



Royal  
Astronomical  
Society

**RAS RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS – Terms and Conditions  
APPLICATIONS FOR NORMAN LOCKYER FELLOWSHIP  
TENABLE FROM OCTOBER 2023**

**1. Purpose**

The RAS Research Fellowship is awarded to enable outstanding early career scientists to pursue research in the UK in the disciplines advanced by the Royal Astronomical Society (RAS), i.e. astronomy, solar-system science, geophysics and closely related branches of these sciences. The research topic must be acceptable to the selection panel set up by the Council of the RAS (the Trustees of the Society).

**2. Eligibility**

Applicants must either:

- have a recognized PhD degree (or equivalent) obtained after 1 October 2018 or
- have successfully taken the 'viva' examination by the application deadline (23:59 (BST), Saturday, 15 October 2022) and expect to be awarded a PhD degree by the Fellowship Start Date.

Selection will be based on capability, achievement and promise as well as the proposed research.

Applicants may be of any nationality however employment will be through the host institution (host institutions can include universities and other not for profit research active institutions). In this respect, the applicant is asked to indicate their residency status with respect to the UK in order that, if necessary, it can be confirmed that they will be able to work at the institution concerned. The fellowship will not be awarded to an applicant if they are unable, for any reason, to commence at the host institution within six months of the Fellowship Start Date.

Institutions may support multiple fellowship applications, but only ONE RAS Research Fellowship may be held in the same institution at any one time (see supporting notes for details of current Fellows). The Norman Lockyer fellowship is classified as an RAS fellowship for this purpose.

**3. Period of award and Starting Date**

The RAS Research Fellowship will be awarded for a period of three years, (or as modified by 5 and 6 below), beginning on the Fellowship Start Date (or within 6 months thereafter).

The three year term can only be extended by 5 and 6 below. Notwithstanding that the fellowship will terminate no later than 6 (six) years after the Fellowship Start Date, after which all payments by the RAS in respect of the fellowship will cease.

#### **4. Value of award and payment**

The RAS will fund Fellows on the UCU single pay spine from points 30 to 36 inclusive. If the host institution, as employer, wishes to pay at spine points above 36, that extra expenditure must be found from their own funds. The final salary level will be confirmed by consultation between the host institution and the RAS (“the “Nominal Salary”). A further £2,000 per annum may be claimed for costs incurred in attending meetings and conferences or for other items related to the research. In addition, the RAS will only accept claims for Employers National Insurance at normal rates and the employer pension contribution at the prevailing USS rate. If the host institution wishes to pay above this, the extra expenditure must be found from their own funds.

#### **5. Breaks of Service**

The Society will support breaks in service that the host institution as the employer is legally obligated to allow and will consider supporting breaks in service for other reasons in exceptional circumstances only. If approved the Society will provide the Fellow with the Agreed Salary until such a time as the Society has expended the equivalent of 3 years’ Nominal Salary, as per this original agreement.

#### **6. Flexible Working**

The Society will consider requests for flexible working arrangements; the request must be supported by a written agreement and confirmation that that this will not adversely impact on the delivery of the research undertaken as part of the Fellowship from the line manager and department head at the host institution.

If flexible working arrangements are approved the Society will provide the Fellow with the Agreed Salary until such a time as the Society has expended the equivalent of 3 years’ Nominal Salary, as per this original agreement.

#### **7. Application process**

Please ensure that the supporting notes are read in advance of making an application. The online application form must be filled in by the candidate, and then certified by the Department Head and countersigned by the Administrative Officer in the institution at which it is proposed to hold the Fellowship. This is to confirm the acceptance of the host institution that the RAS will fund only directly incurred costs, and not overheads (including bench fees or ‘Full Economic Costs’).

**Online applications should be completed online by 23:59 (BST), 15 October 2022. It is planned to make offers by mid-February 2023.**

Philip Diamond,  
RAS Executive Director  
September 2022

## Supporting notes and defined terms for RAS Research Fellowship

### Defined Terms

<b>Fellowship Start Date:</b>	1 October 2023
<b>Agreed Salary:</b>	The Nominal Salary adjusted to allow for flexible working and career breaks as allowed in Clauses 5 and 6
<b>Nominal Salary:</b>	The annual salary rate set in Clause 4.

### Notes

#### Residency status

Applicants may be of any nationality however employment will be through the host institution. In this respect, you are asked to indicate your residency status with respect to the UK in order that, if necessary, it can be confirmed that you will be able to work at the institution concerned. The fellowship will not be awarded to you if you are unable, for any reason, to commence at the host institution within six months of the Fellowship Start Date.

#### Administration

The Society intends to ask your department to administer your post, which will mean that the following deductions will be made at source:  
Income Tax Personal contribution to National Insurance Where appropriate, personal contribution to USS

#### Restrictions

For the duration of your Fellowship any teaching or demonstrating you undertake must be limited to a maximum of 6 hours a week. No other type of paid work may be undertaken without the consent of the Society. You must advise the Society of any absence from your institution other than for conferences, fieldwork or permitted holidays.

#### Holidays

Annual leave may be taken at the discretion of your Head of Department and in line with the normal practice of your institution, but should not exceed 30 days per year.

#### Absence

Payment for absence through illness or other causes will be subject to the Host Institution's conditions of employment. The Society will compensate the host institution

at the level equivalent to statutory payments; if the host institution, as employer, wishes to make payments above this level the extra expenditure must be found from their own funds. The Society accepts no liability for any illness, injury or accident which occurs during the period of your Fellowship. RAS Research Fellows are not employees of the Society and are not covered by the Society's employee liability policy.

### Reports

Fellows are expected to publish original research results, normally in the journals of the RAS. Any publications arising from the Fellowships should acknowledge the RAS. Continued funding in years two and three is contingent on submission of satisfactory interim reports (1500-2000 words in length) at the end of year one and year two of the Fellowship. These should provide a factual summary of the work carried out to date, including results, and should outline research planned for the remainder of the award. A short final report, including a list of any publications and manuscripts in press or under review, should be submitted no later than 3 months before the termination of the award. Fellows are encouraged to speak at RAS Ordinary meetings and write articles for the RAS publication A&G.

### Termination of Award

A Fellowship may be terminated where the progress or conduct of the Fellow is judged to be unsatisfactory by the Council of the RAS. If a Fellow discontinues their research or takes up other employment before the end of the award, the RAS must be informed immediately.

### Host Institutions

Host institutions can include universities and other not for profit research active institutions.

### Institution Moves

Fellows will not be allowed to move between organisations except under exceptional circumstances

### Extension

There will be no extensions to the Fellowships, other than as allowed by Clauses 5 and 6.

### Current and Past Norman Lockyer Fellows

Fellows are encouraged to establish and maintain contact with each other and the RAS.

Name	Institution	Research	Dates
Dr Cyrielle Opitom	University of Edinburgh	Cometary Ices and the Role of Coma Evolution: Understanding	November 2020 - December 2021

Dr Vinesh Maguire Rajpaul	University of Cambridge	Transforming the search for Earth- like planets with advanced modelling tools	October 2017 - September 2020
Dr Rowan Smith	University of Manchester	Uniting theory and observations of star-formation	September 2014 - September 2017
Dr Adam Christopherson	University of Nottingham	Constraining the Universe using Non-Linear Cosmological Perturbation Theory	October 2011 - September 2014
Dr Mark Swinbank	Durham University	Spatially Resolved Studies of Young Galaxies	October 2008 – September 2011
Dr Roberto Trotta	University of Oxford	Precision cosmology and astrophysics with CMB and other data sets	April 2005 – March 2008
Dr Jane Greaves	Royal Observatory	Searching for the signatures of extrasolar planets	October 2001 – September 2004
Dr Clare Parnell	University of St Andrews	How does the Solar Magnetic Carpet Heat the Corona?	October 1998 – September 2001
Dr Alastair Rucklidge	DAMTP, University of Cambridge	Convection in Sunspots	October 1995 – September 1998
Dr Iossif Lapidus (deceased)	IoA, University of	n/a	December 1992 - December 1995

### **Current and Past RAS Research Fellows**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Institution</b>	<b>Research</b>	<b>Dates</b>
Dr Rebecca Smethurst	University of Oxford	Co-evolution cracked: the contribution of non-merger processes to supermassive black hole growth	October 2022 -
Dr Thomas Collett	University of Portsmouth	Fundamental Physics with gravitational lensing	March 2020 - March 2021
Dr Amy Gilligan	University of Aberdeen	When subduction stops: understanding tectonic process in post- subduction settings	October 2018 - Sept 2021
Dr Matt Nicholl	University of Edinburgh/ University of Birmingham	Superluminous supernovae: a comprehensive observational & theoretical study of nature's brightest fireworks	October 2018 - Sept 2021

Dr Elisa Chisari	University of Oxford	Accurate Astrophysics for the Next Era of Cosmology	October 2017 - Sept 2020
Dr Joanna Eberhardt (nee Barstow)	UCL	Nature vs Nurture: the effect of stellar irradiation on atmospheric evolution	October 2016 - Sept 2019
Dr Peter Wyper	Durham University	Explaining the Onset of Explosive Magnetic Reconnection in the in the Solar Corona & its Links to the Generation of Solar Energetic Particles	October 2016 - Sept 2019
Dr Emma Chapman	Imperial College London	Detecting and constraining the Epoch of Reionisation using foreground removal and state-of-the-art simulations	October 2015 -December 2018
Dr Ben Rozitis	Open University	Probing solar system processes using extreme asteroids	March 2016 - February 2019
Dr David J E Marsh	Kings College London	Precision cosmology of axions and moduli	October 2015 - December 2017
Dr Richard Parker	Liverpool John Moores University	The Origin of the Galactic Field	March 2014 - March 2017
Dr John Armitage	Royal Holloway, University of London	Deciphering the sedimentary record: tectonic vs climate change	September 2013 - August 2016
Dr Sarah Badman	University of Leicester / Lancaster University	The Goldilocks hypothesis of planetary magnetospheres: discovering a balance between internally- and externally-driven dynamics at Jupiter, Mercury and Saturn	March 2013 - February 2016
Dr Nick Wright	University of Hertfordshire	The Dynamics of Young Star Clusters	October 2012 - Sept 15
Dr Baojiu Li	University of Durham	Cosmology, Dark Energy Theories (Theoretical, Phenomenological, Numerical & Statistical Studies)	February 2012 - January 2015
Dr Aline de Almeida Vidotto	University of St Andrews	Interaction between Exoplanets and the Winds of their Host Stars (Numerical Modelling & Magnetic Shield)	October 2011 - September 2014
Dr Caitriona Jackman	University College London / University of Southampton	Energy Release from Magnetospheres	January 2013 - December 2013
Dr Benjamin Davies	University of Cambridge / Liverpool John Moores	Mapping the Star- Forming History of Galaxies	November 2010 - October 2013
Dr Thomas Kitching	University of Edinburgh	High Precision Dark Universe Cosmology with 3D Gravitational Lensing	January 2011 -September 2011

