

ESRC-GO Science Areas of Research Interest Fellowships Frequently Asked Questions

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Who can apply for the ARI Fellowships?

ARI Fellowships are open to applicants based in a Research Organisation (RO). The Fellowships are open to both researchers and knowledge exchange professionals. Both Fellows are open to researchers but applicants with a non-research background may also apply for the Policy Engagement Fellowship.

Can I apply for both Fellowships?

We would encourage applicants to be clear about which Fellowship you are applying for. If you think you have the experience to undertake either role and would like to be considered for both roles you would need to complete two applications on the Je-S system with the role for which you are applying clearly indicated in the project title.

Do I need to be employed by a Research Organisation to apply?

Yes. The Fellows must be employed at a UK research organisation eligible for ESRC funding for the duration of the fellowship. The institution should make their support for the application in the 'Head of Department Statement' attachment. Please refer to the JeS call guidance for details (p12).

How do I apply?

You are invited to apply for the Fellowship through our online Je-S system. There are a limited number of required fields to complete as standard as well as the attachments which form the core documents for your application. Where the call specification dictates the content (such as the 'objectives' section) please simply copy the call specification text.

Can I apply part-time?

Yes. Each Fellowship appointment is available up to 80% FTE; applicants are invited to outline their time commitment against the aims of each role. There is no minimum required FTE time commitment to the Fellowship as long as applicants are able to carry out the programme of work for the duration of the fellowship and meet the minimum requirements for working and reporting (e.g. based at least 4 days a month at GO Science in London, regular meetings with ESRC at least once a month.) The application would need to convince the panel that they have sufficient capacity to achieve the aims of the fellowship.

Do I need to propose a research project in the application?

No, this is not a research project but a knowledge exchange activity. The suitability for the role should be outlined in the case for support; the approach and activities proposed should be outlined in the pathways to impact statement and costs for both included in the JeS application and justified in the justification for resources attachment. Please refer to the JeS call guidance for further details.

Would the background of the Fellows be taken into account in the prioritisation of the ARI areas for development?

The Fellows will work closely with Government Office for Science in the development of the priority areas for development. You are encouraged to propose how prioritisation might be undertaken. We would anticipate that the background and interests of the Fellows would be taken into account in the prioritisation process but other factors may also play an important role in decision-making and we would encourage applicants who would be comfortable convening expertise beyond their own, as well as be able to convene within their own area.

What is the maximum funding available?

The Fellowship will provide up to 12 months funding with an overall limit of £100,000 at 100% fEC, so the maximum funding requested from the ESRC (the ESRC contribution) will be up to £80,000.

Will the Travel & Subsistence for working in London need to be taken out of the funding limit?

Yes, please add each item of travel and subsistence required to deliver the activities included during the Fellowship. It is up to you how to balance the cost. You should indicate the calculations upon which this figure is based in the 'Destination and Purpose' box.

We are developing two Fellowship proposals jointly; how will the Panel view very similar sections across the two applications?

The aims and objectives would be broadly shared between the two Fellows, as set by the call. However, there are some sections of the form which clearly need to be distinct between the two roles (e.g. roles and responsibilities, justification of resources) but others could be broadly similar. The pathways to impact statement asks you to outline your approach to engagement and specific activities. Where these are coherent across both Fellows, please make that clear so that the Panel makes that connection. You may, as relevant, wish to emphasize particular elements that relate closely to your specific role/capabilities within that approach if the overall approach is joint.

Should each Fellow budget for half the workshops?

We recognise that where applicants are applying as a team it might be possible to propose, in effect, a joint proposal splitting the costs of the programme of work. However where applicants are applying for one role without sight of another application this is of course not possible. The panel will judge the suitability of the candidates against the person specification for the roles outlined in the call specification - which should be set out in the case for support – and the quality and appropriateness of the *proposed approach* to engaging researchers and policy makers during the Fellowship (and the specific activities you propose to undertake as part of that) – outlined in the Pathways to Impact statement. We recognise that the panel will need to take a view on the most suitable balance of *skills/ approaches and activities* proposed and there may need to be some discussion on offer to develop an agreed programme of work with the two Fellows. You should submit what you think you would want to do with your budget for the Fellowship for which you are applying. You can of course outline your assumptions as to what would be covered by the other Fellowship.

The call specification ask that's the applicants should cost in the region of 6-8 workshops. Is this an indication of how may ARIs might be addressed across the course of the fellowship?

We would welcome innovative proposals as to the scale and nature of this series of workshops. We have suggested applicants should cost in the region of 6 to 8 workshops and include a showcasing event to allow for some parity on application but candidates should feel free to outline the approach they wish to take – and what that would mean for the programme of activities.

Can I start my Fellowship after October 2019?

We recognise that a mid-October start date will not be feasible for all applicants and welcome applicants who would need to start later. Please see the Je-S guidance which stipulates "...applicants are kindly requested to discuss the implications for other commitments with their institution on application, to enable take-up as soon as possible from October 2019. If feasible, please include agreement in principle to release the applicant from commitments that would otherwise prevent timely take-up of the Fellowship or over-commitment of their time. Applicants will not be penalised if an October 2019 start is unfeasible but we would welcome indications from the institution that these issues have begun to be discussed during application."

Is this Fellowship opportunity a one-off or will there be future rounds?

There are currently no agreed plans for future rounds of these particular fellowships, however, we would encourage you to keep an eye out for future ESRC knowledge exchange opportunities of this or/similar nature.