Preparing for Fellowship Success

Aim: to develop the confidence, capability and desire to submit a Fellowship Application

This exclusive opportunity will provide the space, time and support to write your grant application. The 1.5 day retreat is for Postdocs and early career researchers who are committed to producing a draft Fellowship application. Each aspect of the Fellowship process will be covered and you will be fully supported by professional support staff, existing Fellowship holders and alumni. The programme is provided free of charge and is part of the University’s commitment to providing support for postdocs/research staff with the skills and capabilities to develop independent research and is aligned to the institutional commitment to the Concordat to Support the Career Development of Researchers.

As a selected participant you will have an opportunity to discuss your ideas with staff experienced in writing successful applications and get insight into the peer review process. There will be space to draft work and get feedback and to develop thinking with like-minded colleagues. In addition all applicants are strongly encouraged to identify an individual (who may or may not be their PI) to become a ‘Fellowship Mentor’ and support their application.

The event will focus on equipping potential Fellowship applicants with opportunity, insight and tools to construct a viable Fellowship application. By the end of the retreat participants will have:

- Identified which Fellowship scheme is right for them
- Received feedback on and refined their research vision, overview and professional development statement
- Produced an action plan and timescale for further work endorsed by their Fellowship Buddy
- Networked with existing Fellows and professional support staff who can assist with their application

We will achieve this by:

- Contributions from existing/previous successful Fellows
- High level insight from the PVC Partnerships and Knowledge Exchange and senior academic staff
- Support from a Fellowship ‘buddy’
- Expert tuition re pitching/interviews
- Networking with existing and previous Fellowship holders (& external/alumni)
- Peer review of tentative applications
Dates: Monday 25th and Tuesday 26 March 2019

Venue: Mercure Hotel, Skelton, York. The hotel is situated on Shipton Road near the Rawcliffe Park and Ride and provides an out of campus environment in which you can focus on your Fellowship. Participants are expected to get themselves to and from the venue.

Time Commitment:
The formal programme runs from 9 - 6pm on 25th March and from 9-1pm on 26th March. All applicants are expected to engage for that time period to maximise the opportunity to develop the elements of the proposal. There will also be a networking dinner for existing fellowship holders to meet each other and prospective fellows. Applicants are warmly invited, but not required, to stay to network and enjoy dinner.

Eligibility:
Postdocs and early career academic staff from any faculty who have not previously held a Fellowship. All applicants are required to identify a ‘Fellowship Buddy’ - who may or may not be their PI who can ideally come along to parts of the programme to provide additional support. (Where this is not possible every attempt will be made to secure someone with appropriate expertise from the new University academic and research staff mentoring scheme). Places will be restricted to 16 participants.

Application Process:

- Complete an application form by Monday 11 February including a 300 word summary of the research to be conducted and the proposed programme of professional development
- Secure the support of your PI/HoD - supplied as an email
- Identify a Fellowship ‘mentor’ who can support the application (and ideally attend the programme for the afternoon of the 25th and ideally the morning of 26th)

Applicants will be notified of the outcome of their application by Monday 25 February latest

Listed below are some (but by no means all) of the larger Fellowship schemes aimed at postdoctoral researchers looking to make the transition to independence:

University of York Centre for Future Health Fellowships
University of York Enterprise Fellowships (four in total - two generic and one Chemistry and one Centre for Future Health specific Fellowship)
Leverhulme Early Career Research Fellowships
Sir Henry Wellcome Postdoctoral Fellowships
ESRC Postdoctoral Fellowships
NIHR Advanced Fellowship
MRC Career Development Award/Fellowship or MRC Clinician Scientist Fellowship
Cancer Research UK Career Development Fellowship
Royal Academy of Engineering Postdoctoral Research Fellowship Programme
EPSRC Postdoctoral and Early Career Research Fellowships
Royal Society Dorothy Hodgkin Fellowships
Daphe Jackson Fellowships

To identify appropriate Fellowship schemes register with Research Professional to receive notification of Fellowships tailored to your research area.