

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 with insufficient detail. 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?*

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.
- 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.

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 at 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.

17. *Do you have any advice on the tax implications of the grant?*

We would strongly advise to contact HMRC to clarify the tax implication that you may encounter after receiving the Fellowship. The Society does not act as your employer, and it does not make any tax deductions through PAYE system on your behalf. Early Career Fellowships are regarded as grants and are a part of the charitable activities of the Society.

18. *I am currently a research fellow, but the end date of my position will be in May/June, so I really need to fill the gap between my current position and my potential next position (which would normally start in October/November).*

Unfortunately, you would not be eligible for the scheme because its purpose is to “support early career mathematicians in the transition between PhD and a postdoctoral position”, i.e. those who have not been as fortunate as you to secure a postdoctoral position after their PhD.