

LMS Early Career Fellowships Frequently Asked Questions

- 1. Do I have a greater chance of success if I apply for a shorter period of time?*
No. The main reason to apply for less than six months is if you have a gap of less than that time between two positions. Please note that if you start another job before the end of the fellowship you are expected to resign from the LMS fellowship. The Committee may offer fewer months to some applicants in order to support more candidates.
- 2. Can I take the fellowship outside the UK?*
Yes. If you have a UK PhD, you can apply to take the fellowship outside the UK.
- 3. If I plan to submit my PhD thesis next March, when my funding runs out, can I apply now?*
If the next application round comes before you expect to submit your thesis, then you should submit it for that round. There is an annual closing date for applications on 14 January for Fellowships to begin from 1st April of the same year. Applications can be submitted any time after the call opens in September/October of the year before the deadline. The Fellowship should begin after your PhD thesis has been submitted but the start date should not be more than 9 months after your PhD was awarded.
- 4. What are common mistakes people make in their applications?*
One of the important things that the selection committee is looking for is well thought out plans for the applicants' future career.
The questions that ask about possible grant applications and any applications already made should be answered with sufficient detail to convince the selection committee that the applicants' plans are well thought through.

Advice on how to write a good application was published in the LMS Newsletter issue 485, page 43 (November 2019) but please note that this advice is for Fellowships where the host institution would typically not be the home institution.
- 5. Do I need to propose a project that will be completed within the time period of the fellowship?*
No. It is fine to describe a more ambitious project that you will make some headway on but not complete within the fellowship. However, you should indicate how much progress you think can be made on the project.
- 6. Am I eligible for a fellowship if my PhD is from outside the UK and I plan to carry out the fellowship placement in the UK?*
Applicants must be UK residents at the time of the closing date.
- 7. Am I eligible for a fellowship if my PhD is from outside the UK and my fellowship placement is also outside the UK?*
No.
- 8. I have a postdoc position due to start in 10 months' time. Is it appropriate for me to apply for an ECR fellowship for part of the period in between?*
Yes. Make sure to justify how the fellowship will provide an important stepping-stone in your career.
- 9. May I carry out the fellowship at the institution at which I obtained my PhD?*
Yes, however, applicants must demonstrate strong research links outside the institution where they received their PhD. This can be demonstrated, for example, by changing institutions or by making collaborative visits during the fellowship.

10. *Does the host institution need to be a university, or could the Fellowship be held at a research institute?*

The host institution can be either a university or a research institute.

11. *Can the Fellowship be in both academia and industry or industry alone?*

While there is not a rule that the Fellowship must be held in academia, the Panel would normally expect the Fellowship to be held in a mathematics department. Most of the assessment will be based on the quality of the mathematics so the Panel will need to see the mathematical case wherever the Fellowship is held.

12. *Does the academic host need to be a senior mathematician?*

No, there is no requirement for the academic host to be a senior mathematician.

13. *I am a PhD student at a UK university, but I am not a UK citizen, can I still apply?*

Yes, if you are resident in the UK at the closing date for applications, you may apply.

14. *Will the Fellowship grant be paid to the Fellow direct or to the host institution where the Fellowship will be held?*

The Fellowship grant will be paid direct to the Fellow themselves.

15. *Will the Fellowship grant be paid all at once or in installments?*

Normally, the Fellowship grant will be paid all at once.

16. *Do you have any advice on the tax implications of the grant?*

We would strongly advise contacting HMRC to clarify the tax implication that you may encounter after receiving the Fellowship. The Society does not act as your employer, and it does not make any tax deductions through PAYE system on your behalf. Early Career Fellowships are regarded as grants and are a part of the charitable activities of the Society.

17. *I am currently a research fellow, but the end date of my position will be in May/June, so I really need to fill the gap between my current position and my potential next position (which would normally start in October/November).*

Unfortunately, you would not be eligible for the scheme because its purpose is to “support early career mathematicians in the transition between PhD and a postdoctoral position”, i.e. those who have not been as fortunate as you to secure a postdoctoral position after their PhD.