

Guidelines for Faraday Institution Industrial Fellowship Grants

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Overview

The Faraday Institution (FI) offers UK researchers the opportunity to strengthen ties between industry and academic institutions through joint appointments of between three and twelve months in length, to work on mutually beneficial and collaborative energy storage research projects.

It is anticipated that the personal and corporate links established by the fellow between the two sectors in the UK will seed longer-term collaborations and contribute to their long-term future development.

Research Topics

Research topics must fall within the Faraday Institution's remit of electrochemical energy storage research, which includes but is not limited to chemistry, engineering, mathematics and physics.

Length of Tenure

Awards can be held full time for a minimum of three months, or up to a maximum of twelve months, or pro rata. For example, a position could be held for up to 24 months at 50% Full Time Equivalent (FTE). Positions should be a minimum of 50% FTE, unless there are extenuating circumstances where this is not possible, which should be detailed on the application. If the research collaboration is productive and all parties wish it to continue beyond the term, the FI will consider extending the length of tenure at the request of the awardee.

Place of Tenure

Faraday Institution Industrial Fellowships must involve transfer between a UK university or a not-for-profit research organization and a UK registered industrial company.

Industrial Fellowship Applications

The Faraday Institution allows for both single and joint applications as detailed below:

- 1. Single Applications** clearly express an unfilled need, submitted by an industrial firm or an academic researcher, but where a suitable partner has not been identified e.g. industry propose an academic project for a dedicated period of time, or an academic institution identifies an individual who would greatly benefit from time in industry.
- 2. Joint Applications** are to be submitted by a research group investigator and an industrial partner, also with a clearly defined project for a dedicated period.

Application Timeline

Single applications can be made at any point during the year and will be reviewed for suitability. Where the single application is deemed suitable the FI will work with the applicant to find an ideal partner. Joint applications are accepted before the 1st of April and the 1st of October each year and are expected to be awarded within 6 weeks of these dates.

Value and Support Provided

The fellow's, or where appropriate, their Post Doctoral Research Associate's (PDRA's), salary will be paid during the secondment inclusive of employers National Insurance and Superannuation. The fellow or PDRA will continue to be employed by the university, at no point will their employment transfer to the Faraday Institution.

Research expenses may be claimed up to the value of £1,000 per fellowship. Research expenses which can be claimed include consumables and travel between the Host Organisation and industrial partner. Ineligible expenses include publication costs, computer hardware, bench fees, conference or workshop registration fees, travel to conferences, accommodation, and subsistence.

Eligibility and Requirements

Eligibility of Applicants

Fellows can be of any nationality, though must have been resident in the UK for at least 3 years and have a right to remain in the UK, and should be at a stage in their career when they would particularly benefit from establishing or strengthening personal and corporate links between the two sectors.

Applicants must also hold:

- A PhD or be of equivalent standing in their profession.
- A permanent post in either a UK university or UK-based company.

The fellowship provides opportunities for an academic scientist to work on a collaborative project with industry, or industry to request an academic researcher to work with them on a collaborative project with a university department. This project does not need to be connected with an existing Faraday Institution project.

The applicant can, if justified, request their PDRA to work on the collaborative project at the industrial organisation. Applicants in this instance must ensure their nominated PDRA has sufficient tenure in their post to cover the duration of the fellowship. The applicant will be expected to lead the collaborative project and clearly outline both their own and the PDRA's contribution to the project as well as the mutual benefit to the PDRA and partner organisation. In addition, supporting statements from both the academic and industrial partner organisations should explicitly state that they agree to the PDRA working in the industrial organisation during the tenure of the Faraday Institution Industry Fellowship.

Applicants should not be a representative on the board of the Industrial Partner, whether the Industrial Partner is the Current Employer or the Partner Organisation.

Eligibility of Applicant and Partner Organisations

Fellows can conduct their secondment in an industrial research environment only. **The application must clearly state the mutual benefits** of the fellowship and the collaborative project to both organisations.

The organisation where the secondment will take place is expected to provide appropriate support and access to facilities for the proposed research to be carried out.

Academic institution: A UK university, or not-for-profit research organization.

Industrial organisation: A UK-based company.

We encourage applications involving small companies and/or early stage companies provided they have a well-established research team and facilities. Self-employed consultants are not eligible to apply as the industrial partner.

Applicants from industry must state clearly how the fellowship will benefit the university and researcher, especially in cases where the applicant has financial involvement within the company. Applicants should also state what complementary skills the employees at the company have to offer. Please note that the Faraday Institution reserves the right to carry out financial viability and due diligence checks on industrial partner organisations as required.

Assessment Criteria and Review Process

Assessment Criteria

The primary considerations will be the following:

- The track record of the applicant and their PDRA (if applicable), commensurate with their career stage considering any career breaks.
- The quality of the proposed science.
- The innovation and potential impact of the applicant's proposed research, and the mutual benefit to the academic/industrial organisations.
- The potential to lead to a longer-term collaboration.

Review Process

Applications will be considered by the Faraday Institution's assessment panel. It is expected that applicants will be notified of the outcome six weeks after review by the assessment panel. Limited feedback may subsequently be available on request. Please be assured that the Faraday Institution specifically requests anyone involved in reviewing applications to consider them in confidence.

Application Guidance

The application will consist of an application form, a research proposal which should be a maximum of two sides of A4 in Arial font size 10, the applicants CV (please include the PDRA's CV where required), and letters indicating proposal approval from both the academic and industrial heads of department (for single applications just your own head of department is required). For the research proposal:

1. Please provide enough scientific and technological detail to indicate the purpose of the fellowship and to convey feasibility of the project.
2. The proposal should be a self-contained case for support including the following:
 - a. Background.
 - b. Aim and objectives of the proposed work and why it is important.
 - c. The programme of work, including methods to be used and milestones / timescales.
 - d. Potential impact and outcome of the proposal.

If you intend to nominate your PDRA to carry out part of the full secondment as part of the collaborative project, please clearly specify your role/contribution and the PDRA's role on the proposed project, including time.

Before completing the application form, all applicants should check that they comply with the eligibility requirements and ensure all necessary information is presented in the application. These requirements are strictly adhered to and applications without all the necessary information, or evidence to show the assessment criteria are met, will be rejected.

All joint applications must be approved by both the academic institution and the industrial partner. The approval letters must be submitted with the application. For single applications you are only required to obtain approval from your own department head.

Finance

Industrial Fellowships are available to fund a researcher's salary, inclusive of employers National Insurance and any superannuation. A maximum of £1000 is also available for research expenses where justified. This will be paid quarterly in arrears on submission of an invoice to the Faraday Institution finance team. The Faraday Institution expects to award approximately six Fellowships up to March 2021 but this will be reviewed in light of demand.

End of Grant Reporting

It is expected that a report is generated at the end of the secondment, covering progress and outcomes against the initial project submission, and if the grant has produced any longer-term impact such as further areas of research or a desire for continuation of the initial project. Final payment of invoices for the grant may be withheld until this report is received, and in any case it should be sent within 3 months of the end of the secondment. The expectation is for two sides of A4 in Arial 10 as a minimum.