

# Fellowship applications and departmental support

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## Fellowships: where to start

As a postdoc, you soon start to ask yourself what can be the next step

There are many options, so the first step is to understand what to target

The first thing is to choose fellowship schemes that are suitable for your career stage. The support to seek will depend on that

- If you are **just starting** (ie. 0-2 yrs), or **have one postdoc** but you would like to develop benefiting from the close support of established researchers, junior fellowships are the most appropriate. Some examples: **Newton Fellowship**, **Marie-Curie Fellowships**, **EPSRC postdoctoral fellowship** etc.
- After ~3 yrs from your PhD (note: this is not a rule), you might think it is time to become an independent researcher, and apply for a more 'senior' fellowship. In UK: **Ernest Rutherford Fellowship** (Physics, Theory); **Royal Society URF** and **UKRI Future Leadership Fellowship** (Physics, Math, Chemistry); **EPSRC Open Fellowship** (Physics, Chemistry) etc etc.

## Fellowships: support for junior fellowships

- Junior fellowships focus on work to be carried out under supervision and mentoring of an experienced researcher
- Best support comes then from the researcher(s) you are approaching, and members of their group (i.e. in physics, we have particle, nuclear, condensed matter, accelerator science and physics education research groups)
- Make sure that your supervisor/lead-contact asks a couple of people in the research area group to review the application
- Of course, reach out Head of Research and Head of Department for any request for which you might need help:
  - E.g. statement about strategic fit within the department, mentoring and tutoring, or if you want an independent assessment
- There is no mandatory internal procedure for junior fellowships from a departmental perspective 😊

**Postdoctoral Fellowship** applicants should contact the academic supervisor they are interested in working with, who will provide appropriate support.

From Chemistry

## Support for independent-researchers fellowships

- The process for an independent-researchers fellowship application might differ significantly depending on the scheme. Among the main UK ones:
  - ERF: there is a maximum number of applications per department possible, hence a selection must be done earlier on
  - URF: there is no quota
  - FLF: there is a university quota and an institutional process which selects (and further support) candidates that are going to final submission
  - EPSRC Open: there is no quota
- Once you decide to apply, there is a **mandatory departmental management review process**: this is done to ensure submission of high-quality proposals that are fit well within departmental strategy (\*) long-term
  - Successful candidates would be offered a permanent post at the end of the Fellowship, subject to criteria being met, for schemes like the ones listed above

(\*) this does not mean it has to be something we already do, but something that we can support you in doing ...

## Physics

- Interested candidate contacts the department emailing the dedicated mailing list **Fellowship\_Physics@liverpool.ac.uk** that include Head of Department, Head of Research and Heads of each research area to express interest and discuss fit to the Department Research strategy (in doubt, email me).
- Minimum requirement is a **CV plus 1-2 pages research plan**
  - This year, STFC required to fill an “Expression of Interest” inclusive of the above
- This is reviewed by the team above in addition to expert reviewers as needed
  - A more detailed research plan might be requested at this stage
- A full panel is established (chaired by HoR or HoD), with additional members depending on scheme and number of applications (i.e. 6 more members for this year ERF/URF)
- Usually, at least 2 reviewers (+HoR&HoD) read and comment each proposal, with at least 1 reviewer from the same research area
  - **ERF**: sift meeting in July to discuss all candidates with one introducer per proposal (as in the STFC panel) → ranked list defined
  - **URF (but also FLF)**: support or not (for FLF, followed by Institutional review)
  - **Similar** (but more ad-hoc) for fellowships open all year (EPSRC Open)
- Send decision and comments, proceed with support → departmental (also on administrative procedure, RSO costings, request for studentships) + institutional

## Fellowship opportunities

The following are schemes for which the Physics department support multiple applications every year. To ensure submission of high-quality proposals, the department runs an internal selection process for all major fellowship applications. **Successful candidates would be offered a permanent post at the end of the Fellowship, subject to criteria being met, for schemes like ERF, URF, FLF and EPSRC Open.**

Each scheme presents different requests in terms of documentation. Where not specified, a personal statement with an expression of interest, including a 1-page summary of your proposed project, complete CV, and publication list, is required from all interested candidates **around 3 months** before the funder deadline.

We advise to get in touch as soon as possible with Head of Department, Head of Research & Impact and Heads of each research area sending an email to **Fellowship\_Physics@liverpool.ac.uk** to express interest and discuss fit to the Department Research strategy. We also recommend to secure, prior application, the sponsorship of a local academic faculty member in the department, who will help to provide a strategic justification for supporting your fellowship within the context of the department's research strategy. Once internally selected, a team of academic experts will be available to work with applicants over extended periods to develop high-quality proposals. This process is particularly relevant for schemes who apply a quota on number of applications for each Department.

### STFC Ernest Rutherford Fellowships

The Science and Technology Facilities Council offer approximately 10 Fellowships each year to early-career researchers in astrophysics, particle physics, nuclear physics and accelerator physics. The deadline is usually in mid/end-September. A quota system applies for each university and so the department runs an annual internal selection process for this scheme.

It is therefore essential that you contact the team in charge of Fellowships (**Fellowship\_Physics@liverpool.ac.uk**, inclusive of all cluster leaders) OR to the STFC-contact (**Prof. Monica D'Onofrio, onofrio@liverpool.ac.uk**), as well as a member of academic staff with a research area similar to your interests as soon as possible for further information and guidance. The process is depicted below, with attached relevant forms.

|                                    |  |
|------------------------------------|--|
| 10 <sup>th</sup><br>June<br>2024   | <b>Internal Expression of Interest Deadline</b> - The department sets an internal sifting process; following the schedule suggested by STFC, applicants are asked to submit an <b>ERF Expression of Interest</b> by the 10 <sup>th</sup> of June to <b>Fellowship_Physics@liverpool.ac.uk</b> . Additional documentation such as a complete CV and publication list and potential referees is desirable. Applicants should cc in their local sponsor if they have one (note: head of groups are part of the mailing list above). |
| Mid-July<br>2024                   | <b>Decision Taken</b> - final decision is taken by the Research panel and communicate to applicants. The successful candidates will iterate with their local sponsor and experts in research and impact in the department to further develop their scientific case and a high-quality proposal. We will also offer advice on all costs that will need to be included, and on the support that can be provided by the Department.   |
| 1 <sup>st</sup><br>October<br>2024 | Applications are submitted by the deadline.  |

# Physics

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### ^ The Royal Society – University Research Fellowships

This scheme is for outstanding scientists in the UK at an early stage of their career who have the potential to become leaders in their field.

The deadline is on the **10<sup>th</sup> of September**.

Applicants must not hold a permanent academic position, nor have previously held an independent research fellowship and must have between 3 and 8 year's experience since your PhD at the close of the round.

The scheme is open to applicants of all nationalities. Funding is available for up to 8 years and includes the applicant's salary and funding towards research expenses as outlined in the funder guidance **website**.

**Please read them carefully.** Applications are submitted through the Royal Society's application portal – **Flexigrant**.

While there is no quota associated to this scheme, the department runs an annual internal selection process to ensure that applications are of high-quality and fit well within our departmental strategy. **Expressions of Interest and other documents (as in STFC ERF guidance) should be sent to Fellowship\_Physics@liverpool.ac.uk** (inclusive of HoD, Head of Research, Head of Clusters) by no later than the 10<sup>th</sup> of June.

**Note: The UoL offers** a voluntary peer review and mock interview at Institutional level. That process is **not** a replacement for departmental approval (mandatory) but could complement the review process for further support in the final preparation stages. If interested please let us know asap and before the 3<sup>rd</sup> of June.

See also following talk

<https://www.liverpool.ac.uk/physics/research/fellowships/>

<https://www.liverpool.ac.uk/chemistry/research/fellowships/>



## Fellowships in the University of Liverpool Department of Chemistry

Research fellows are an integral part of the Department of Chemistry research community. We encourage applications from outstanding individuals who would like to develop their research careers at Liverpool. We offer extensive support and mentoring for new fellowship candidates or candidates wishing to move an existing fellowship.

The Department has hosted fellowships funded by ERC, EU Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions, Royal Society, UKRI etc. We have a strong record of recruiting independent fellows into Faculty positions.

*The University has recently launched a new **University of Liverpool Research Fellowship scheme**.*

**Postdoctoral Fellowship** applicants should contact the academic supervisor they are interested in working with, who will provide appropriate support.

**Independent Fellowship** applicants should send an expression of interest to the theme lead of the area most closely aligned with their proposed research programme:

|                                 |                             |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Chemical Models                 | Professor Alessandro Troisi |
| Chemistry of World Health       | Professor Paul O'Neill      |
| Energy and Interfaces           | Professor Mathias Brust     |
| Materials Chemistry             | Professor Frederic Blanc    |
| Organic Synthesis and Catalysis | Professor John Bower        |

### Procedure

- Information on website (left)
- Potential applicant contacts Head of Department
- Minimum requirement CV + 2-page research plan
- Considered by HOD + Chemistry Research Director + Cluster Leader and/or other expert reviewer(s).
- Yes/No?
- Proceed with support (blended departmental/RPI):

#### Pre-application Support

##### We can offer the following support with your application:

- Support for informal visits.
- Introduction to academic colleagues relevant to your proposal.
- Advice on creating and maintaining an online academic profile.
- Mentoring on which fellowship to apply for.
- Where possible, examples of successful applications for your chosen funding scheme.
- Guidance for administrative processes, including costing a proposal.
- Peer review and feedback on drafts.
- Mock interview panels.

#### Post-award Support

#### Career Development

#### Potential Funding Sources



- ▶ We ask for Expression of Interest for Fellowships in TP
  - ▶ Advertised on <https://inspirehep.net/>
  - ▶ field: hep-lat, hep-ph, hep-th
  - ▶ Deadline this year 8/July/2024
  - ▶ By email: CV, research statement (max 3 A4), publications
- ▶ Fellowships:
  - ▶ STFC ERF,
  - ▶ Royal Society (URF / Dorothy Hodgkin),
  - ▶ EU Marie Skłodowska-Curie, ERC starting grant
- ▶ TP Panel (3 academic staff):
  - ▶ will shortlist & match with staff that support application

## UOL MATCH STUDENTSHIPS

- For 5 year fellowships and significant/strategic bids, you can request a Faculty funded 1x 3.5 year UK PhD studentship (stipend and fees at UKRI rates) + £5k for student travel, training/consumables (total studentship cost about £92k cash contribution from UoL). NIA can request, but no guarantee.
- Intended to improve bid chances and commitment. Only awarded if successful.
- To apply, complete a short online form no less than 15 working days before the application submission deadline.(ref. UoL faculty intranet page). DO THIS ASAP
- If approved, confirmation email from Prof. James Cooper. Then you can write studentship into your application as UoL support:

## RESEARCH SUPPORT OFFICE (RSO)

- Research Support provide costings, internal/funder approvals. Mandatory to go through RSO for all research grant applications
- Approach asap as usually need a few iterations of budget, before agreed
- HoD/HoR signs off all costings/applications in RSO system.
- RSO and HOD also sign off applications in funder systems for most (UKRI included), and will not approve a bid, unless it's been through the RSO process/approvals internally.
- Main RSO homepage: <https://www.liverpool.ac.uk/intranet/research-support-office/>
- RSO Contacts per department/funder: <https://www.liverpool.ac.uk/intranet/research-support-office/staff/>
- Email your relevant RSO person to ask what they need from you (or ask first locally e.g. Gillian McLaren, Jan Wilson, Lesia Swain, Jenny Carthy)

## Support from Faculty for ERF

- 1) Details of the scheme, advice and answers to queries & signposting
- 2) Internal funds to support on offer
- 3) Detailed run through of proposal sections and recommendations, including Narrative CV
- 4) Past awardees & Panel chairs/members speaking
- 5) Lay review and sign
- 6) Timeline clarifications and reminders + Teams group

2-days workshop organized this year for ERF candidates – very good feedback

## UOL RESEARCH DEVELOPMENT SUPPORT

| Scheme Supported                                  | Who to Contact/Webpage  | Next Internal Deadline (if known)   |
|---|---|---|
| EPSRC New Investigator Award & Standard Grants    | Charles Evans<br>( <a href="mailto:cngevans@liverpool.ac.uk">cngevans@liverpool.ac.uk</a> )                             | Runs 2x per year, EoI deadlines usually September and February  |
| EPSRC Open and Postdoctoral Fellowships           | Suzanne Palmer ( <a href="#">intranet page</a> )  | Expected next EoI deadline Feb 2025 (support runs 2x per year)  |
| UKRI Future Leaders Fellowships                   | <a href="mailto:peerrev@liverpool.ac.uk">peerrev@liverpool.ac.uk</a><br>( <a href="#">Intranet page</a> )               | Expected next EoI deadline in early March 2025; Mandatory process as demand managed.  |
| ERC Starting, Consolidator & Advanced Grant       | <a href="mailto:Horizon.Europe@liverpool.ac.uk">Horizon.Europe@liverpool.ac.uk</a><br>( <a href="#">intranet page</a> ) | Vary per call: StG deadline for draft peer review 23 <sup>rd</sup> August; CoG deadline for draft peer review 22 <sup>nd</sup> November ;AdG likely June 2025 |
| Royal Society URF & Faraday Discovery Fellowships | <a href="mailto:peerrev@liverpool.ac.uk">peerrev@liverpool.ac.uk</a><br>( <a href="#">intranet page</a> )               | URF Internal deadline likely June 2025<br>Faraday Discover Fellowships internal deadline 4 <sup>th</sup> September for drafts                                 |
| Ernest Rutherford Fellowships                     | Charles Evans<br>( <a href="mailto:cngevans@liverpool.ac.uk">cngevans@liverpool.ac.uk</a> )                             | Maths and Physics only; selections made @department level (ask locally); Support from FSE deadline for drafts usually early/mid September                     |

# UOL RESEARCH DEVELOPMENT SUPPORT

| Scheme Supported  | Who to Contact/Webpage  | Next Internal Deadline (if known)   |
|---|---|---|
| Infrastructure Calls (EPSRC, NERC, MRC & BBSRC)                               | Charles Evans<br>( <a href="mailto:cngevans@liverpool.ac.uk">cngevans@liverpool.ac.uk</a> )               | Annual mandatory internal process, will start running with Eol deadline end of March 2025   |
| Blavatnik Award, Philip Leverhulme Prize &                                    | Charles Evans<br>( <a href="mailto:cngevans@liverpool.ac.uk">cngevans@liverpool.ac.uk</a> )<br>;          | Eol deadlines likely Jan/Feb 2025   |
| Rosetrees Interdisciplinary Prize   | peerrev@liverpool.ac.uk<br>( <a href="#">Intranet page</a> )  | Eol deadlines likely Jan 2025   |
| Royal Academy of Engineering Green Futures Fellowships & Research Fellowships | peerrev@liverpool.ac.uk<br>( <a href="#">intranet page</a> )  | <i>Green Futures Fellowships</i> is not mandatory, next expected Eol deadline early October 2025. <i>Research Fellowships</i> is a mandatory process, likely next internal Eol deadline early June 2025 |
| UKRI cross research council responsive mode pilot                             | <a href="mailto:peerrev@liverpool.ac.uk">peerrev@liverpool.ac.uk</a><br>( <a href="#">intranet page</a> ) | The intent to submit deadline is expected in September 2025   |