes if you need to.)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Proposer name |  |
| Proposer institution |  |
| Total funds requested |  |

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| --- |
| State who you wish to collaborate with and why, including names and institutions. (approx. 200 words) |
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| Provide a breakdown of the funds requested (salaries are not eligible, up to £5,000 per person per month T&S is considered acceptable)  |
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| What form will this collaboration follow? (please include details about the planned timescales, when will the visit occur, who will be visiting who and for how long and). |
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| What links does this have to ExCALIBUR and/or ECP? (be specific, name projects) |
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| Why is this of interest to the wider HPC community and what are the benefits? Please also list the specific outcomes and outputs from this activity? (approx. 300 words) |
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| What are the reasons for undertaking this visit in person rather than virtually? |
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1. <https://excalibur.ac.uk/theme-archive/hardware-and-enabling-software> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. <https://excalibur.ac.uk/> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. <https://www.exascaleproject.org/> [↑](#footnote-ref-3)