**Canada UK Postdoctoral Fellowships**

**for Innovation and Entrepreneurship**

Applications are now open for a new Postdoctoral Fellowship focussed on developing and strengthening the skills required for Postdoctoral researchers to become successful Innovators and Entrepreneurs, by embedding them in internationally leading centres of excellence both in the UK and in Canada.

While applications are open to all Postdoctoral researchers, those who apply must demonstrate a strong interest in innovation and entrepreneurship and propose how these skills will serve their career goals and aspirations as it relates to their field of expertise

Candidates will be required to engage with the programme in Cambridge and in Canada. This will involve participation in events in Canada and in the UK and a willingness to understand innovation and entrepreneurship in Canada as it relates to their field of expertise.

The CanUK Postdoctoral Fellowship is committed to the promotion of diversity and inclusion and seeks to attract, develop, and advance the most talented individuals regardless of their race (including nationality), disability, sex, sexual orientation, religion or belief, age, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership or pregnancy and maternity.

**Application deadline: 9:00am on Monday, 25 June 2018**

**Please note: all prospective applicants MUST attend the information day on 14 June 2018, 9am-4pm. Applications will not be considered from those who have not attended this event.**

**Vision**

The Canada UK Postdoctoral (CanUK) Fellowships for Innovation and Entrepreneurship aim to promote and expand the careers of talented Postdoctoral researchers to enable them to become future world-leaders and entrepreneurs who will create new technologies and expand the impact graduates will have in creating new jobs and economic growth. The programme envisages setting up new exchanges between UK and Canadian academic and industrial centres of excellence particularly in science, technology and entrepreneurship.

As Postdoctoral researchers are in a unique position to shape the future, the programme promotes career and industrial readiness for outstanding postdoctoral researchers. It aims to create and cultivate a cadre of motivated and strategic early-career researchers with international experience, top-level skills and global contacts across academia and industry. Fellows will furthermore have a chance to pursue truly independent work on novel ideas. Fellows will obtain a strong network of international expert connections and will particularly be connected and understand innovation and entrepreneurship in Canada which will facilitate entrepreneurial endeavours in Canada and the UK.

The programme will be managed by the Office of Postdoctoral Affairs (OPdA) at the University of Cambridge and is part of the University’s on-going initiatives to support and develop its large and expanding postdoctoral community. The programme is funded by the [Canada-UK Foundation](https://www.canadaukfoundation.org/canadian-entrepreneurial-and-innovation-fellowship-2/), Founders and donors.

**Structure**

Fellows will have access to a diverse suite of development opportunities, as well as the chance to interface with entrepreneurs and innovators in the highly successful [Cambridge Cluster](https://www.cam.ac.uk/research/innovation-at-cambridge/the-cambridge-cluster) and its equivalents in Canada

The Fellowship is divided into two phases; Fellows admitted to the first phase will need to re-apply for participation in the second phase.

First Phase

During the first phase, Fellows will spend an average of eight hours per week on a set of flexible, outcome-driven trainings and experiences intended to develop leadership and teamwork skills. In parallel, Fellows will spend time in small groups, or ‘pods’, pursuing a [Global Challenge](http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals/) outside their area of expertise in collaboration with mentors and experts from industry, enterprise, policy, government and academia, leading to a tangible output.

A key feature of the overall provision is a mentoring scheme which will feature a ‘Davos-style’ retreat and an annual dinner with the High Commission of Canada in London.

This work will be completed alongside a Fellow’s existing research contract and will happen in clusters of one or two days; Fellows will agree within their pods when to meet and work on their challenge.

Awards are made via a small enhancement in salary and a salary buy-out equivalent to 4 hours per week from the Fellow’s research contract. However, it is expected that Fellows would dedicate a minimum of eight hours per week on average to the scheme over the course of one year, thus allowing the time and scope to pursue the programme’s objectives.

Second Phase

Towards the end of the first phase, Fellows will have the opportunity to bid for a period of independent time to pursue their own work fully funded through the Fellowship. The projects can be anything from a conventional academic research project, to starting a business, to political or civil society engagement.

Independent projects will normally be six months in length, but exceptional proposals will be evaluated on their merits. Projects should be novel and truly independent from the work of the Fellow’s PI.

To qualify, Fellows will submit a costed and timetabled bid with realisable goals to a diverse panel of senior leaders drawn from academia, industry and policy. At the end of the project, Fellows will be expected to demonstrate how they made use of the CanUK Fellowship support.

Canada Innovation and Entrepreneurship

Parallel to the above Phases, Fellows will attend CanUK Fellowship events in the UK where they will network with international and Canadian industry and government leaders. Through the CanUK Fellowship they will be brought to Canada to network, gain key connections in Canadian innovation and entrepreneurship.

It is envisaged that CanUK Fellows will be invited to participate in “Global CanUK Events" to interface with thought leaders from industry, government and academia.

**Preliminary Timetable**

14 June 2018 Mandatory information day and meeting with Canada-UK Foundation

25 June 2018 Application deadline

July 2018 Interviews of shortlisted candidates and award notifications

Sept 2018 Final proposal for Global Challenges projects

Aug 2018-June 2019 First Phase: Programme of training, events and experiences

May 2019 Deadline for independent project proposal

June 2019 Event/reports/presentations on Global Challenges projects

June 2019 Second Phase: Independent projects awarded and start (flexible)

Dec 2019 (or later) Event/reports/presentations on independent projects

**Eligibility**

* **All prospective applicants MUST attend the information day on 14 June 2018, 9am-4pm. Applications will not be considered from those who have not attended this event.**
* Applicants must have a current research contract at the University of Cambridge or a [University Partner Institution](https://www.graduate.study.cam.ac.uk/why-cambridge/university/structure-university/university-partner-institutions-upis) (UPI).
* Applicants must not hold, or have held, an academic position at Lecturer level (or the equivalent in non-academic institutions).
* Applicants must be willing to attend several events in the UK commensurate with the prestige of the CanUK Fellowship and, in addition, to travel to Canada for events and meetings in line with the CanUK Fellowship programme goals.
* It is expected that applicants will have a research contract that will outlast the duration of phase one of the programme (i.e. through December 2019).
* Applications are welcome from candidates seeking flexible working arrangements (e.g. part-time).
* Applications must be supported by your PI, line manager or Department (see below).

**Assessment criteria**

The Fellowships are designed to provide career enhancement to support outstanding researchers seeking to shape the future for the betterment of society. Therefore strong emphasis will be placed on the leadership potential of the candidates.

Applications will be assessed on the following criteria:

* Academic quality and research track record: 40%
* Evidence of independence and leadership skills: 30%
* Demonstrated impact and engagement outside research: 30%

**How to apply**

Please send the following documents to the attention of Dr Anke Friedrich, OPdA Fellowships and Programmes Administrator, via [fellowships.opda@admin.cam.ac.uk](mailto:fellowships.opda@admin.cam.ac.uk) no later than **9:00am on Monday, 25 June 2018.**

* Letter of interest stating motivation for application, academic suitability, independence & leadership skills, and impact & engagement outside research (1500 words max).
* Current CV (2 sides of A4 max, plus publications and presentations).
* Supporting letter from PI, line manager or department detailing:
* length of contract or other arrangements in place
* applicant’s suitability according to criteria above
* support for salary buy-out
* if relevant to the proposed independent project research, support for second phase (e.g. additional financial support, access to core facilities, etc).

**The** [University Careers Service](http://www.careers.cam.ac.uk/) **can help you with your CV and letter of interest.**

**Please note the Frequently Asked Questions. Any other questions can be directed to** [fellowships.opda@admin.cam.ac.uk](mailto:fellowships.opda@admin.cam.ac.uk)