

St. Mary's College Early Career Research Fellowships

Applications are invited for St. Mary's College Early Career Research Fellowships (ECRFs) from among existing Durham University staff who are research active, including those on research, education or combined academic tracks, professional staff, or post-doctoral researchers. Applications are welcomed from staff on either open-ended or temporary contracts, so long as the contract continues for the whole of the fellowship period. The fellowships are for one year in the first instance, potentially renewable for a second year.

Context

The College will have few postgraduate students living in college and reduced number of returning students at a time when we are planning to expand mentoring to finalists and postgraduates. We have a number of academic initiatives, such as dissertation discussions and research evenings which currently meet with mixed success. We have permanently endowed funds for research fellows which have previously been used to support a single PhD studentship which likely delivers poor return for the college as a community.

Early Career Research Fellowships (ECRFs) can provide fellows with an opportunity to build skills, mix with more established academics and a wider community, work collaboratively with ECRFs from other disciplines and gain recognition for service outside their immediate academic sphere. College benefits from support for developing specialist mentoring for postgraduates, support for developing academic programmes, younger members of the SCR and conduits for improving links between the MCR and SCR.

Remuneration

College will offer up to four ECRF positions each year, normally one per faculty. The fellowship will be for one year in the first instance, renewable for up to one further year. For each fellowship College will fund

- An honorarium for the fellow to support their research (£1000)
- Access to funds to support engagement with postgraduate students (£200)
- Membership of the SCR (£30)
- Attendance at dinner as a high table guest for up to three full hall formals per year (£90)
- Attendance at fortnightly postgraduate lunches (£100)

Expectations

Fellows are expected to:

- Give one lecture, seminar or other suitable academic event on their research
- Support the mentoring programme for postgraduate students
- Lead one initiative to support the college postgraduate community

- Attend at least 75% of the postgraduate lunches and three full hall formals

Appointment

A panel of academic members of the SCR appointed by the Principal and representing a range of disciplines will elect fellows and provide support for their induction. Fellows should normally meet the following criteria:

- a) Being at an early career stage (normally taken to mean within 8 years of PhD award or 3 years of first academic appointment, adjusted appropriately for personal circumstances)
- b) Being able to demonstrate commitment to engage with College and particularly its postgraduate community

The panel will look to balance the fellowships in any one year to provide a diverse group and a vibrant and engaging range of initiative proposals. Reappointment to a second year will be at the discretion of the panel on request from fellows at the end of academic year.

New applicants will be sought during Easter term for the following academic year. Applications will be assessed based on a short CV (max 2 pages), summary of research interests (max 300 words), and ideas for engagement with College and its postgraduate community (500 words).

Applicants should submit their application via the form linked below by 5 pm on 13 June 2025, with interviews of selected candidates during July 2025.

<https://forms.office.com/e/P43TDBRxeu>