Dear Colleagues,

Following the ESRC’s announcement of a fourth call for applications to its Postdoctoral Fellowship Scheme, we are pleased to announce that the Cambridge ESRC DTP is eligible to receive ESRC Postdoctoral Fellowship proposals and award up to six fellowships this year.

Further information is available at: https://www.esrcdtp.group.cam.ac.uk/esrc-postdoc-fellowships. As in previous years, I would like to take this opportunity to offer some clarity around common queries and to advise you of support available for potential applicants and departments.

Eligibility

- Applicants must have completed their PhD¹ at one of the eligible DTP institutions but they do not need to have held an ESRC-funded doctoral studentship in order to apply.
- All fellowships must be based within one of the 26 participating Departments of the Cambridge ESRC DTP.
- Fellowships are bound by the same conditions as ESRC standard grants: https://esrc.ukri.org/funding/guidance-for-applicants/research-funding-guide/. They are open to all applicants (Home and international); there are no residential restrictions beyond the grant holder being resident in the UK for the period of the fellowship award.

¹ Candidates must have either been awarded a PhD or have passed their viva voce with minor amendments by the application deadline
Applications can be supported on a part-time basis, but Fellows must devote 100% of their contracted time to the Fellowship. This can include contributions to teaching, subject to restrictions specified by ESRC.

Application process

1. Applications and supporting documentation must be submitted via a dedicated online application portal [https://webservices.admin.cam.ac.uk/ncbk/gapf/index.cgi](https://webservices.admin.cam.ac.uk/ncbk/gapf/index.cgi) which is now open, with a closing date of **23 March 2021 at 16.00**. Late applications will not be considered.

2. Supporting documentation includes a statement of commitment and support from the relevant Head of Department. This should cover the following points:
   - Assessment of research potential based on work and publication to date
   - Confirmation of mentor capacity and support
   - Comments on the appropriateness of proposed research area/activities
   - Broader support to be offered to the Fellow, e.g. seminars, social activities, research affiliation and space

   There is no limit to the number of applications that may be supported by a Department. However, Departments are asked to please undertake their usual screening and quality control processes and to support only robust, high quality proposals of strategic interest.

   **If a Department is supporting more than one application, they are asked to please send a ranked order of preference to: [esrcpdf@admin.cam.ac.uk](mailto:esrcpdf@admin.cam.ac.uk) within one week of the application deadline.** The ranking is purely advisory and does not determine the results of the selection (i.e. an applicant not ranked as number one could still be awarded a fellowship). In the interests of transparency, applicants should be made aware that ranking will be taking place but we will not make them privy to actual Departmental rankings.

   Applicants are asked to provide a summary of resources for their proposed fellowship, including costings. In order to compile the financial information required, an X5 should be utilised, so please be aware that this will require the support of Departmental Research Grants Administrators. Please note that the X5 should be left in draft state and should **not** be submitted into workflow at this stage; only successful applicants will be asked to submit their X5.

   Fully completed applications submitted with all required supporting documentation by 16.00 on 23 March 2021 will be reviewed by the Cambridge ESRC Postdoctoral Fellowship Scheme selection panel. Following this review, the Cambridge ESRC DTP Management Executive Group will then allocate up to six fellowships, to commence 1 October 2021.

Mentors

- All Fellows are required to have a mentor based within their respective research departments. The mentor should **not** normally be the applicant’s PhD supervisor. To familiarise themselves with the interests of academic staff within the Cambridge ESRC DTP’s participating departments, applicants are advised to visit the staff pages.
of relevant Departmental websites and the ‘Mentor’ section of the dedicated webpage for the scheme.

- A mentor should have the skills and experience relevant to the aims of the fellowship and the expertise to assist the fellow in achieving the goals and activities of their fellowship. Consequently, we envisage that mentors would normally be at Professorial, Reader or Senior Lecturer level, ideally with 3 years’ experience as a PI or PhD supervisor, or have experience of supporting postdocs.
- If applicants are having difficulties identifying a suitable mentor, they should contact us at: esrcpdf@admin.cam.ac.uk

Support for applicants

We hope to provide a funding information session related to this scheme; more information will follow separately.

Key dates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>27 November 2020</td>
<td>Online application portal opens</td>
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<tr>
<td>23 March 2021 at 16.00</td>
<td>Closing date for applications</td>
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<tr>
<td>30 March 2021</td>
<td>Deadline for receipt of ranked order of preference from any Departments supporting more than one application</td>
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<tr>
<td>25 June 2021</td>
<td>Decisions confirmed to applicants</td>
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<tr>
<td>TBC (7 working days before JeS deadline)</td>
<td>Deadline for ROO submission</td>
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<td>TBC (previously 4 Aug 2020)</td>
<td>Successful proposals submitted in Je-S</td>
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<tr>
<td>1 October 2021</td>
<td>Fellowships commence</td>
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Please note that Departments will be expected to manage the associated HR.

Keeping up to date

- Please visit our dedicated webpage for links to the latest information – we will update this page throughout the application cycle.

If you have any questions please get in touch at: esrcpdf@admin.cam.ac.uk