

## LMS Early Career Fellowships Frequently Asked Questions

1. *Do I have a greater chance of success if I apply for a shorter period of time?*  
No. The main reason to apply for less than six months is if you have a gap of less than that time between two positions. Please note that if you start another job before the end of the fellowship you are expected to resign from the LMS fellowship. The Committee may offer fewer months to some applicants in order to support more candidates.
2. *Can I take the fellowship outside the UK?*  
Yes. If you have a UK PhD, you can apply to take the fellowship outside the UK.
3. *If I plan to submit my PhD thesis next March, when my funding runs out, can I apply now?*  
If the next application round comes before you expect to submit your thesis, then you should submit for that round. There is an annual closing date for applications on 14 January for Fellowships to begin from 1 April of the same year. The Fellowship should begin after your PhD thesis has been submitted but the start date should not more than 9 months after your PhD was awarded.
4. *What are common mistakes people make in their applications?*  
Examples of common mistakes include:
  - not listing any postdoc applications in the relevant section of the application form.
  - Q9 and Q10 on the application form are often filled in very incompletely. This is a common reason for applications to be ranked lower.

Advice on how to write a good application was published in the LMS Newsletter issue 485, page 43 (November 2019) but please note that this advice is for Fellowships where the host institution would typically not be the home institution.
5. *Do I need to propose a project that will be completed within the time period of the fellowship?*  
No. It is fine to describe a more ambitious project that you will make some headway on but not complete within the fellowship. However, you should indicate how much progress you think can be made on the project.
6. *Am I eligible for a fellowship if my PhD is from outside the UK and I plan to carry out the fellowship placement in the UK?*  
TBC – the aim of the scheme was to support UK PhD students and the guidelines advise that applicants must be UK residents at the time of the closing date.
7. *Am I eligible for a fellowship if my PhD is from outside the UK and my fellowship placement is also outside the UK?*  
No!
8. *I have a postdoc position due to start in 10 months' time. Is it appropriate for me to apply for an ECR fellowship for part of the period in between?*  
Yes. Make sure to justify how the fellowship will provide an important stepping-stone in your career.
9. *May I carry out the fellowship at the institution at which I obtained my PhD?*  
A central part of the ECR fellowship scheme is to establish links with a new institution and new researchers, so your application may be at a significant disadvantage if you opt to remain at the institution of your PhD and collaborate with your supervisor. Where it is necessary for you to remain at the same institution e.g., due to caring responsibilities, please advise the Panel of this in your application so that they can take this into consideration. While there are restrictions on travel due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the Panel will consider applications to carry out the Fellowship at

the same institution where you obtained your PhD, and it will also consider applications for Fellowships to be carried out in collaboration with another institution remotely.

10. *May I carry out the fellowship at the institution at which I obtained my Masters?*

If the institution at which you obtained your Masters is different to the institution at which you obtained your PhD, then yes this is fine. If you have obtained your Masters and PhD at the same institution, please see Q9 and/or contact [fellowships@lms.ac.uk](mailto:fellowships@lms.ac.uk) for further advice.

11. *Does the host institution need to be a university, or could the Fellowship be held at a research institute?*

The host institution can be either a university or a research institute.

12. *Can the Fellowship be in both academia and industry or industry alone?*

While there is not a rule that the Fellowship must be held in academia, the Panel would normally expect the Fellowship to be held in a mathematics department. Most of the assessment will be based on the quality of the mathematics so the Panel will need to see the mathematical case wherever the Fellowship is held.

13. *Does the academic host need to be a senior mathematician?*

No, there is no requirement for the academic host to be a senior mathematician.

14. *I am a PhD student at a UK university, but I am not a UK citizen, can I still apply?*

Yes, if you are resident in the UK by the closing date for applications, you may apply.

15. *Will the Fellowship grant be paid to the Fellow direct or to the host institution where the Fellowship will be held?*

The Fellowship grant will be paid direct to the Fellow themselves.

16. *Will the Fellowship grant be paid all at once or in installments?*

Normally, the Fellowship grant will be paid all at once.