

Newcastle University EPSRC Doctoral Prize Fellowship 2024/25

Application Deadline: 30th April 2024

Scheme Overview

Newcastle University invites applications for the prestigious EPSRC Doctoral Prize Fellowship. The Fellowship is an opportunity for **EPSRC-funded PhD students** to receive 24 months of additional support following the successful completion of their PhD. The Fellowship is designed to act as the first step towards an independent research career.

Candidates will be required to propose a novel research project in an area that fits within the [EPSRC's funding remit](#). As well as undertaking significant new work the fellowship aims to develop independent researchers with applicants encouraged to move into new areas of research and demonstrate the ability to work independently from their former PhD supervisor. This position also provides the opportunity to complete key publications resulting from the PhD, develop research networks, facilitate knowledge transfer, and deliver outreach activities. Candidates who have not carried out their PhD studies at Newcastle University are also encouraged to apply.

Applicants should identify an appropriate academic member of staff, referred to as a 'Project Sponsor.' They will be a Newcastle University employee and you should approach them in advance of applying to discuss your planned research proposal. Your Project Sponsor must be willing to support your project and, where appropriate, host the project in their research facilities.

Recipients of the Fellowship will also have the option of an independent mentor who can offer advice and support regarding the mentee's research and career development throughout the duration of the award. Newcastle University is committed to providing support and development opportunities for all colleagues. We will also provide periodic review meetings with key colleagues, to discuss career development and will support you to apply for opportunities' post the fellowship.

The award: The Fellowship will be funded for a period of 24 months and will have a starting salary at point 27 (requires PhD award) on the Newcastle academic salary scale (currently £33,966 per annum). The successful Fellow will also receive a £5,000 budget (in total) for research expenses, consumables, travel, and knowledge transfer/ outreach activities. Any additional costs should be agreed in advance with the hosting School (see HoS support form).

Eligibility: Any student who has recently received support for their PhD studies from the EPSRC in the form of fees and/ or stipend is eligible to apply for an EPSRC Doctoral Prize Fellowship (see selection criteria for full details). Right to work checks will be undertaken to check applicants are eligible to work in the UK. International candidates may require a visa and should check their status with the UK Border Agency or our People Services representatives.

Host School: Before completing the application forms, you will need to approach and secure the support of:

- **A Project Sponsor** (an academic member of staff in a relevant School at Newcastle University) who is willing to host you and your research in their research group and facilities. The responsibility of identifying and approaching an academic to act as the Project Sponsor lies with the applicant. Applicants should discuss their research proposal with the Project Sponsor to agree the focus of the proposed project. The Project Sponsor must be willing to provide support and guidance and host the candidate in their research facilities.
- **The support of the appropriate Head of School** at Newcastle University. Where appropriate, the nominating School should indicate their willingness to provide access to necessary resources (e.g., lab & desk space) and any additional research support funds beyond the £5000 awarded with the Fellowship.

Your application needs to be strongly supported by the Project Sponsor and Head of School; both of which must fill in the required nomination form.

Application Process

Once you have found a Project Sponsor and agreed with him/her the project you will undertake, you will need to submit the following documents to University's recruitment system (<https://jobs.ncl.ac.uk/>) by the 30th April 2024:

- Project Proposal Form.
- A brief academic CV including the names of 2 referees.
- Head of School support form (This should be signed and sent as a PDF document)
- Project Sponsor nomination form (This should be signed and sent as a PDF document)

Please note: The scheme is designed to offer support and flexibility and the exact details of the fellowship should be outlined by the applicant. Application forms should, therefore, fully detail the novel research project and the proposed outcomes and impact of the fellowship. This may include the publication and development of work from their PhD but must also include substantive new work that will take the candidate's research career to the next level. Proposals should explain how the candidate will manage the project and how this will be facilitated by the project sponsor with whom they are working.

A panel of senior academics will review applications and shortlisted candidates will be invited for **interview in May 2024**. Shortlisted candidates will also be required to give a short 15-minute presentation detailing their research proposal and other aspects of the fellowship. The shortlisting and interview panels will consist of academics from across the EPSRC remit. Applicants should ensure their applications are accessible to a general scientific audience.

The panel will be looking for:

- the potential of the applicant to develop an independent research programme
- the quality of the research proposal
- the fit with the nominating School
- proposed objectives to increase the impact of your PhD (an effect on, change or benefit to the economy, society, culture, public policy or services, health, the environment or quality of life, beyond academia')
- knowledge transfer activities
- planned outreach activities
- your vision for the fellowship and long-term career plans

The decision of the panel is final.

The following criteria must be met:

- Applicants who received funding for their PhD studies from the EPSRC in the form of fees and/ or stipend. This includes CDT, DTP, DTP-CASE, and I-CASE awards. *Students aligned to EPSRC CDTs but funded from other sources are NOT eligible.*
- Eligible applicants must either be close to thesis submission or have recently submitted their thesis (no more than 6 months before the application deadline)
- To be able to start their position within the 2024/25 academic year at the latest.
- Candidates should not already hold or have accepted a permanent academic position.
- The Project Sponsor must **NOT** be your PhD supervisor.
- The EPSRC Doctoral Prize Fellow will be required to propose a novel research project in an area which fits within the [EPSRC's funding remit](#).
- Candidates must be able to demonstrate a clear commitment to remaining in academia.
- Candidates are expected to present how they will deliver demonstrable impact contributions, that excellent research makes to society and the economy.
- Applicants must be eligible to stay in the UK; international candidates may require a visa and should check their status with the UK Border Agency.
- Candidates must have passed their PhD examination (with only minor corrections to complete) before commencing their EPSRC Doctoral Prize Fellowship position. We are flexible on start dates.

Start Dates

The outcome of the EPSRC Doctoral Prize recruitment panel will be communicated by the end of May 2023, with successful appointments confirmed.

Following the appointment, confirmation of start dates must be agreed with the Project Sponsor and Head of School and will be subject to approval by the EPSRC Doctoral Prize panel. It is expected that the appointed Fellow would start their position within the 2024/25 academic year but earlier start dates are possible.

Enquiries

Please contact the SAgE Faculty Postgraduate team: sagepgdean@ncl.ac.uk