

# Royal Commission for the Exhibition of 1851

## Research Fellowships in Science or Engineering

### 2012 General Regulations

#### Background

1. 1851 Research Fellowships are intended to give early career scientists or engineers of exceptional promise the opportunity to conduct a research project of their own instigation; an ultimate objective is to contribute to the knowledge base required for a healthy and innovative national culture. Approximately eight awards are made each year, including the 1851 Brunel Fellowship for the highest placed successful candidate who has proposed a project to be pursued in an academic engineering environment. The awards are for a duration of up to three years, subject to annual review.
2. Fellowships are held from 1 October in the year of award, with Fellows being required to devote their whole time to their research project for the duration of the Fellowship. A limited amount of time may be spent on teaching or lecturing with the written agreement of the Commission.
3. Candidates proposing projects in applied science and engineering are particularly encouraged to apply.

#### Eligibility

4. The Fellowships are open to candidates intending to conduct research in any of the physical or biological sciences, in mathematics, in applied science, or in any branch of engineering.
5. Candidates in science subjects must be in possession of a recent PhD degree or in the final stages of their PhD studies; these must be successfully completed before the award of a Fellowship can be confirmed. Candidates offering engineering but not in possession of a PhD or an EngD must provide evidence of experience equivalent to PhD level.
6. A Fellowship will normally be held at a UK Institution approved by the Commissioners; the research should be carried out at a different Institution from the one where the candidate's PhD research was undertaken. In exceptional circumstances the Commissioners may consider an application from a candidate not fulfilling the above criteria; requests for such exemptions should be forwarded to the Secretary as a personal letter accompanying the submission for consideration. The Commissioners' decision, which is made after the closing date for submissions, will be final.
7. A Fellow will not be debarred from holding another award or receiving other contributions towards support, but the Commissioners must be informed and may, at their discretion, modify the value of the Fellowship.

#### Requirements

8. The Institution at which the Fellowship is to be held must furnish the Commission with a letter of acceptance as a part of the application process. The letter will confirm that in the event of the applicant being awarded a Fellowship:

he/she will be admitted into the Institution to pursue the proposed research project, that the Institution has in place all resources, space, funding and equipment, to enable the success of the research project, that the Institution approves of the proposed project, and that the Institution undertakes to inform the Commission of any departures from the basis on which the Fellowship has been awarded. It will further explain why the Institute chosen is a good fit for the candidate and the proposed research project.

9. At the end of the first and second years of the Fellowship, Fellows are to report to the Commissioners on the progress of their work, including comments from their supervisors. These reports will inform the Commission's decision on renewal of the Fellowship

10. At the end of the Fellowship, a Fellow shall provide a report of the progress made in their research.
11. The Commission lays no claim to intellectual property arising from the research conducted during the holding of a Fellowship.

### Benefits

12. The Fellowship stipend payable in 2012 is £30,000 for the first year, and £31,500 for the second and third years. In addition a London Weighting of £2,500 per annum is payable in appropriate cases. Stipends are reviewed annually and will be payable quarterly in advance, directly to the Fellow's bank account.
13. A Fellow may receive assistance towards additional costs associated with the research. Sums not exceeding £1,000 may be payable on receipt of appropriate justification for the expense. Further claims may exceptionally be considered following specific request.
14. Fellows are regarded as self-employed by HM Revenue & Customs. Stipends and any other assistance provided are therefore subject to taxation and Class II & IV National Insurance contribution.

### Application

15. Application is through website online submission ([www.royalcommission1851.org.uk/res\\_fellow.html](http://www.royalcommission1851.org.uk/res_fellow.html)).
16. Each application **must include two references**; neither of these should be from the Institution at which the Fellowship will be held, and it is normal that one will be from the candidate's PhD supervisor. At least one must be from a UK institution. The application will not be deemed complete until the references have been submitted using the secure online reference process. Confidential login instructions are sent by automatic e-mail issued by the applicant.
17. The letter from the Institution at which the Fellowship is to be held, which **must** cover the points detailed in 8 above, should be uploaded as a PDF document in the online submission process where indicated.
18. Great importance is attached to the ability to communicate clearly with the general public. **The Lay Statement will therefore merit particular attention.** It should be suitable for publication in the non-specialist press, and should provide a background to the proposed research, to its objectives, and to its originality.
19. The Outline of the Proposed Research should be uploaded as a PDF document, approximately 750 words in length and no more than 2 pages, including diagrams and literature references. In particular the outline should emphasise the way in which the proposed project is different from previous research. It should explain the research reasons for the selection of the Institution at which the Fellowship is to be held. It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure that the referees' references and the acceptance certificate have been received / uploaded before final submission, as the Commission will be unable to accept partially completed applications. **Completed applications must be submitted before 5pm on 23 February 2012.**
20. During the assessment process, and prior to the final selections, all candidates will be informed by e-mail whether or not they have been shortlisted. References will be authenticated and appointments to the Fellowship will be made during June 2012.
21. The 1851 Royal Commission has an obligation to comply with the provisions of the Data Protection Act 1998. Personal data acquired as a result of an award will be processed solely to enable the Commission to administer an award. Data will be held securely by the Secretary to the Commission at the Commission's offices for the duration of an award and thereafter in its archives where access to personal files is normally subject to a 50-year rule. Precautions are in operation to prevent loss, misuse or alteration of personal data. All data will be processed in accordance with data subjects' rights. Relevant data may be divulged to a third party only as necessary to administer an award.

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