

Early Career

less than 4 months prior to the closing date. Hence, those who do not hold a UK degree and whose UK academic position commenced after October 2024 are not eligible. The Trust will consider candidates without a UK degree whose UK academic post commenced after October 2024 if they have been in continuous UK academic employment for more than 4 months prior to the deadline. The intention is to support the career development of those building an academic career within the UK.

- Candidates who have held or currently hold postdoctoral positions to pursue their own independent research totalling 3 or more years are not eligible to apply.
- The Research Awards Advisory Committee believes that the development of an academic career is best served by gaining experience at different institutions. Applicants who have not already moved institutions

The Fellow must be resident in the UK for the duration of the Fellowship.

If awarded a Fellowship, a request to transfer the place of tenure will normally only be considered where there is clear evidence of career development opportunities and such requests are very unlikely to be approved unless the Fellow has been in post for at least one year at the time of the transfer. Requests to transfer an award prior to take up of a post will not be considered.

Duration and timing

The awards are tenable for 36 months and are not renewable. The Fellowship must commence between 1 September 2025 and 1 May 2026. The Trust will support requests to hold the award part-time over a proportionately longer period for health related reasons, disability or childcare commitments. Those holding the Fellowship part-time may not undertake any other employment during the period of the award.

Research funds

In recognition of the prestige of these awards and to enable the Fellow to research, up to £6000 a year will be available for research expenses. It is not possible to claim more than £6000 in year one, but any funds not used or claimed can be carried over or claimed in later years (e.g. if you use £5000 in year one, up to £7000 will be available in year two).

The following are examples, rather than an exclusive list, of possible research expenditure: conference attendance, conference organisation (in the UK only), travel and subsistence for research trips in the UK or overseas, research assistance, laboratory consumables.

For UK and overseas subsistence (including accommodation) the Trust can contribute up to the HMRC maximum daily allowance for the fellow's destination. For visits over 21 days it is expected that the daily rate used will be lower than the maximum.

Capital items: essential items of equipment costing up to £1000 each are eligible; computer hardware items up to £2500 each are eligible (please note, the Trust expects the host department to provide standard computing equipment e.g. a desktop computer). You must justify each item, explaining its function and necessity for your research.

Essential book purchases up to £1000 per year are eligible.

Teaching

Teaching is not compulsory although it is understood that the Early Career Fellow may wish to gain some teaching experience during their award period. However, as the primary purpose of the scheme is to enable the award holder to undertake a significant piece of publishable research, as described in the application, teaching should average no more than three hours per teaching week in term time. The Trust expects that the subjects taught would relate to the main thrust of the Fellow's research interests and not simply to the department's needs. The host department should take into account the amount of preparation time alongside the number of teaching hours. A modest amount of examining associated with any teaching undertaken is permissible, but if the Fellow is asked to undertake any administrative tasks, these should relate directly to the teaching and/or research (s)he does. The total time spent on teaching duties (i.e. preparation, teaching, examining, marking and administration) should not exceed one day per teaching week.

Practising artists

Practising artists should provide online access to up to 12 images, or a short excerpt of their film