



*Advancing
Astronomy and
Geophysics*

ROYAL ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

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RAS RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS – Terms and Conditions

APPLICATIONS FOR RAS RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS TENABLE FROM OCTOBER 2019

1. Purpose

The purpose of the RAS Research Fellowships is to enable outstanding early career scientists to pursue research in the UK in the disciplines advanced by the Royal Astronomical Society (RAS), i.e. astronomy, solar-system science, geophysics and closely related branches of these sciences. The research topic must be acceptable to the selection panel set up by the Council of the RAS (the Trustees of the Society). We regret that we are unable to provide feedback to unsuccessful candidates.

2. Eligibility

Applicants must either:

- have a recognized PhD degree (or equivalent) obtained after **October 2014** or
- have taken the ‘viva’ examination by the application deadline (**23:59 (BST), 19 October 2018**) and expect to be awarded a PhD degree by the Fellowship start date (**1 October 2019**).

Selection will be based on capability, achievement and promise as well as the proposed research.

Applicants may be of any nationality however employment will be through the host institution (host institutions can include universities and other not for profit research active institutions). In this respect, the applicant is asked to indicate their residency status with respect to the UK in order that, if necessary, it can be confirmed that they will be able to work at the institution concerned.

Institutions may support multiple fellowship applications, but only ONE RAS Research Fellowship may be held in the same university at any one time (see supporting notes for details of current Fellows).

3. Period of award and Starting Date

The Research Fellowships will be awarded for a period of three years, beginning on 1 October 2019 (or within 6 months thereafter).

4. Value of award and payment

RAS will fund Fellows on the UCU single pay spine from points 30 to 36 inclusive. If the host university, as employer, wishes to pay at spine points above 36, that extra

expenditure must be found from their own funds. The final salary level will be confirmed by consultation between the host institute and the RAS. A further £2,000 per annum may be claimed for costs incurred in attending meetings and conferences or for other items related to the research. In addition, the RAS will accept claims for National Insurance at normal rates and the employer pension contribution at 18% of the salary. We will also reimburse sums up to £2000 per year for travel and incidental expenses, if claimed with justification.

5. Breaks of Service

The Society will support breaks in service that the host university as the employer is legally obligated to allow and will consider supporting breaks in service for other reasons in exceptional circumstances only. If approved the Society will provide the Fellow with the agreed salary until such a time as the Society has expended the equivalent of 3 years Full Time Equivalent annual salary, as per this original agreement.

6. Flexible Working

The Society will consider requests for flexible working arrangements; in exceptional circumstances; the request must be supported by a written agreement and confirmation that that this will not adversely impact on the delivery of the research undertaken as part of the Fellowship from the line manager at the host university.

If flexible working arrangements are approved the Society will provide the Fellow with the agreed salary until such a time as the Society has expended the equivalent of 3 years Full Time Equivalent annual salary, as per this original agreement. Where the incumbent takes a career or other such break thereby stopping the host university from applying for another Fellowship until their time in post is over, a time limit of 3 years is set.

7. Application process

Please ensure that the supporting notes are read in advance of making an application. The online application form must be filled in by the candidate, and then certified by the Department Head and countersigned by the Administrative Officer in the institution at which it is proposed to hold the Fellowship. This is to confirm the acceptance of the host institution that the RAS will fund only directly incurred costs, and not overheads (including bench fees or 'Full Economic Costs').

Online applications should be completed online by 23:59 (BST), 19 October 2018.

It is planned to make offers by mid-February 2019.

Philip Diamond
Executive Director
July 2018

Supporting notes for RAS RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS 2017

Residency status

Applicants may be of any nationality however employment will be through the host institution. In this respect, the applicant is asked to indicate their residency status with respect to the UK in order that, if necessary, it can be confirmed that they will be able to work at the institution concerned.

Payment

Salaries, NI contributions and, if appropriate, pension payments will be administered by the institution at which the Fellowship is tenable. Additional payments up to £2,000 for travel and incidental expenses require prior approval by the RAS.

Teaching and other commitments

Fellows may take up an average of 6 hours paid teaching or demonstrating per week, without deduction from the value of the award, provided that the duties do not hinder their research. No other type of paid work should be undertaken during the term of the Fellowship without prior approval of the RAS.

Holidays

Reasonable holidays, not exceeding eight weeks per year, including public holidays, may be taken at the discretion of the Fellow's Head of Department.

Sick Leave

If a Fellow is absent through illness for more than two weeks, the RAS must be informed immediately and a medical certificate forwarded. Return from such absences must also be reported. During absence covered by a medical certificate, Fellows will be paid at the full rate for the first four weeks and at half rate for the next four weeks within any twelve-month period from the first day of absence. The Fellowship may be held in abeyance for longer sick absences. The RAS does not accept any liability for illness, injury or accident during the period of a Fellow's award. Fellows are not employees of the RAS. The RAS has no employer's liability for medical insurance cover. Fellows must advise the RAS of any absence from their institution other than for conferences, fieldwork or permitted holidays.

Reports

Fellows are expected to publish original research results, normally in the journals of the RAS. Any publications arising from the Fellowships must acknowledge the RAS. A detailed interim report (1500-2000 words in length) must be submitted at the end of the first year of the Fellowships. This should provide a factual summary of the work carried out to date, including results, and should outline research planned for the remainder of the award. A short final report, including a list of any publications and manuscripts in press or under review, should be submitted no later than 3 months after the termination of the award.

Fellows are encouraged to speak at RAS Ordinary meetings and write articles for the RAS publication A&G.

Termination of Award

A Fellowship may be terminated where the progress or conduct of the Fellow is judged to be unsatisfactory by the Council of the RAS. If a Fellow discontinues his or her research or takes up other employment before the end of the award, the RAS must be informed immediately.

Extension

There will be no extensions to the Fellowships.

Host Institutions

Host institutions can include universities and other not for profit research active institutions.

Institution Moves

Fellows will not be allowed to move between organisations except under exceptional circumstances

Current and Past RAS Fellows

Fellows are encouraged to establish and maintain contact with each other and the RAS.

	Name	Institution	Proposed Research	Dates of Fellowship
1	Dr Benjamin Davies	University of Cambridge/Liverpool John Moores	Mapping the Star-Forming History of Galaxies	November 2010 - October 2013
2	Dr Thomas Kitching	University of Edinburgh	High Precision Dark Universe Cosmology with 3D Gravitational Lensing	January 2011 - September 2011
3	Dr Caitriona Jackman	University College London/University of Southampton	Energy Release from Magnetospheres	January 2013 - December 2013 (1 Year Only)
4	Dr Baojiu Li	University of Durham	Cosmology, Dark Energy Theories (Theoretical, Phenomenological, Numerical & Statistical	February 2012 - January 2015
5	Dr Aline de Almeida Vidotto	University of St Andrews	Interaction between Exoplanets and the Winds of their Host Stars (Numerical Modelling & Magnetic	October 2011 - September 2014
6	Dr Sarah Badman	University of Leicester/Lancaster University	The Goldilocks hypothesis of planetary magnetospheres: discovering a balance between internally- and externally-driven dynamics at Jupiter, Mercury and	March 2013 - February 2016
7	Dr Nick Wright	University of Hertfordshire	The Dynamics of Young Star Clusters	October 2012 - September 2015
8	Dr Richard Parker	Liverpool John Moores University	The Origin of the Galactic Field	March 2014 - March 2017

9	Dr John Armitage	Royal Holloway, University of	Deciphering the sedimentary record: tectonic vs climate	September 2013 – August 2015
10	Dr David J E Marsh	Kings College London	Precision cosmology of axions and moduli	October 2015 – September 2018
11	Dr Ben Rozitis	Open University	Probing solar system processes	March 2016 – April 2019
12	Dr Peter Wyper	Durham University	Explaining the Onset of Explosive Magnetic Reconnection in the in the Solar Corona & its Links to the Generation of Solar Energetic Particles	October 2016 – September 2019
13	Dr Joanna Eberhardt	University College London	Nature vs Nurture: the effect of stellar irradiation on atmospheric evolution	October 2016 – September 2019
14	Dr Elisa Chisari	University of Oxford	Accurate Astrophysics for the Next Era of Cosmology	October 2017 – September 2020
15	Dr Amy Gilligan	University of Aberdeen	When subduction stops: understanding tectonic process in post-subduction settings	October 2018 – September 2021
16	Dr Matt Nicholl	University of Edinburgh	Superluminous supernovae: a comprehensive observational & theoretical study of nature's brightest fireworks	October 2018 – September 2021

			using extreme asteroids	February 2019
12	Dr Emma Chapman	Imperial College London	Detecting and constraining the Epoch of Reionisation using foreground removal and state-of-the-art simulations	October 2015 – October 2018
13	Dr Joanna Eberhardt (Barstow)	University College London	Nature vs Nurture: the effect of stellar irradiation on atmospheric evolution	October 2016 – September 2019 - extension until Sept
14	Dr Peter Wyper	Durham University	Explaining the Onset of Explosive Magnetic Reconnection in the in the Solar Corona & its Links to the Generation of Solar Energetic	October 2016 - September 2019
15	Dr Elisa Chisari	University of Oxford	Accurate Astrophysics for the Next Era of Cosmology	October 2017 - September 2020