

STFC Ernest Rutherford Fellowship Application Process 2019

1. Purpose of the Opportunity

The Ernest Rutherford Fellowships last 5 years and are intended by STFC to enable early career researchers with clear leadership potential to establish a strong, independent research programme. They will encourage talented researchers in UK universities to remain in the country and at the same time attract outstanding overseas researchers to the UK.

2. Relevant STFC Regulations

The submission deadline is 19 September 2019. The next Call is expected to open on 01 July 2019.

<https://stfc.ukri.org/funding/fellowships/ernest-rutherford-fellowship/>

STFC apply a quota limit to the number of applications for each UK University Department. For MSSL in 2019 the limit is still tbc, as of 28 June 2019. Applications from “Returners to Research” (i.e. from a Career Break) may be considered in excess of the limit.

STFC will reject proposals that do not follow the application rules, including matters such as font size, with no possibility of amendment (with the single exception of where a problem occurred in relation to downloading the proposal into Research Council systems).

3. MSSL Process

A Departmental Internal Review process will be held to consider potential ERF Applications.

Applicants should be associated with an MSSL academic sponsor, with whom the proposal has been discussed. All applicants should have the potential to become academic staff at MSSL.

Preliminary applications should be submitted for internal review to Philippa Elwell (p.elwell@ucl.ac.uk) by **19 July 2019**. The candidate is asked to provide a 1-page outline Science Case, and a CV including a list of publications. The Science Case should discuss research aims and why achieving them is important, timeliness of the proposed research, and an outline of the technical approach and work plan. The MSSL academic sponsor is asked to separately provide a letter of support (1 page max.) discussing fit to Department strategy, and the suitability of the candidate, including an assessment of their track record, fit to the ERF requirements and potential to become academic staff.

A Departmental Committee will assess these preliminary applications and will give feedback by close of business **2 August**. The criteria against which the applications will be judged are:

1. Quality of the Science Case
2. Record of academic excellence
3. Fit to the ERF requirements
4. Fit to the department’s research strategy.

If, after this process, the applications quota has not been reached, further late-emerging applications for internal consideration may be considered at the HoD’s discretion, until **23 August**.

We cannot offer a guarantee of a proleptic academic position to successful ERF candidates.

Candidates who go forward to the STFC selection process are requested to keep the Head of Department informed of their progress.