



The University of Sydney Fellowships 2018

CLOSING DATES:

6 September 2017 (Expressions of Interest)
10 October 2017 (Full Applications – by invitation)

The University of Sydney Fellowships aim to attract outstanding early career researchers to the University of Sydney to contribute to and enhance the research strengths and culture of the university.

The Sydney Society of Fellows

Holders of the University of Sydney Fellowships will be members of the **Sydney Society of Fellows**, and will be affiliated to a faculty or university school and research centre where appropriate.

The first of its kind in Australia, the Sydney Society of Fellows represents the University's commitment to ground-breaking research and scholarship. The Society aims to bring to Sydney the most promising young scholars from all disciplines to allow them to participate in and contribute to its thriving intellectual life. The Sydney Society of Fellows fosters inter-faculty collaboration, builds on a network of outstanding international alumni and provides further career development opportunities for Fellows. Successful candidates will be expected to reside in Sydney for the duration of their fellowship and to actively participate in the Society's activities: present their work in its seminars, participate in and organize reading groups and workshops, help mentor research students and initiate interdisciplinary research.

In selecting the cohort we will be attentive to gender balance and diversity more broadly, including participation from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders and from ethnically and linguistically diverse communities.

Eligibility

Applications are welcome and encouraged from any discipline, faculty or research area. A particular objective of the 2018 round is to attract talented recent doctoral graduates who can contribute to our whole-of-university multidisciplinary initiatives, broadly construed. These include:

- The Charles Perkins Centre
- The Brain and Mind Centre
- The Australian Institute for Nanoscale Science and Technology
- The China Studies Centre
- The Sydney Southeast Asia Centre
- The Cancer Research Network
- The Sydney Environment Institute
- The Marie Bashir Institute for Infectious Diseases and Biosecurity
- The Sydney Centre for Translational Data Science
- The Sydney Policy Lab

Further information about the University's research strategy, including our commitment to multidisciplinary research, can be found by consulting the [University's Strategic Plan 2016-20](#).

Strong preference will be given to applicants seeking to join the University from another organisation in Australia or from overseas.

Applicants must have a PhD award dated no earlier than 1st January 2012 and no later than 1st January 2018. Applicants with a PhD award dated later than 31st December 2016 are extremely unlikely to be competitive and should talk to the Centre Director (or nominated representative) or relevant Faculty or University School Associate Dean Research (ADR) (in cases where there is not alignment with a Centre), to assess competitiveness before applying. Applicants with a PhD awarded by the University of Sydney within the timeframe specified above may only apply if they have held a paid position with another organisation subsequent to the award of their PhD.

PhD award date is defined as the date on the testamur.

Applicants currently employed at the University of Sydney or other affiliated institutions (including but not limited to medical research institutes) who commenced such employment after the award of their PhD on or after 1st July 2016 are eligible to apply.

Applicants must obtain the support of a proposed supervisor as well as endorsement from Director of the Centre or relevant Faculty/University School Associate Dean Research.

Career interruption¹

Candidates, who were awarded their PhD after 1st January 2009 and have had a period of significant career interruption² can ask to have their eligibility considered.

Applicants wishing to make a case for consideration must submit a written request on the Career Interruption template to the Research Grants & Contracts Unit by **29 August 2017**.

The Career Interruption template can be downloaded from the [Sydney Fellowships information page](#) on the Research Support website.

Assessment Criteria

There are two essential criteria. Research excellence will be a primary criterion, both in terms of the project and the track-record and potential of the researcher (relative to opportunity). The alignment of the proposed research with the University's multidisciplinary research agenda (particularly with the Centres listed above and more broadly) will be the other major criterion.

Overlap with other Fellowship schemes including the Australian Research Council and the National Health and Medical Research Council

Applicants who have requested Fellowship support from other sources in 2017 for funding in 2018 may submit the same project to the University of Sydney Fellowship Scheme provided full disclosure is made in the application. If a successful applicant is awarded a Fellowship from another source, the University of Sydney Fellowship must be relinquished within 2 months of notification of the other award. If necessary, the University will provide a supplement to ensure the salary and research support are equal to the University Fellowship.

Preparing an Application

The application process, forms and related information is available from the [Sydney Fellowships information page](#) on the Research Support website.

¹ Career interruptions include but are not necessarily limited to maternity leave, major illness and carer responsibilities such as parental leave or care for immediate family (e.g. spouse, children or elderly parent)..

² A period of 3 months or more is considered significant in this context.

Applicants are required to follow a three stage process:

1. ***You will need a USyd academic “sponsor”*** - A sponsor is a current University of Sydney academic working in your field or a field(s) closely aligned with yours, who will support your application. Please find a University of Sydney academic who is field-appropriate for you and contact them directly. Please ask your sponsor to discuss your proposal with the relevant Centre Director (or nominated representative) or Associate Dean Research and provide you with a brief (maximum of 1 page) written endorsement that indicates how you would be able to contribute to the relevant multidisciplinary initiative(s). **Under no circumstances should applicants contact the Centre Director or ADR prior to having approval from the sponsor.**
2. Complete an [Expression of Interest form](#) and send to the Centre Director (or nominated representative) or ADR if you are not aligned with a Centre by **6 September 2017**. Information required with the EoI includes contact information, name of sponsor (including a 1 page letter of support), a 500 word project description, information regarding strategic alignment and a curriculum vitae. An applicant may only submit one EOI.

The Centre Director (or nominated representative) or ADR will assess, shortlist and inform applicants by **26 September 2017** whether they will be competitive and supported this round. Only those applicants endorsed by the Centre or ADR should proceed to a full application.

3. **After you have been endorsed by the relevant Centre Director (or nominated representative) or Associate Dean Research you can proceed to submit an application.** Applications must be submitted through our Online Application System. Please visit sydney.edu.au/positions and search for University of Sydney Fellowships. Closing date for full applications will be the 10 October 2017.

You will need to upload the following attachments as PDF document. All attachments should be clearly typed on single sided A4 pages, using 12 point font size with at least a 2 cm margin on each side:

- Curriculum Vitae including details of a PhD award, research experience after the PhD and number of publications and citations. **The Curriculum Vitae should be no more than 5 pages – additional pages will not be considered;**
- Proof of a PhD award. Please include English translations if applicable;
- The proposed research project including project title, aims and significance, research plan, methods and techniques, alignment of the proposed research with existing activity and the environment in the host Centre. This section should be no more than **4 pages** including bibliographic references which **MUST NOT** exceed half a page. Aim for at least half a page for the alignment and research environment section. In the methodology section it is essential to clearly detail what you are going to do and why/how this will achieve the aims of the project and advance the knowledge base of the discipline. **Additional pages will not be considered by the Selection Committee;**
- A confidential referee report must be sent to j.small@sydney.edu.au by **10 October 2017**. A referee should be selected on the basis of their capacity to constructively comment on the intellectual calibre and quality of the applicant and their work, track record relative to opportunity, and the potential of the applicant to be internationally competitive for subsequent fellowship applications (ie. within the top 10-15% of their field). **A nominated sponsor cannot be a referee.** Each report must be completed using the template available from the website above and should address the selection criteria. It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure that referee reports are submitted by the due date. Late reports will not be considered.

Conditions of Award

The Fellowship is awarded under the following conditions:

1. Applicants must have a PhD award dated no earlier than 1st January 2012 and no later than 1st January 2018 ;
2. Applicants with a PhD awarded by the University of Sydney within the timeframe specified in condition 1 may apply if they have held a position with another organisation subsequent to the award of their PhD;
3. Applicants currently employed at the University of Sydney or other affiliated institutions (including but not limited to medical institutes) who commenced such employment after the award of their PhD AND on or after 1st July 2016 are eligible to apply;
4. Fellows must not hold a concurrent paid appointment (eg. clinical appointment in a hospital);
5. The duration of the Fellowship shall be for a maximum period of three years;
6. Appointments must commence by 30th June 2018, unless the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) approves otherwise;
7. If a Fellow leaves the University of Sydney, they must relinquish their Fellowship as of the date of the termination of their University of Sydney appointment;
8. A salary (taxable) will be provided at Level A8 of the University's Academic salary scale;
9. A research support grant totalling \$25,000 will be provided upon commencement of appointment to assist Fellows establish their research;
10. Fellows are expected to focus on research for the duration of the Fellowship. Fellows may be required to undertake other duties for up to 6 hours per week (eg: HDR supervision, committee representation);
11. A minimum cost airfare direct to Sydney, and return to point of departure on expiry of the Fellowship, will be provided. Fares for dependants, visa charges and removal expenses, will not be provided. Claims for travel expenses will normally be paid on production of an invoice or a receipt from a travel agency;
12. The work performance of Fellows will be reviewed annually in accordance with the University's Performance Management and Development Program. A final report covering all aspects of the work undertaken (including grants awarded, grants applied for and their status, details of student supervision or co-supervision, conference presentations and publications) and details of any new knowledge gained in the field of study must be forwarded to the Research Grants & Contracts Unit at the completion of the Fellowship. This should be accompanied by an evaluative commentary by the Head of School. The final report template can be downloaded from [Sydney Fellowships information page](#) on the Research Support website.
13. Fellows shall be entitled to recreational, sickness and maternity leave in accordance with the University's general policy for all staff. All recreational leave must be taken within the period of the appointment.
14. Fellows with caring responsibilities are able to take the fellowship part-time and are encouraged to apply. Requests to suspend or vary the hours of an award must be submitted to the Research Grants & Contracts Unit and approved by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research);
15. University funded Fellows are strongly encouraged to apply for external fellowship funding and in addition to the research support described in item 8 above, if successful within the first two years of the Fellowship, the University will provide a one-off amount of \$30,000 for research support; The amounts above are provided on condition that the University funded Fellowship is relinquished in accordance with item 14 below;

16. Successful applicants awarded a fellowship or equivalent from another source must relinquish their University of Sydney Fellowship within 2 months of notification of the other award;
17. Any Fellow considered not to be making satisfactory progress will have the Fellowship reviewed by a committee appointed by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) which, at its absolute discretion, may terminate the Fellowship; and
18. The University asserts certain ownership rights of intellectual property created in the course of the fellowship subject to the University's [Intellectual Property Rule](#)

For further information please contact Julie Cameron, Research Grants & Contracts Unit, email research.support@sydney.edu.au