



Addison Wheeler Fellowships 2025/26

Frequently Asked Questions: Information for Directors of Research and Heads of Departments

To be read in conjunction with the departmental nomination form: **(add web link when created)**.

Please Ctrl click on the links or scroll down.

A diagram of the recruitment process can be found on the last page of these notes.

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Must a department support an applicant if approached?

No. Only six AWF positions are available in the current application round and the scheme is highly competitive. Previous appointments have been of exceptional quality, making a strong contribution to the REF and securing positions elsewhere on completion of the fellowship. Directors of Research and Heads of Department are asked only to nominate applicants who stand a realistic chance of success.

Can applicants be considered if they do not hold a doctorate?

Prospective applicants must hold a doctoral degree and have gained it since 1 September 2020. Applicants who have not gained a doctorate cannot be considered.

What is the purpose of the AWF nomination form?

The purpose of the nomination form is:

- to record the agreement of the Department to provide mentoring and facilities for the applicant.
- to indicate whether an applicant has Department support and should be carried forward to the ranking / shortlisting stage.
- to record the agreement of the host Department to provide space and resources for the Fellow if they are appointed.

Applicants must be nominated to the competition by a department to be eligible for consideration.

Can fellows be based in more than one department?

For administrative purposes, a single academic department or school must take responsibility for nominating applicants and for hosting them if they are awarded a fellowship. It is not possible to split the fellowship across departments. If appointed, however, a fellow is free to engage as appropriate with colleagues across the Durham research community.

Can university research institutes or centres nominate fellows?

Only academic departments and schools can nominate fellows, but all fellows are actively encouraged to engage with university research institutes and centres.

Can the start date of a fellowship be deferred?

Successful applicants are expected to commence in post on 1 October 2026. The start date of a fellowship can only be deferred under exceptional circumstances and for no longer than three months. Any deferral is subject to agreement from the IAS and the host department.

Can emeritus staff or staff members who hold honorary posts act as mentors?

Emeritus staff or staff members who hold honorary posts can share the responsibility of mentoring fellows, but the primary responsibility for mentoring must rest with a full-time staff member in the school or department concerned.

What should I do if I am unable to complete the nomination form due to illness or pressure of other commitments?

Late or incomplete applications cannot be accepted under any circumstances. If you are unable to complete the form, you should consult with your Head of Department and arrange for a delegate to complete it on your behalf.

What is the role of the external assessors?

The external assessors are subject specialists based at other institutions who are asked to comment on the merits of the research proposal. They should not have any close personal or professional connection with the applicant.

Are Addison Wheeler Fellows based in the IAS?

No. The IAS does not have the space to accommodate Addison Wheeler Fellows. Addison Wheeler Fellows are based in their host Department. Applications that require resources that cannot be provided by the University will, in the interests of the applicant, be rejected.

How much supplementary funding is available for research activities associated with the fellowship?

AWFs receive a training allowance of up to £6500 p.a. to fund fieldwork and conference attendance, research consumables, publication costs, impact and outreach activities. 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 on a case-by-case basis by application to the IAS Manager.

First Point of Contact for enquiries:

Please contact IAS Manager, Linda Crowe: ias.manager@durham.ac.uk or ext. 44686.