



Royal Commission for the Exhibition of 1851

1851 Research Fellowships in Science or Engineering

2009 General Regulations

Background

1. 1851 Research Fellowships are intended to give a few young scientists or engineers of exceptional promise the opportunity to conduct a research project of their own instigation. Approximately eight awards are made each year. From 2009 the awards will be made for a duration of **three** years.
2. Fellowships will begin on 1 October in the year of award and Fellows are 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, irrespective of their academic background, who are proposing projects in applied science and engineering are particularly encouraged to apply.

Eligibility

4. A candidate must be a citizen of the United Kingdom, or of the Commonwealth, or of the Republics of Ireland or Pakistan and should preferably have recently obtained their qualifying degree.
5. The Fellowships are open to candidates in any of the physical or biological sciences, in mathematics, in applied science, or in any branch of engineering.
6. Candidates in science subjects must be in possession of a PhD degree or in the final stages of their PhD studies, which must be successfully completed before the provisional award of a Fellowship will be confirmed. Candidates offering engineering who, exceptionally, are not in possession of a PhD must nevertheless be judged to be of at least PhD standard.
7. A Fellowship may be held at any Institution at home or abroad approved by the Commissioners. However:
 - (i) the research should be undertaken at a different Institution to the one where the candidate's PhD research was undertaken *and*
 - (ii) the candidate should, *either* have spent at least two out of the past three years at a UK Institution *or* be intending to hold the Fellowship at a UK Institution, *or both*.

Only in **exceptional personal circumstances** will the Commissioners consider an application from a candidate not fulfilling the above criteria. Requests for exemption from any of the above conditions should be forwarded to the Secretary as a personal letter, which will be considered in confidence by a small sub committee of the Commission whose decision on eligibility will be final.

8. 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

9. The Institution at which the Fellowship is to be held must furnish the Commission with a certificate of acceptance as a part of the application process. The certificate 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.

10. 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. These reports will form the basis of the Commission's renewal of the Fellowship
11. The first year report and the Supervisor's recommendation will be used as a basis for the Commission's decision whether to permit the Fellowship to run its full term of three years. Confirmation in principle of the full term will be given to Fellows in May of their second year.
13. At the end of the Fellowship a Fellow is to furnish a complete account of the research project.
14. The Commission lays no claim on intellectual property. Information on applications and reports is treated in confidence.

Benefits

15. The Fellowship stipend payable in 2009 is £28,500 for the first year, and £30,000 for the second and third years, which includes a 17.5% contribution towards a personal pension scheme. In addition a London (Overseas) Weighting of £2,500 per annum is payable in appropriate cases. Stipends are reviewed annually and will be payable quarterly in advance, direct to the Fellow's bank account.
16. A Fellow may receive assistance towards any special additional costs. Sums not exceeding £750 may be payable on receipt of appropriate justification for the expense. Further claims for items such as special materials required for experimental investigations, etc. books and very modest pieces of equipment, will be considered. Limited support for relevant travel abroad to conferences may also be available.

Application

17. Application is through website online submission (www.royalcommission1851.org.uk/res_fellow.html) and **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.
18. The certificate from the Institution at which the Fellowship is to be held (see 9 above) should be uploaded as a PDF document in the online submission process where indicated.
19. Great importance is attached to the ability to communicate clearly with the general public. **The Lay Statement will therefore merit careful attention**. This statement should be suitable for publication in the non-specialist press, and should provide a background to the proposed research, its objectives, and the extent to which it will break new ground.
20. 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 the applicant's previous and current research as well as that in progress at 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 19 February 2009.**
21. During the assessment process, and prior to the final selections, all candidates will be informed by e-mail if they have been shortlisted or not. References will be authenticated and appointments to the Fellowship will be made during June 2009.
22. 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 that award. Data will be held secure 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 your 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 otherwise data will not be made available without Fellow's written permission.

The 1851 Brunel Fellowship

In 2006, the bicentenary of Brunel's birth, the Royal Commission instituted an additional Fellowship, to be known as the 1851 Brunel Fellowship. It will be awarded annually to the highest placed successful candidate for an 1851 Fellowship who has proposed an engineering project which will be pursued in an academic engineering environment. The award will only be made if there is a candidate, and proposed project, of sufficient merit. Otherwise the terms and conditions are the same as for an 1851 Fellowship. Candidates for 1851 Fellowships who consider that they are also eligible for the Brunel Fellowship, should indicate on the form.

Lloyd's Tercentenary Foundation

Since 2004 the Royal Commission has had a co-operative arrangement with the Lloyd's Tercentenary Foundation whereby 1851 Research Fellowship Applicants could also ask to be considered for similar fellowships with Lloyd's. This arrangement has now ceased.

The Lloyd's Tercentenary Foundation has decided that after this very fruitful partnership with the Royal Commission over several years, it will be developing its work to support academic research in a different direction and will not, therefore, currently be offering individual research fellowships. Further information on the work of Lloyd's Tercentenary Foundation can be found at www.lloyds.com"

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