

ROYAL ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

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RAS RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS – Terms and Conditions

**APPLICATIONS FOR NORMAN LOCKYER FELLOWSHIP
TENABLE FROM OCTOBER 2020**

1. Purpose

The Norman Lockyer Fellowship is awarded 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).

2. Eligibility

Applicants must either:

- have a recognized PhD degree (or equivalent) obtained after **1 October 2015** or
- have successfully taken the 'viva' examination by the application deadline (**23:59 (BST), 18 October 2019**) and expect to be awarded a PhD degree by the **Fellowship Start Date**.

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. The fellowship will not be awarded to an applicant if they are unable, for any reason, to commence at the host institution within six months of the Fellowship Start Date.

Institutions may support multiple fellowship applications, but only ONE RAS Research Fellowship may be held in the same institution at any one time (see supporting notes for details of current Fellows). The Norman Lockyer fellowship is classified as an RAS fellowship for this purpose.

3. **Period of award and Starting Date**

The Norman Lockyer Fellowship will be awarded for a period of three years, (or as modified by 5 and 6 below), beginning on the Fellowship Start Date (or within 6 months thereafter).

The three year term can only be extended by 5 and 6 below. Notwithstanding that the fellowship will terminate no later than 6 (six) years after the Fellowship Start Date, after which all payments by the RAS in respect of the fellowship will cease.

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 institution, 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 institution and the RAS ("the "Nominal Salary"). 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 only accept claims for Employers National Insurance at normal rates and the employer pension contribution at the standard USS rate (currently 18% of the salary). If the host institution wishes to pay above this, the extra expenditure must be found from their own funds.

5. **Breaks of Service**

The Society will support breaks in service that the host institution 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; 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 and department head at the host institution.

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 **Nominal Salary**, as per this original agreement.

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), 18 October 2019. It is planned to make offers **by mid-February 2020.**

Philip Diamond
Executive Director

July 2019

Supporting notes and defined terms for NORMAN LOCKYER FELLOWSHIPS 2020

Defined Terms

Fellowship Start Date: 1st October 2020

Agreed Salary: The Nominal Salary adjusted to allow for flexible working and career breaks as allowed in Clauses 5 and 6

Nominal Salary: The annual salary rate set in Clause 4.

Notes

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. The fellowship will not be awarded to an applicant if they are unable, for any reason, to commence at the host institution within six months of the Fellowship Start Date.

Administration

The Society intends to ask your department to administer your post, which will mean that the following deductions will be made at source:

Income Tax

Personal contribution to National Insurance

Where appropriate, personal contribution to USS

Restrictions

For the duration of your Fellowship any teaching or demonstrating you undertake must be limited to a maximum of 6 hours a week. No other type of paid work may be undertaken without the consent of the Society. You must advise the Society of any absence from your institution other than for conferences, fieldwork or permitted holidays.

Holidays

Annual leave may be taken at the discretion of your Head of Department and in line with the normal practice of your institution, but should not exceed 30 days per year.

Absence

Payment for absence through illness or other causes will be subject to the Host Institution's conditions of employment. The Society will compensate the host institution at the level equivalent to statutory payments; if the host institution, as employer, wishes to make payments above this level the extra expenditure must be found from their own funds. The Society accepts no liability for any illness, injury or accident which occurs during the period of your Fellowship. RAS Research Fellows are not employees of the Society and are not covered by the Society's employee liability policy.

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. Continued funding in years two and three is contingent on submission of satisfactory interim reports (1500-2000 words in length) at the end of year one and year two of the Fellowship. These 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

before 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.

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

Extension

There will be no extensions to the Fellowships, other than as allowed by Clauses 5 and 6.

Current and Past RAS Fellows

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

Current and Past Norman Lockyer Fellows:

Name	Institution	Research	Dates
Dr Vinesh Maguire Rajpaul	University of Cambridge	Transforming the search for Earth-like planets with advanced modelling tools	October 2017 - September 2020
Dr Rowan Smith	University of Manchester	Uniting theory and observations of star-formation	September 2014 - September 2017
Dr Adam Christopherson	University of Nottingham	Constraining the Universe using Non-Linear Cosmological Perturbation Theory	October 2011 - September 2014
Dr Mark Swinbank	Durham University	Spatially Resolved Studies of Young Galaxies	October 2008 – September 2011
Dr Roberto Trotta	University of Oxford	Precision cosmology and astrophysics with CMB and other data sets	April 2005 – March 2008
Dr Jane Greaves	Royal Observatory Edinburgh	Searching for the signatures of extrasolar planets	October 2001 – September 2004

Dr Clare Parnell	University of St Andrews	How does the Solar Magnetic Carpet Heat the Corona?	October 1998 – September 2001
Dr Alastair Rucklidge	DAMTP, University of Cambridge	Convection in Sunspots	October 1995 – September 1998
Dr Iosif Lapidus (deceased)	IoA, University of Cambridge	n/a	December 1992 - December 1995