Industrial Fellowships

Awarded to graduates with the potential to make an outstanding contribution to industry, for research supported by a company, leading to a patent, product or process improvement and a postgraduate award.

Come and taste the freedom

Peter Higgs, 1851 Research Fellowship 1953-1955
Benefits

Industrial Fellowships encourage profitable innovation and creativity in British Industry – to the mutual benefit of the Fellow and his or her sponsoring company.

Funding
- 50% of the Fellow’s salary, including the employer’s share of national insurance and superannuation paid, up to a limit of £25,000 p.a.
- University fees paid up to normal levels for UK students.
- Travel allowance of £3,500 p.a.
- Honorarium of £10,000 paid to the University research department on completion to support the department’s research programme.

Gain new IP whilst minimising R&D costs
Applicants can pursue a PhD whilst working, allowing companies to conduct innovative research that furthers their business objectives, and accelerates the creation of IP.

Pursue a PhD whilst working
Fellows receive significant funding towards their fees and salary, enabling employers to offer exciting personal development opportunities for their brightest employees.

Collaborative relationships
Fellows and their sponsoring companies will work closely with the PhD institution, developing a mutually beneficial relationship, undertaking research that delivers tangible impact to industry.

The Royal Commission lays no claim on intellectual property rights or commercial-in-confidence material.
Eligibility

The applicant must have a good first degree in engineering, science or medicine, and normally be within five years of degree graduation.

Applicants must be employed by, or have an offer of employment from a company in the UK.

Applicants must demonstrate a link between their employing company and appropriate staff at a UK University. Applicants must have identified a research and/or development topic potentially leading to a patent, product or process in conjunction with a higher academic award, usually a PhD or EngD.

Applications

Applications are accepted via https://1851awards.flexigrant.com

Supporting documentation

- Description by the candidate of the proposed programme of work including milestones and deliverables
- Letters of endorsement for the project expressing support for the candidate from the intended
- Industrial Supervisor and Academic Supervisor
- Company profile and information

Full Terms and Conditions

Applications open

July ’23

Deadline for applications

7 Feb

26 Mar

Shortlisted candidate interviews

0ct ‘24

Fellowships commence

Apply Now
Testimonials

Industrial Fellow
I can say that without the support of the Commission this project would not have gone ahead. I am grateful that it did as this project has allowed me to develop a process and product from the initial concept through to lab scale testing, something I don’t believe I would have been able to do at this stage in my career without the support of the Commission. The support from the Commission I believe has been very valuable, especially to a small company. To be able to train a PhD in the company’s core subject matter is something that most SMEs would not be able to do without external support.
Andrew Anderson, Industrial Fellow 2017

Industry Partner
The Fellowship allowed a small start-up (3 people when the Fellowship first started) to give the Fellow the potential to develop a completely new product range from scratch and increase his knowledge and future capability. This would not have been possible without the support of the Fellowship during the period.
Dr Alex Reip, Oxford nanoSystems

University Partner
It provides a fantastic platform for bright young individuals to develop their independent careers. I have found the process of being a supervisor of an Industrial Fellow most fulfilling. As an academic engineer, and Whitworth Scholar, I think it is so essential that schemes such as this fellowship continue to facilitate the engagement of academia and industry and it is only through schemes such as this that creativity and innovation in British industry will continue to propagate.
Professor Karl Dearn, University of Birmingham
Rare opportunity

The Royal Commission’s Industrial Fellowship gave our small company, DZP Technologies, the rare opportunity to do extensive research in one area over several years. The Industrial Fellow was able to start with a broad research brief, investigating manufacturing techniques for a new class of materials, and explore new, tangentially related avenues in detail.

Flexibility

Through the flexibility provided by the Commission, the funding continued for one year after the EngD had finished, allowing us to continue to employ the Fellow while letting him conduct further open, low technology readiness level (TRL) research. It was during this year that the most promising experimental results emerged.

Commericably beneficial

In addition to process improvements related to our existing products, the R&D resulting from the Fellowship has opened up an entirely new product line. It is currently in commercial development for our customers.

High-calibre employees

The Industrial Fellowship is an invaluable tool for attracting and retaining high-calibre employees and pursuing early-stage research goals that would otherwise be out of reach.

International networks

We are fostering the strong relationship we have built with the university department, with funding from the Fellowship supporting visits and cooperative, mutually beneficial research. The Fellow’s presentations at conferences, also supported by the Royal Commission, has allowed us to extend our network internationally, with new research and commercial partnerships.

“The Industrial Fellowship expanded our product offering.”
Links with academia
The Industrial Fellowship programme provided lasting commercial benefit for our company, as well as strengthening the relationship between us and the academic partner, St. Andrews University, leading to broader collaboration between the two institutions.

Our company provided advice, support and training for researchers, while St. Andrews supported us with fabrication of samples, and the Industrial Fellow had a central role in strengthening this link. Additionally, our CEO was appointed as an Honorary Professor, formalising and extending the existing link.

Travel to international conferences
Our Industrial Fellow’s PhD project would not have been able to continue without the Royal Commission’s support. The Fellowship facilitated travel to international conferences and helped her collaborate with other scientists working in the field; experience that contributed to her research and she further developed with us.

Broad collaboration
The research also involved collaboration with external agencies including Police Scotland and the National Crime Agency, and the Royal Commission even purchased new equipment for us to help our Fellow explore new areas of commercial development as part of her research.

Further research impact
The research performed under the Industrial Fellowship with us has resulted in seven peer-reviewed publications, with five as first author. Work from the research project continues to be submitted for publication after the Fellowship.

Susanna Challinger, 1851 Industrial Fellow
“The industrial fellowship has had a very positive impact on my project and career. While my PhD studies were started ~9 months prior to the industrial fellowship start, I do not think that this project would have continued to thesis submission without the fellowship support.”

“The Fellowship strengthened our relationship with academia”
Industrial Fellows 2023

Industry Candidates

Sara Abreu
Autolus and University College London
Collagenase for biotechnological applications

Gillian Cameron
Inspire and Ulster University
The role of digital interventions in supporting workplace mental health and wellbeing

Peter Doggart
PulseAI Ltd and Ulster University
Artificial Intelligence Enhanced Electrocardiography in Emergency Departments

Ishbel Jamieson
Adaptix and University College London
The Quantification of Elastance in Digital Tomosynthesis Images of Lungs

Paul McHard
HAL Robotics Ltd and University of Glasgow
Autonomous Robotic Detection and Correction of Surface Defects in Manufacturing

Sarah Oatway
2PD Ltd and Teesside University
Investigation of a novel Sensory discrimination training device for the management of phantom limb pain

Samantha Ree
National Nuclear Laboratory and University of Manchester
Separation techniques for the recovery of radionuclides suitable for cancer therapy from extant nuclear materials

Matthew Southern
Sygnature Discovery Ltd and University of Oxford
Delivering novel 3D-rich building blocks for drug discovery

Kate Turley
Chroma Lighting and Ulster University
Environmentally affective circadian lighting and IoT solution for healthy ageing

CDT Candidates

Marina Economidou
GSK and University of Strathclyde
Investigations Into the Ligand- and Oxidation State-Dependent Extraction of Residual Palladium from Pharmacologically Relevant Molecules

Claudine Greenwood
GSK and University of Strathclyde
Identification of Covalent Tools for Essential Parasite Proteins Implicated in Tropical Diseases

Aleksy Kwiatkowski
MSD and University of Oxford
Closing the Loop: A Computational-Experimental Feedback Approach for Predicting Macrocycle Closure
Industrial Fellows 2023

Anna Miller
Syngenta and University of Oxford
Feed the world: harnessing Nature’s molecules for maximising future food productivity

Fabian Spoendlin
F. Hoffman-La Roche and University of Oxford
Advancing Computational Methods for the Functional Characterisation of Antibodies Using Structural and Flexibility Data

Rebecca Stevens
GSK and University of Strathclyde
High-Throughput Chemical Synthesis and Biological Testing of Proteolysis Targeting Chimeras

CASE Candidates

Mark Bell
Leonardo and University of St Andrews
Short Range Interferometric Synthetic Aperture Radar (InSAR) for Environmental Modelling
Come and Taste the Freedom
with an 1851 Royal Commission Fellowship

The 1851 Royal Commission also offers the following fellowships and awards:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fellowship Type</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Research Fellowships in Science and Engineering</strong></td>
<td>Intended to give early career scientists or engineers of exceptional promise the opportunity to conduct a research project of their own instigation. Opens in October</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Brunel Fellowship in Engineering</strong></td>
<td>Aimed specifically at researchers in the core subjects of Civil, Mechanical, Electrical and Aeronautical Engineering seeking to address the primary infrastructure needs of modern society. Opens in October</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Industrial Design Studentships</strong></td>
<td>For outstanding engineers or scientists to undertake Masters degrees in industrial design, for up to two years. Opens in October</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fellowship in Design</strong></td>
<td>For outstanding engineers or scientists to undertake Masters degrees in industrial design, for up to two years. Opens in October</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fellowship in the Built Environment</strong></td>
<td>Awarded in alternate years for mid career professionals to explore important current issues identified by the Commissioners.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>RAEng 1851 Enterprise Fellowships</strong></td>
<td>A package of tailored mentoring, training and grant-funding for graduates to pursue commercialisation of their technological ideas.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sir Misha Black Awards</strong></td>
<td>Given for distinguished services to design education.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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