

Durham University Addison Wheeler Fellowships 2025/26

Frequently Asked Questions: Information for Applicants

How do I find a suitable academic host?

Information about Durham academic staff members and their research interests can be found on departmental/school websites (see <https://www.durham.ac.uk/departments/academic> for further information) and on staff members' personal pages. If you are unsure which staff member might be best suited to act as your mentor, you should seek advice from the departmental/school Director of Research, whose contact details can be found on the relevant academic unit's website.

What is meant by an 'early career stage' for the purposes of this scheme?

The Addison-Wheeler Fellowships are aimed at outstanding early career researchers who, after three years of full-time research, will be in a position to apply for lectureships or similar non-fixed term academic posts at leading universities. They will typically have 2 to 5 years of post-doctoral experience, though this may vary depending on their career path. Career breaks are not counted as post-doctoral experience.

I already have an academic post. Am I eligible to apply?

Applicants in tenured, tenure-track or similar non-fixed term posts are considered to be too advanced in their career to be eligible for an Addison Wheeler Fellowship and should consider other fellowship schemes. Applicants on fixed-term, non-renewable posts are eligible. An Addison Wheeler Fellowship at Durham cannot be held simultaneously with an employment contract at another institution.

To whom should I address the letter of application?

Dear Selection Panel will suffice.

When will the decisions be made?

The initial short-listing will occur in Spring 2026. Shortlisted candidates will be interviewed via web conference in on 08 or 09 June 2026. Candidates can expect to be informed a few weeks ahead of these dates.

What are 'agreed research costs'?

Addison Wheeler Fellows receive a basic £1,500 pa for reasonable travel and conference expenses (in the UK or abroad) and up to £5,000 pa research costs (which may include library, laboratory and fieldwork costs, for example). It is recommended that indicative costs are included as part of the application. Where a research project requires the use of internal University facilities for which access charges are applied, additional funding may be made available to cover these charges.

Who is responsible for contacting referees?

It is your responsibility to contact your referees and notify them that they must submit their references to addisonwheeler.recruitment@durham.ac.uk by the closing date for applications.

Please be aware that late or incomplete applications cannot be accepted under any circumstances.

What is the role of the external assessors and who is responsible for nominating them?

If you are shortlisted for interview in the final stage of the competition, the university scrutiny panel will invite external subject area specialists to provide expert independent comment on your application. External assessors must not have a close personal or professional relationship with an applicant. Applicants to the fellowship competition are not asked to suggest external assessors: this is the responsibility of your host academic department.

How many references do I require?

Two. Please be aware that Durham University's online recruitment portal always requests three references, but will nonetheless accept applications accompanied by only two references for the Addison Wheeler Fellowship scheme.

Can my Durham mentor act as a referee?

No: your referee should not be actively involved in supporting your application.