

**School of Earth and Environment**

FACULTY OF ENVIRONMENT



**UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS**

# Early Career Fellowships



## Early Career Fellowships

Early Career Fellowships are designed to support scientific leadership among promising early career researchers.

There are many types of Fellowships that are supported in the School of Earth and Environment at the University of Leeds.

If you would like to consider applying for or transferring a fellowship to Leeds, please email [S.E.Haynes@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:S.E.Haynes@leeds.ac.uk)

We will then ensure that you have identified a suitable academic mentor at Leeds and obtain the School's support in principle for you applying for a particular fellowship.

Please always refer to the individual funders' websites for up-to-date deadline and application information.

## Why the School of Earth and Environment?

Integration of world-leading academic expertise in the geosciences with climate & sustainability research:

- Large and diverse academic department (over 150 academic staff) with a vibrant early career community.
- Rated first for “research power” (REF, 2021)
- 17th in the world for Earth and Marine Science (QS World University Rankings by Subject 2024)
- 16th in the world for Geology (QS World University Rankings by Subject 2024)
- 18th in the world for Geophysics (QS World University Rankings by Subject 2024)
- 46th in the world for Environmental Sciences (QS World University Rankings by Subject 2024)
- The University of Leeds is among the top 75 universities (QS World University Rankings 2024)
- 21st in the world for Earth Sciences (ShanghaiRanking's Global Ranking of Academic Subjects 2023)
- We are a member of the Russell Group of research-intensive universities
- Awarded a prestigious Queen's Anniversary Prize (2021) for research in climate and extreme weather, aiding vulnerable communities in the global south with new forecasting and warning systems
- We have been commended for our strong and continued commitment to gender equality in the form of a prestigious Athena SWAN Silver award.

Established in 1904, we have a strong tradition of academic excellence, reflected in first-class student education, along with world-leading research that has a real impact around the globe.

The University of Leeds is situated within the heart of a bustling city, surrounded by beautiful countryside. A thriving cultural centre, Leeds has something to offer for everyone.

## Support during your Fellowship

The University of Leeds is committed to supporting the career progression of our research staff, with opportunities for professional and personal development.

We are signatory to the revised Concordat to Support the Career Development of Researchers, launched in September 2019. This is an agreement between funders and employers of research staff to improve the employment and support for researchers. It has 3 defining principles: Environment and Culture, Employment, and Career Development.

You can read more on our dedicated Research Support website:

<https://researchersupport.leeds.ac.uk/the-concordat/>

On the following pages we list the Fellowships we currently support within the School of Earth and Environment. We are always happy to hear about other Fellowship Schemes not listed, and consider whether the Fellowship could be held at Leeds.



## UKRI

UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) is the body which oversees the UK's seven research councils, Research England and Innovate UK.

### UK Research and Innovation Future Leader Fellowships (FLF)

This highly competitive, cross-UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) scheme supports early career researchers and innovators with outstanding potential in universities, UK registered businesses, and other research and user environments including research councils' institutes and laboratories.

The FLF scheme welcomes applications from both UK and international applicants.

The University has a formal process to decide which FLF candidates it will support. Applicants interested in applying for a UKRI FLF, to be based at Leeds, should contact [S.E.Haynes@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:S.E.Haynes@leeds.ac.uk) in the first instance.

<https://www.ukri.org/what-we-do/developing-people-and-skills/future-leaders-fellowships/>

## NERC

NERC is the Natural Environment Research Council. NERC is the driving force of investment in environmental science. Its leading research, skills and infrastructure help solve major issues and bring benefits to the UK, such as affordable clean energy, air pollution, and resilience of our infrastructure.

### Independent Research Fellowships (IRF)

NERC offer Independent Research Fellowships (IRF). NERC IRF's are "*designed to develop scientific leadership among the most promising early-career environmental scientists*".

IRFs are open to researchers of any nationality and may be held in any area of the NERC remit, but must be based at an eligible UK research organisation. Applicants may not have a permanent academic position in a university or equivalent organisation.

Fellowships usually last for 5 years. NERC's deadline is usually at the start of October each year.

The University of Leeds has a formal support process for applicants, overseen by the Research and Innovation Service. An Expression of Interest is a requirement, with an internal deadline of early June each year.

Applicants interested in applying for a NERC IRF to be based at Leeds, should contact [S.E.Haynes@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:S.E.Haynes@leeds.ac.uk) in the first instance.

<https://www.ukri.org/what-we-offer/developing-people-and-skills/developing-people-and-skills-nerc/nerc-fellowships/>

## ESRC

The Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) is the UK's largest funder of research on the social and economic questions facing us today. This research shapes public policy and contributes to making the economy more competitive, as well as giving people a better understanding of 21st century society.

<b>ESRC Post-Doctoral Fellowships</b>	<p>ESRC have introduced a postdoctoral Fellowship scheme designed to provide the opportunity for applicants to consolidate their PhD.</p> <p>The call is open to applicants who have completed their PhD at a research organisation that is part of an ESRC DTP or CDT and who are within 12 months of completing their PhD.</p> <p>Applicants who wish to apply to Leeds must do so through either the White Rose DTP or the Data Analytics &amp; Society DTP, further details can be found on their websites.</p> <p><a href="https://www.ukri.org/opportunity/esrc-postdoctoral-fellowships/">https://www.ukri.org/opportunity/esrc-postdoctoral-fellowships/</a> <a href="https://datacdt.org/">https://datacdt.org/</a> and <a href="http://wrctp.ac.uk/">http://wrctp.ac.uk/</a></p>
<b>ESRC New Investigator Grants</b>	<p>New Investigator Grants are designed to support early career researchers and the scheme is specifically aimed at supporting those looking to make the transition to an independent researcher. The award is a research grant but with significant focus on PI development and training and, where justified, up to 100% of PI time can be costed into the grant.</p> <p>The call is open to high-quality candidates from anywhere in the world who are within four years of the submission date of their PhD and have the support of an eligible UK research organisation.</p> <p>Proposals are welcomed across the full disciplinary range of the social sciences and at the interface with the wider sciences.</p> <p>The University of Leeds has a formal support and assessment process for applicants, overseen by the Research and Innovation Service and an Expression of Interest (EOI) is an internal requirement for this call, there are no fixed deadlines for submitting an EOI.</p> <p><a href="https://www.ukri.org/opportunity/esrc-new-investigator-grant/">https://www.ukri.org/opportunity/esrc-new-investigator-grant/</a></p>



## EPSRC

EPSRC is the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council. EPSRC invests in world-leading research and postgraduate training across the engineering and physical sciences. This research builds the knowledge and skills base needed to address scientific and technological challenges and provides a platform for future UK prosperity by contributing to a healthy, connected, resilient, productive nation.

<b>EPSRC Fellowships</b>	<p>The EPSRC Fellowship aims to provide greater support to the aspiring and current world-leading individuals who are delivering the highest quality research to meet UK and global priorities. Through links to EPSRC strategic priorities and focussing on areas where growth is required, Fellowships develop the next generation of researchers with the greatest potential across the postdoctoral, early and established career stages. There are no nationality restrictions for applicants.</p> <p>EPSRC fellowships can be submitted at any time, but the University runs a formal support process in the Summer and Winter of each year, via an Expression of Interest.</p> <p>The duration of the fellowship is usually 3-5 years.</p> <p>Applicants interested in applying for a EPSRC Fellowship to be based at Leeds, should contact <a href="mailto:S.E.Haynes@leeds.ac.uk">S.E.Haynes@leeds.ac.uk</a> in the first instance.</p> <p><a href="https://www.ukri.org/councils/epsrc/career-and-skills-development/fellowships/an-overview-of-epsrc-fellowships/">https://www.ukri.org/councils/epsrc/career-and-skills-development/fellowships/an-overview-of-epsrc-fellowships/</a></p>
<b>EPSRC Doctoral Prize Fellowship</b>	<p>The EPSRC Doctoral Prize Fellowship helps universities retain and recruit the best doctoral students receiving EPSRC support to increase the impact of their doctorate, and to improve retention of the very best students in research careers.</p> <p>EPSRC does not invite individual applications for EPSRC Doctoral Prizes, instead the awarding university is responsible for administering all aspects of the award including selection of a suitable candidate.</p> <p>The duration of the fellowship is 2 years.</p> <p>For more information, contact <a href="mailto:S.E.Haynes@leeds.ac.uk">S.E.Haynes@leeds.ac.uk</a></p> <p><a href="https://www.ukri.org/what-we-do/developing-people-and-skills/epsrc/studentships/flexibility-for-funders/epsrc-doctoral-prize/">https://www.ukri.org/what-we-do/developing-people-and-skills/epsrc/studentships/flexibility-for-funders/epsrc-doctoral-prize/</a></p>

## The Royal Commission for the Exhibition of 1851

The Royal Commission for the Exhibition of 1851 was established in 1850 to organise the Great Exhibition of 1851, it is now a permanent body which aims “*to increase the means of industrial education and extend the influence of science and art upon productive industry*”. It awards some 35 postgraduate Fellowships and Scholarships a year, for advanced study and research in science, engineering, the built environment and design.

### 1851 Research Fellowships

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.

Fellowships are held from the 1 October in the year of the award for a period of typically 3 years.

Applicants should have 3 years or fewer post-doctoral experience.

The deadline for applications is usually January.

<https://royalcommission1851.org/fellowships/research-fellowships>

## The British Academy Postdoctoral Fellowships

The British Academy is the UK's national academy for the humanities and social sciences.

### British Academy Postdoctoral Fellowships

The British Academy Postdoctoral Fellowship offers outstanding early career researchers the opportunity to strengthen their experience of research and teaching in an academic environment. This scheme aims to help develop the award holder's curriculum vitae and boost their prospects of obtaining a permanent academic post.

The primary emphasis is on the completion of a significant piece of publishable research, and the integration of the award holder into the community of established scholars within their field.

Fellowships last 3 years. Applicants must be of Early Career Status, meaning they must apply within three years from the date of their successful viva voce examination.

The scheme usually opens in July each year, with an early October deadline.

Applicants interested in applying for British Academy Fellowship to be based at Leeds, should contact [S.E.Haynes@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:S.E.Haynes@leeds.ac.uk) in the first instance.

<https://www.thebritishacademy.ac.uk/funding/postdoctoral-fellowships/>

## ERC Starting Grant

The European Research Council (ERC) was set up by the European Union in 2007, is the premier European funding organisation for excellent frontier research. It funds creative researchers of any nationality and age, to run projects based across Europe.

<b>ERC Starting Grant</b>	<p>Researchers of any nationality with 2-7 years of experience since completion of PhD, a scientific track record showing great promise and an excellent research proposal can apply.</p> <p>Applications can be made in any field of research</p> <p>Starting Grants may be awarded up to € 1.5 million for a period of 5 years. (pro rata for projects of shorter duration). However, an additional € 1 million can be made available to cover eligible “start-up” costs for researchers moving from a third country to the EU or an associated country and/or the purchase of major equipment and/or access to large facilities and/or other major experimental and field work costs.</p> <p>The call for applications is usually in July, with a deadline of mid-October each year.</p> <p><a href="https://erc.europa.eu/apply-grant/starting-grant">https://erc.europa.eu/apply-grant/starting-grant</a></p>
---------------------------	--

## Marie Curie Individual Fellowships

The Fellowships are Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA), which is part of Horizon Europe. The MSCA are the European Union’s flagship funding programme for doctoral education and postdoctoral training of researchers. They fund excellent research and innovation and equip researchers at all stages of their career with new knowledge and skills, through mobility across borders and exposure to different sectors and disciplines. The MSCA help build Europe’s capacity for research and innovation by investing in the long-term careers of excellent researchers.

<b>Marie Curie Individual Fellowships</b>	<p>There are two individual Fellowships available - European and Global.</p> <p>Individual Fellowships fund researchers looking to enhance their career development and prospects by working abroad. They help open up collaboration and mobility opportunities.</p> <p><b>European Fellowships</b> are open to researchers either coming to Europe or moving within Europe (duration 1-2 years).</p> <p><b>Global Fellowships</b> fund secondments outside Europe for researchers based in the EU or associated countries (duration 2-3 years).</p> <p>Interested applicants need to prepare a proposal, written jointly with the host organisation.</p> <p>The EU Office at the University of Leeds can help with putting the proposal together, they can be contacted on <a href="mailto:EUfunding@leeds.ac.uk">EUfunding@leeds.ac.uk</a></p> <p>The deadline for submitting individual Fellowships is normally mid-September each year.</p> <p><a href="http://ec.europa.eu/research/mariecurieactions/about/individual-fellowships_en">http://ec.europa.eu/research/mariecurieactions/about/individual-fellowships_en</a></p>
---	--

## The Royal Society

The Royal Society is a Fellowship of many of the world's most eminent scientists and is the oldest scientific academy in continuous existence.

It offers a number of personal Fellowships suitable for early career researchers. Your research must be within the Royal Society's remit of **natural sciences**, which includes but is not limited to biological research and biomedical sciences, chemistry, engineering, mathematics and physics.

<b>University Research Fellowships</b>	<p>This scheme is for outstanding scientists who are in the early stages of their research career and have the potential to become leaders in their field.</p> <p>This Fellowship provides the opportunity to build an independent research career. Those appointed are expected to be strong candidates for permanent posts in universities at the end of their fellowships.</p> <p>Suitable individuals of any nationality can apply for a University Research Fellowship to be held in an eligible UK host research organisation.</p> <p>The scheme usually opens for applications in the Summer. Applicants can apply for up to a maximum of £1.83 million over eight years</p> <p><a href="https://royalsociety.org/grants/university-research/">https://royalsociety.org/grants/university-research/</a></p>
<b>Dorothy Hodgkin Fellowships</b>	<p>This scheme offers a recognised first step into an independent research career for outstanding scientists at an early stage of their research career who require a <b>flexible working pattern</b> due to personal circumstances, such as parenting or caring responsibilities or health-related reasons.</p> <p>The scheme provides funding for five years. You can apply for the scheme if you are at an early stage of your research career (have completed your PhD but have no more than six years of research experience post PhD by the closing date of the round).</p> <p>The deadline for applications is usually mid-November.</p> <p><a href="https://royalsociety.org/grants/dorothy-hodgkin-fellowship/">https://royalsociety.org/grants/dorothy-hodgkin-fellowship/</a></p>
<b>Newton International Fellowships</b>	<p>This scheme is for <b>non-UK scientists</b> who are at an early stage of their research career and wish to conduct research in the UK.</p> <p>The scheme provides the opportunity for the best early stage post-doctoral researchers from all over the world to work at UK research institutions for a period of two years. Currently there is one round per year which opens in January.</p> <p>The Royal Society's remit covers the natural and physical sciences, including biological research, chemistry, engineering, mathematics and physics.</p> <p><a href="https://royalsociety.org/grants/newton-international/">https://royalsociety.org/grants/newton-international/</a></p>
<b>Career Development Fellowships (CDF)</b>	<p>This is a new scheme, offering a four-year, postdoctoral research fellowship that aims to support the retention in STEM of researchers from <b>underrepresented backgrounds</b>. Fellowships will provide funding to conduct high-quality research and a comprehensive programme of mentoring, training and networking opportunities to support award holders in establishing a successful research career in the UK.</p> <p><a href="https://royalsociety.org/grants/career-development-fellowship/">https://royalsociety.org/grants/career-development-fellowship/</a></p>





**UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS**

School of Earth and Environment  
University of Leeds  
Leeds, LS2 9JT  
<https://environment.leeds.ac.uk/see>

Updated April 2024