

Fellowships Workshop¹

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¹Thanks to Jane Hillston for slides from previous versions of this workshop

Programme

- 10.00 – 10.25 Introduction (Chris)
- 10.25 – 10.35 Kartic Subr (URF)
- 10.35 – 10.45 Lexi Birch (EPSRC Innovation Fellow)
- 10.45 – 10.55 Mike O'Boyle (EPSRC Advanced Fellow)
- 10.55 – 11.05 Frank Keller (Outline Panel Member, Turing)
- 11.00 – 11.15 Break
- 11.15 – 11.30 Other Schemes (Chris)
- 11.30 – 11.45 Generic advice (Chris)
- 11.45 – 12.00 Q & A

What is a fellowship?

A prestigious grant for an extended period of research which you can use to “employ” yourself.

- ▶ In all cases fellowships come with a level of **prestige** beyond that of a regular research grant, so the expectation is that candidates are demonstrating above average research track record for their career stage.
- ▶ They are an indication of **independence** which is a crucial stage in your development as a researcher.
- ▶ They often allow for flexibility and mobility.
- ▶ At the senior level expectation they often come with exceptions of **exceptional vision and leadership** as well as excellent research.

What's in a fellowship application?

- ▶ Significant weight will generally be given to your track record, so make sure that your CV is sufficiently strong.
- ▶ The research proposed should be adventurous and innovative, but feasible (plan B, mitigation of risk?)
- ▶ Panels like to see ambition, but they also need to be convinced that detailed thought and careful planning have been given to the programme of work.
- ▶ The key questions you have to address in a fellowship application are **Why you?**, **Why now?** and **Why here?**

How are fellowship applications evaluated?

- ▶ Broadly speaking fellowships are often evaluated by a **generalist** panel.
- ▶ In some schemes there is a first sift in which the panel decide which applications are to be sent out to expert reviewers.
- ▶ Expert reviewers evaluate the application remotely and submit a written report.
- ▶ A panel then rank the applications based on the expert reviews (possibly explicitly based on scores).
- ▶ For some schemes there will be a further stage where top ranking applicants are invited to interview by a panel.
- ▶ In interviewed schemes success rate at interview is usually about 50% or slightly better.

Major funders of fellowships

- ▶ Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC)
 - ▶ Postdoctoral Fellowships (not for ICT, only RAS)
 - ▶ Early Career
 - ▶ Established Career
- ▶ UKRI
 - ▶ Future Leaders Fellowships
- ▶ Royal Society
 - ▶ University Research Fellowships
 - ▶ Dorothy Hodgkin Fellowships
- ▶ European Research Council (ERC)
 - ▶ Advanced Grant (deadline 26/08/20)

EPSRC Early Career Fellowships

Eligibility: No strict timeframe but there is a detailed person specification available.

Duration: Five years, with possible extension.

- Details:**
- ▶ Structure of an application is similar to a standard grant application: case for support, diagrammatic work plan, justification of resources.
 - ▶ In addition you need to submit a CV and list of publications, and a host organisation statement.
 - ▶ There is no sifting panel, proposals go straight to external review.
 - ▶ If scores are high enough they then go through a prioritisation panel to rank which will be interviewed, and then an interview panel.

Panel: Scientists from across ICT portfolio of EPSRC.

Deadline: No fixed deadline, ICT recommends Feb or Sept submission

UKRI Future Leaders Fellowships

Eligibility: Fellowships are for early career academics and innovators who are transitioning to or establishing independence
There are no eligibility rules based on years since PhD or whether the applicant currently holds a permanent/open-ended academic position or job role.
Please read person spec carefully.

Duration: 7 years of support available on a 4(+3) model, with a review in year four.

- Details:**
- ▶ Outline and full stages
 - ▶ **Internal UoE selection process:** 1 application and 1 reserve per School at outline stage
 - ▶ Focus on *innovation*
 - ▶ Evaluation process: external review, sift meeting, interviews

Deadline: Upcoming Round 6 (full application expected Jan 2021, but UoE internal deadline will likely be a couple of months earlier)

Royal Society: University Research Fellowships

Eligibility: 3-8 years of postdoctoral experience (with allowances); a scientific track record showing great promise and an excellent research proposal. Not hold a permanent post in a university.

Duration: 5 years, with a potential extension of 3 further years.

- Details:**
- ▶ Partially filled in via a web form with character limits for the boxes and partly with attached pdf documents.
 - ▶ Application is fairly brief – 3 sides of A4 for the research proposal.
 - ▶ Other information such as the **lay report** are very important because of the generalist nature of the panel.
 - ▶ The panel have the opportunity to adjust their scores for applications after seeing the expert reviews.

Panel: Scientists from the Royal Society section of Computer Science and Engineering

Deadline: Scheme opens 14 July for 3 Sept 2020 deadline

Royal Society: Dorothy Hodgkin Fellowships

Eligibility: 0-6 years of postdoctoral experience (with allowances); as for URF plus demonstrated need for flexibility in working arrangements.

Duration: Five years pro rata, with chance to switch to part-time working and back, in order to balance work and other commitments.

- Details:**
- ▶ Web form with character limits for the boxes and attached pdf documents.
 - ▶ Fairly brief – 3 sides of A4 for the research proposal.
 - ▶ The **lay report** is very important because of the generalist nature of the panel.
 - ▶ The panel have the opportunity to adjust their scores for applications after seeing the expert reviews.

Panel: Scientists from across the Natural Sciences within the Royal Society

Deadline: Scheme opens 22 Sept for 10 Nov 2020 deadline

General process for fellowship applications

- ▶ Remember to discuss these in good time with the Director of Research (me); e.g. a month or two before deadline
- ▶ Default time is DoR office hour Mondays 1300-1400, but email to arrange a slot
- ▶ Sol Fellowships website <http://web.inf.ed.ac.uk/infweb/research/research-services/fellowships>