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# Job Description – EPSRC Doctoral Prize Fellowship

*Full Time, but open to part-time options also – Fixed term contract for 1 year*

*Walton Hall, Milton Keynes*

## **The Fellowship Scheme**

The ESPRC Doctoral Prize Fellowship is a prestigious scheme aimed at the best recent PhD students whose PhD studies were funded in part or entirely by the EPSRC. It allows students to launch their research career by providing salary funding for 12 months beyond the point of PhD submission.

## **The Role**

The Doctoral Prize fellowship is an opportunity for the candidate to start their career as an independent researcher, hence applications from outside the Open University are encouraged.

Doctoral Prize fellows are invited to submit their own research proposal within the remit of the EPSRC, and more specifically in one the following areas: Physics, General Engineering, Mathematical Sciences and IT, Systems Sciences and Software Engineering.

The proposal will need to include an element of new research, though this can build on their PhD research. Apart from a description of the proposed research, the proposal should include a statement of planned outputs and impact activities.

The University will provide Fellows with an excellent research and training environment, including a development programme for early career researchers.

Fellows will have a mentor who they need to identify prior to making an application to the Fellowship scheme.

**Key Responsibilities**

**General Responsibilities:**

Functioning independently, but with the support of their mentor, the Doctoral Prize Researcher (DPR) will:

* carry out the research and other activities set out in their research proposal.

**Specific Role Responsibilities:**

* engage with professional development opportunities when needed or desired.

**Person Specification**

Essential

* must have recently received support for their doctoral studies from EPSRC in the form of fees and/or stipend (i.e., at time of the deadline for applications for this position, support from EPSRC should have been received no longer than one year ago). They must quote the grant reference number in their application to confirm eligibility.
* must have submitted their PhD thesis when submitting their application. Note that any offers are conditional on successful completion of the PhD or an examiners’ recommendation of at least a pass with minor corrections.
* propose a project within the remit of the EPSRC, specifically in at least one of the following areas: Physics, General Engineering, Mathematical Sciences and IT, Systems Sciences and Software Engineering.
* identify a suitable Open University project mentor who should not be applicant’s PhD supervisor. Applicants can contact stem-research-student-support@open.ac.uk for advice on identifying a mentor or, if they already have an Open University staff contact, approach them directly.
* submit a research proposal of high quality that includes an element of new research, though this can build on the applicant’s PhD research. Apart from a description of the proposed research, the proposal should include a statement of planned outputs and impact activities.

## Desirable

* experience of planning and engaging with research impact activities.
* evidence of ambition and potential to become a leader in their field of study.

**About the Unit**

**STEM**

**Faculty of Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics**

The Faculty of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) is comprised:

* School of Computing & Communications
* School of Environment, Earth & Ecosystem Sciences
* School of Engineering & Innovation
* School of Life, Health & Chemical Sciences
* School of Mathematics & Statistics
* School of Physical Sciences
* Knowledge Media Institute
* Deanery including teams supporting Curriculum, Research and Enterprise, Laboratory Infrastructure and Faculty Administration

**“We aspire to be world leaders in inclusive, innovative and high impact STEM teaching and research, equipping learners, employers and society with the capabilities to meet tomorrow’s challenges”**

The Faculty of STEM consists of 2500 staff including 1,800 Associate Lecturers. The Faculty delivers over 185 modules across undergraduate and postgraduate curriculum, supporting nearly 19,000 students (full time equivalents) which is 29% of the OU total.

The Faculty generates more research income (circa £17M) than any other Faculty in the University, supported by a comprehensive laboratory infrastructure.

We are proud of our distinctive values and capabilities underpinning our aspiration:

*We are inclusive:*

* We transform people’s lives, ensuring STEM education is openly accessible to many thousands of students from diverse backgrounds – our students express high satisfaction with their study experience.
* We engage the public in exciting citizen science and engineering, including through free open educational resources, multi-platform broadcasting, outreach to inspire the next generation and with programmes to encourage more women into STEM.

*We are highly innovative:*

* We are at the forefront of innovative developments in teaching practical science and engineering at a distance, through simulated and remote access laboratories and practical experimentation.
* Our high quality teaching and curriculum are informed by world-leading research, strong links with professional bodies and communities of practitioners, as well as by scholarship focused on continuously improving our STEM pedagogy.

*We deliver significant social and economic impact:*

* We provide STEM higher education at a scale and reach unsurpassed in the UK, with a sizeable international reach and further growth potential.
* We inject transferable STEM skills and knowledge direct into the workplace for immediate employee and employer benefit, as students combine study while working.
* The employability value of our courses is underpinned by accreditation from leading STEM Professional Bodies and Learned Societies, as well as partnerships and sponsorship with leading employers.
* Our high quality, applied and academically relevant teaching and research addresses real-world issues, delivering impact for industry and society, including addressing pressing STEM skill-shortages across the UK.