

## Departmental Fellowships 2014 – Expression of Interests Call

The Department of Chemistry is looking to support individuals of outstanding merit and potential who might wish to apply for one of the following research fellowships:

- BBSRC David Phillips Fellowship
- EPSRC Early Career Fellowship
- MRC Senior Non-clinical Fellowship
- MRC Career Development Award
- NERC Independent Research Fellowship
- Royal Society University Research Fellowship
- Wellcome Trust Senior Research Fellowship in Basic Biomedical Science
- Wellcome Trust Sir Henry Dale Fellowship

### Background

The Fellowships listed above are awarded by external funders and are intended for outstanding postdoctoral researchers seeking the next step towards a permanent academic position. Every year, a number of outstanding individuals take up fellowships and establish independent research groups within a University Department or research institute.

Once a year the Department of Chemistry, University of Cambridge, makes a call for Expressions of Interest. We follow this procedure because we want to encourage talented individuals, including those who have not previously had an association with the Department to consider applying for one of these fellowships to be hosted in the Department of Chemistry.

The application process is highly competitive and the Department has a duty to ensure that it can provide successful candidates with the space and resources required to support their fellowship and their first steps towards an independent research career. For that reason, the Department has its own selection procedure to identify those potential candidates that it wishes to support. Candidates whom the Department does not select cannot then go on to apply to funders to take up fellowships in the Department. Normally the Department launches the call for Expressions of Interest in April and invites candidates that are short-listed to give a presentation in early July. Successful candidates will receive the Department's support to apply to sponsors for up to 1 calendar year. The various Fellowship programmes have different closing dates so those interested in applying need to be aware that they will only have the Department's support to apply for Fellowships with closing dates after July.

Potential applicants are strongly encouraged to contact the Department informally in the first instance. Typically, the best point of contact is the head or other academic member of the Research Interest Group <http://www.ch.cam.ac.uk/research/rigs> within the Department, which you would anticipate joining. The Department pro-actively seeks outstanding potential candidates, so an academic member of the Department may approach you informally. Potential candidates are advised to look at the individual funder websites as some have restrictions around eligibility such as: years post completion of PhD, nationality or residency requirements, and expectations about how much time you have spent in a Department if you plan to apply for a Fellowship in the same location.

The University values diversity and is committed to equality of opportunity. The Department holds an Athena SWAN bronze award for women in Science, Technology, Engineering and Medicine. Potential applicants are strongly encouraged to discuss their EOI with a member of the Department academic staff.

All potential applicants **must submit an expression of interest to the Fellowships 2014 inbox (fellowships2014@ch.cam.ac.uk) by 5pm on Wednesday, 14<sup>th</sup> May 2014.** The EOI should include:

1) A cover letter, indicating which of the following five research areas best encompasses the research field proposed: Materials Chemistry; Physical Chemistry; Theory Modelling and Informatics; Synthetic Chemistry; and Biological. Please specify in the covering letter if you have discussed your EOI with an academic member of staff in this Department.

2) A CV including a publications list and 3 referees that we can approach prior to interview (maximum 2 pages).

3) A Research Statement summarising: The aims and importance of the research proposed, a brief research plan, why the Department should support you as a candidate, why you would like to hold a fellowship at Cambridge, your longer term ambitions as an independent researcher, a brief description of the kind of team you would envisage to deliver on the research aims, and anticipated resource requirements (maximum 3 pages).

Late Expressions of Interest (EOI) will not be considered. Where an EOI is incomplete or exceeds any of the page limits specified, the Department reserves the right to reject the EOI.

We intend to draw up a short-list of around ten candidates covering all fellowship schemes. Those short-listed will be invited to visit the Department on **Thursday 24th July 2014** to give a presentation and meet members of academic staff. However, members of the Department may contact you in advance of this date to discuss your EOI. Short-listed candidates will be advised shortly after the 24th July whether the Department will support their application, and to which fellowship scheme they can apply. Successful candidates will receive the Department's support to apply to sponsors for up to 1 calendar year.

Candidates that have submitted an EOI to the Department in previous years are welcome to reapply. Any candidate that was supported by the Department during a previous round but was not successful in securing a Fellowship from an external sponsor must submit a new EOI this year.