

Open call: Early Career Plenary Lecture on “Chemical Reaction Engineering”

The Early Career Chemical Engineers Section of EFCE is excited to announce an open call for early career researchers to apply for a plenary speaker position at the European Symposium on Chemical Reaction Engineering (ESCRE 2027), held from 23 to 26 May 2027, in Milan, Italy.

The selected early career plenary speaker will have the opportunity to showcase their research and work on an international platform and a diverse audience of leading academics and industrial stakeholders. This is a unique chance for emerging scientists and engineering specialists to make a visible impact in the research community, which is a significant achievement.

We are seeking candidates who have demonstrated expertise in chemical reaction engineering and deliver a presentation focused on one or more of the following topic areas (not limited to):

- Catalysis for the energy transition (thermal, electro, photo or plasma catalysis)
- Sustainable reaction engineering and process intensification
- Hydrogen, ammonia and alternative energy vectors
- Carbon capture and utilisation (CCU)
- Electrification of chemical processes
- Digitalisation, artificial intelligence and autonomous experimentation
- Advanced reactor technologies, reactor design and scale-up
- Reaction kinetics, mechanisms and multiscale modelling

Eligibility Criteria

- Early Career status, referring to candidates who have obtained their Ph.D. within the last 8 years or have less than 8 years of professional experience after completing their master's or bachelor's degree*. We encourage academics and industry professionals to apply.
- Demonstrated expertise in chemical reaction engineering through research, publications, or professional experience.
- Membership with any EFCE Member Society or with any EFCE Working Party or Section.
- Fluency in English, as it is the official language of the conference.

Application process

First stage: We invite early career researchers to express their interest by submitting:

1. **CV (max 3 pages)** including current position, previous professional experience, education and qualifications, EFCE affiliation status, awards and prizes and a list of up to three (3) peer-reviewed publications and three (3) invited or contributed conference presentations that are considered to be most significant. A brief justification should also be provided for each publication and conference, explaining the reason for its selection and its significance to the applicant's research career.
2. **Tentative title and abstract** (300-500 words) of the talk they want to deliver.

*We are committed to a transparent and fair selection process, ensuring equal opportunities for all candidates. The eligibility period will be extended to account for any maternity or paternity leave.

Second stage: Shortlisted candidates will be asked to submit the following extra documents:

1. **A video (max 3 minutes)** briefly introducing themselves, their research in terms accessible to a wider community and explaining why they would like to represent the Early Career community as an ESCRE 2027 plenary speaker.
2. **A short statement (max 200 words)** describing how delivering an ESCRE plenary lecture would contribute to their professional development and how they hope their talk would inspire and benefit the reaction engineering community.

For both stages, kindly send all documents to Dr Theodoros Papalas (t.papalas@bham.ac.uk) and the Early Career Chemical Engineers Board (EFCE.earlycareerchemengs@gmail.com).

Timeline

- Opening of the Call of Interest: 15th of July 2026
- Deadline for first round of applications: 30th of September 2026
- Invitation sent to shortlisted potential speakers: 31th of October 2026
- Deadline for second round of shortlisted applications: 20th of November 2026
- Final selection of Plenary Lecturer: 15th of December 2026

Evaluation process

The application documents submitted during the first stage will be evaluated independently by reviewers from the EFCE Early Career Chemical Engineers Section and by a representative of the ESCRE 2027 Scientific Committee, according to the evaluation criteria presented in **Table 1**. The ESCRE representative is involved from the first stage to ensure an expert evaluation of the scientific content of the proposed plenary lecture. The Stage 1 score will comprise 50% of the score awarded by the EFCE Early Career Chemical Engineers Section and 50% of the score awarded by the ESCRE representative.

Candidates shortlisted following the Stage 1 evaluation will be invited to participate in the Stage 2. The video and short statement documents will be evaluated by reviewers from the EFCE Early Career Chemical Engineers Section only, according to the evaluation criteria presented in **Table 1**. The Stage 1 and Stage 2 scores will each contribute 50% to the overall score of each candidate.

Based on this combined evaluation, the highest-ranked candidates will be forwarded to the ESCRE 2027 Organising Committee for final assessment. The final score will comprise 60% of the overall score (Stage 1 and Stage 2) so far and 40% of the score awarded by the ESCRE 2027 Organising Committee.

Further details

The selected candidate will have their registration, accommodation and travel expenses covered. They will also have the opportunity to deliver up to two virtual mock plenary lectures during late Winter and Early Spring 2027, receiving constructive feedback from members of the EFCE Early Career Chemical Engineers Section and the wider EFCE community to help refine their presentation.

Table 1. Evaluation criteria with respective weighting factors and notes

Factor	Weighting	Notes and relevant criteria
<i>First stage</i>		
Does the proposed topic align well with the ESCRE theme?	Yes/No	The proposed plenary lecture falls within the scientific themes of ESCRE 2027. Applications outside the scope of the conference will not proceed to full evaluation.
Originality and impact	35%	Novelty, significance and potential impact of the proposed lecture. Consider whether the work advances the proposed field of chemical reaction engineering and the outcomes it can have (<i>Title + Abstract</i>).
Scientific Quality and Clarity	20%	Quality, structure and clearness of the abstract, including whether the objectives, methodology, key findings and conclusions are presented in a logical and understandable manner with concise scientific English (<i>Abstract</i>).
Achievements, significance and career progression	30%	Applicant's scientific track record relative to career stage, considering publications, conference presentations, awards, invited talks and leadership skills (<i>CV</i>).
Justification of scientific contributions	15%	Candidate's ability to persuade and explain the significance, originality and impact of their selected publications and conference presentations and to justify why these best represent their research career (<i>CV</i>).
<i>Second stage (for shortlisted candidates)</i>		
Suitability as an Early Career representative	40%	Candidate's professionalism, enthusiasm, potential to inspire early career researchers and serve as a positive role model for the community (<i>Statement + video</i>).
Potential benefit to the applicant and the Early Career community	25%	Description of how the opportunity would contribute to the applicant's professional development and how they intend to use the experience to engage with the Early Career community (<i>Statement + video</i>).
Communication skills	35%	Clarity, confidence, body language and the ability to communicate complex scientific concepts to a broad chemical engineering audience (<i>Video</i>).