

# British Academy

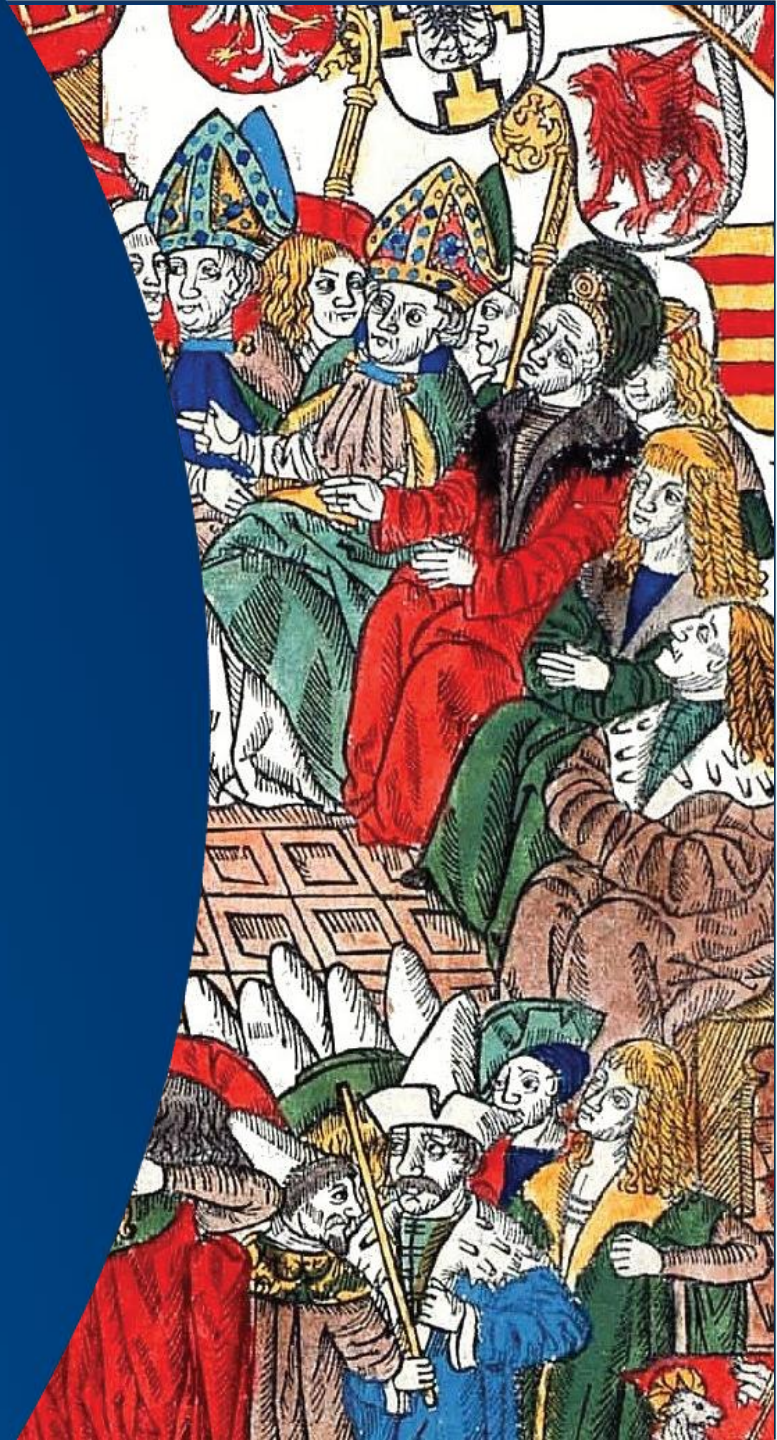
Academic Careers Observatory  
Early Career Research Funding

Dr Ken Emond (Head of Research  
Awards)

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BRITISH ACADEMY



# Our Subject Areas

- The Humanities
- The Social Sciences

## **We work closely with other societies and Research Councils**

The Royal Society

The Royal Academy of Engineering

The Academy of Medical Sciences

The Royal Society of Edinburgh

ESRC – social sciences

AHRC – arts and humanities

# Focus of Research Funding

- Postdoctoral Research
- Support at particular key career path moments
- Largely response-mode funding scheme
- Individuals
- International engagement
- Communication of scholarly findings

# Research Awards Schemes

**Main programmes include:**

Postdoctoral Fellowships (PDF)

Newton International Fellowships (NIF)

Visiting Fellowships (VF)

BA Rising Star Engagement Awards (BARSEA)

BA/Leverhulme Small Research Grants (SG)

# Postdoctoral Fellowships

Three year Fellowship for early career researchers offering major career development opportunity

Currently offering up to 45 awards each year



# Postdoctoral Fellowships

## Key Characteristics

- Career development opportunity for very early career researchers
- Focus on independent research
- Experience of teaching, but limited requirement
- Builds on doctoral research, but goes beyond to second project

## Eligibility

- Any EEA National
- Anyone of any nationality with UK doctorate
- Doctorate awarded between April 2016 and April 2019 (early career status)
- Agreed support from UK university as host

# Postdoctoral Fellowships

## Process

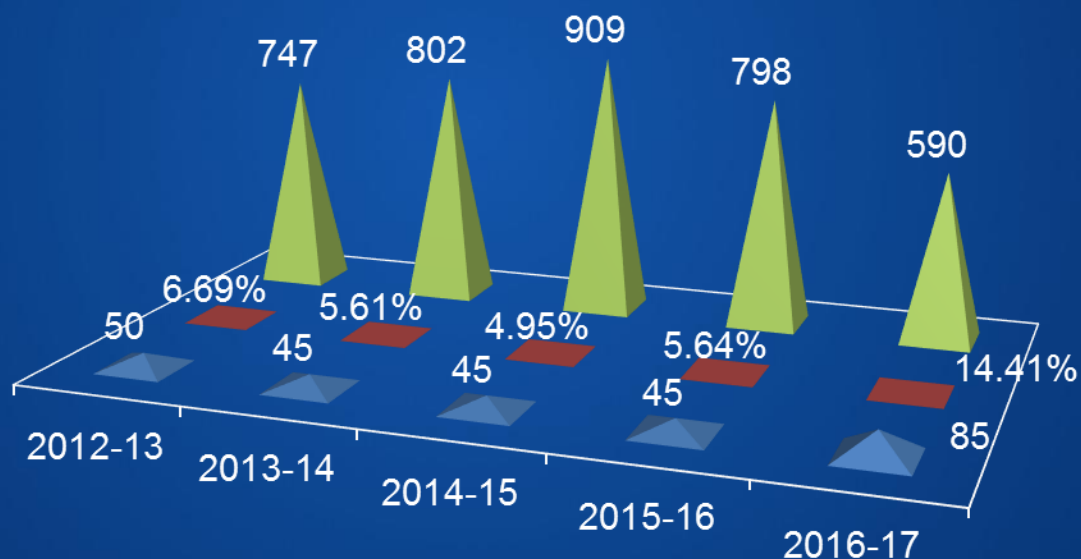
- Annual competition offered through two-stage selection process
- Outline stage deadline in autumn (next deadline expected Oct 2018)
- Shortlist announced before February
- Final Awards announced in May
- Awards to be taken up between September 2019 and January 2020
- High Priority Scheme

# Postdoctoral Fellowships

Success Rates over past 5 years

## Postdoctoral Fellowships

■ Number of awards ■ Success Rate ■ Number of applicants



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# Newton International Fellowships

## Key characteristics:

- Scheme offered jointly with Royal Society via the RS online application system
- Supports early career international researchers
- Two year individual career development Fellowship
- To be based at UK host institution, with mentor
- Funding includes contribution to living expenses and research expenses
- Call issued annually, open now for **deadline on 27 March 2018**
- See [www.newtonfellowships.org](http://www.newtonfellowships.org)

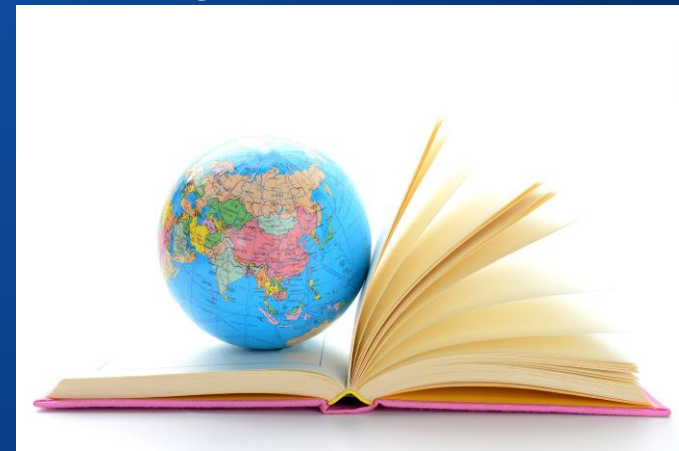
# Newton International Fellowships

## Eligibility:

- No more than 7 years of active full-time postdoctoral experience at time of application
- Open to those in final stages of doctorate (provided viva before start of Fellowship)
- Open to candidates from outside the UK and not UK citizen at time of application
- Individuals already living, working or researching in the UK not eligible

# Visiting Fellowships

- Opportunity for outstanding academics based in any country overseas
- Any career stage and in any discipline within the humanities and the social sciences
- Visiting Fellows will be based at a UK higher education or other research institution for up to six months
- Visiting Fellows will work with colleagues at host UK institutions in order to develop new research collaborations and/or deepen existing partnerships with UK and other academics across the globe.

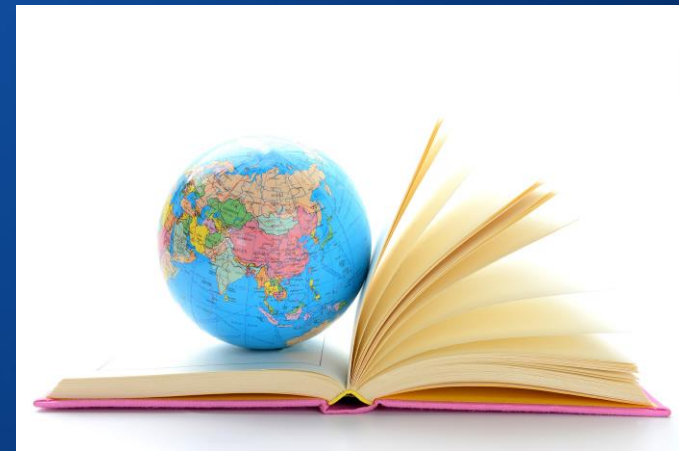


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# Visiting Fellowships

- Awards up to £33,000, including a contribution to the UK host institution to host the Visiting Fellow
- Call open now for deadline on 31 January 2018
- Decisions expected March 2018 for awards to start from Spring/Summer 2018



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# Sustainable Development Programme

- The British Academy's Sustainable Development Programme funds excellent, policy-oriented UK research, aimed at addressing the UN's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and advancing the UK's Aid Strategy
- New call coming soon: awards of around 2 and a half years likely to be up to £250,000 per award

**Keep an eye on the website for more details coming soon (and full details of all of our funding opportunities):**

**[www.britac.ac.uk/funding-opportunities](http://www.britac.ac.uk/funding-opportunities)**



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# British Academy Rising Star Engagement Awards

Grant of up to £15k for 12 months not for research but to enable networking and activity to take place benefitting early career researchers in particular

100 awards made to date

Currently offering 35 awards

# British Academy Rising Star Engagement Awards

## Key characteristics:

- UK-based early career academic within 10 years of award of doctorate
- Applicant must have mark of esteem already – e.g. award of research fellowship or similar distinction
- Applicant must have FBA champion for proposed engagement
- Funding is for networking activity
- Award to the individual, but intended to cascade benefits to wide range of other early career academics and others, so opportunity for other ECRs to become involved

# BA/Leverhulme Small Research Grants

Grant of up to £10k for up to 24 months offering very flexible opportunity for individual or collaborative research

UK-based PI, but research can be international in scope and Co-Is can be UK- or overseas-based

Currently offering c.300-400 awards each year

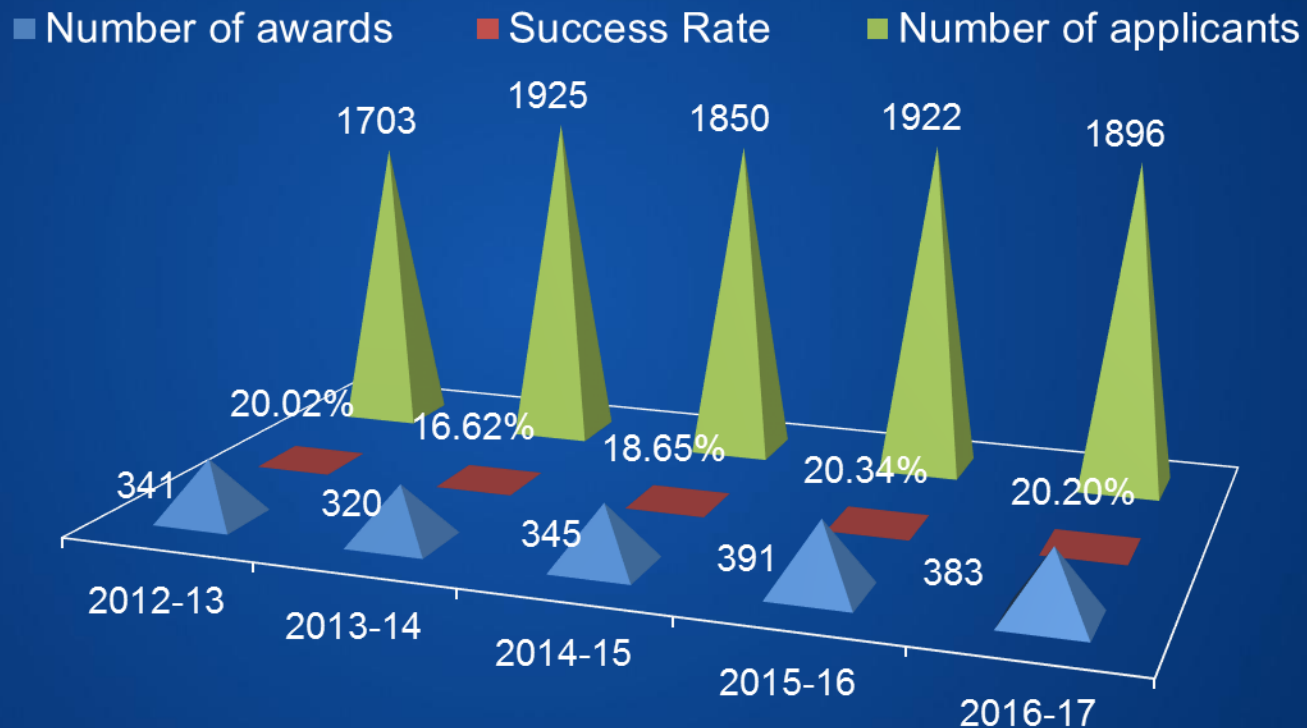
# BA/Leverhulme Small Research Grants

## Key characteristics:

- Very flexible awards offered in response-mode
- Open to researchers at any career stage from immediately postdoctoral to senior professors, and including independent and retired scholars
- Funding for wide range of purposes including travel, fieldwork, research assistance, workshops, but NOT computer kit or time of PI/Co-Is
- Commonly used for pilot studies and/or first grant opportunities
- High priority and wide outreach – award-holders based in around 100 different HEIs in 2016-17
- Two rounds of competition, autumn and spring – next deadline in May 2018

# BA/Leverhulme Small Research Grants

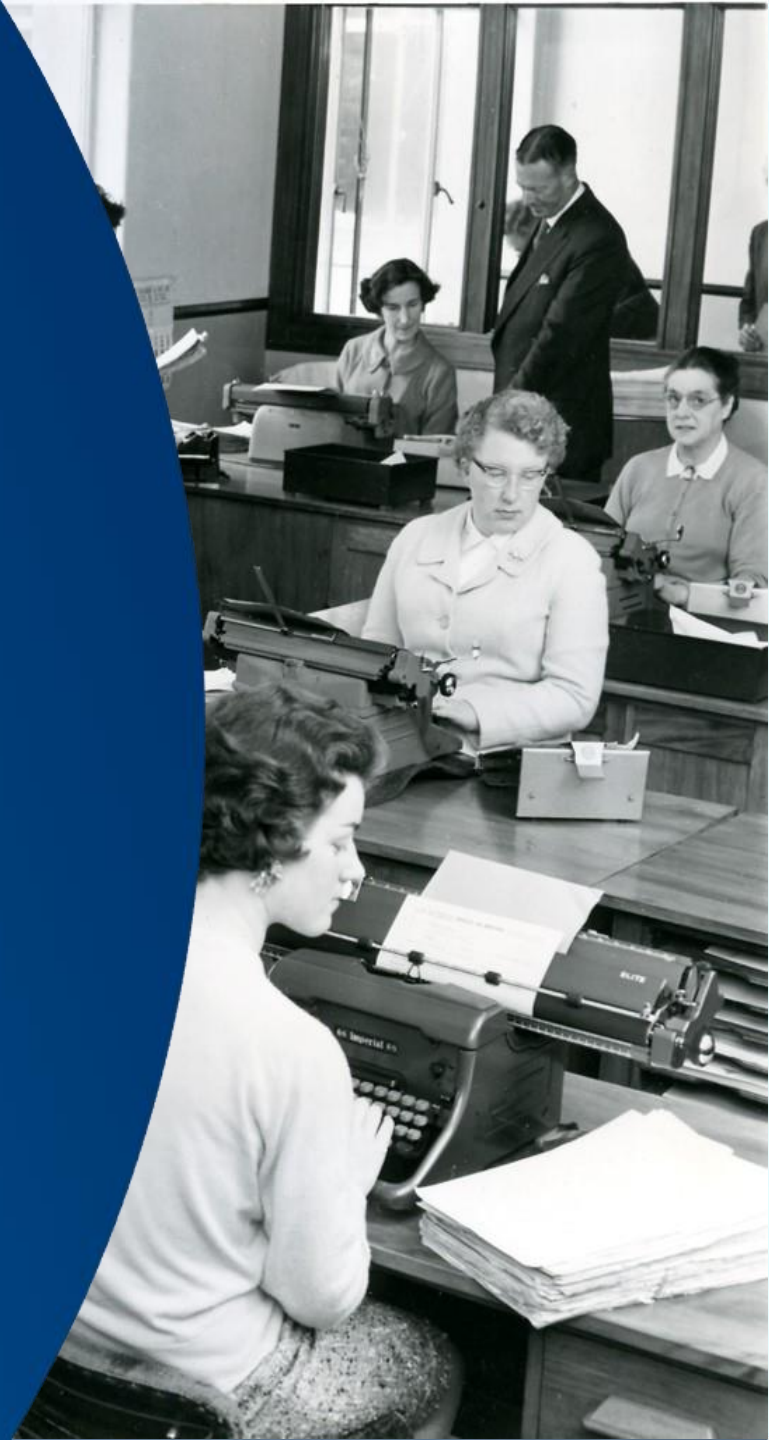
## Success Rates over past 5 years



# Evaluation Criteria

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# Evaluation Criteria

For all awards, the Academy above all looks for excellence of research; originality; relationship to work already done in the field; track record of applicant (appropriate to the aim of the scheme); feasibility of timescale and methodology; specificity and appropriateness of intended outcomes.

# Peer Review

Assessment procedures are proportionate to scale of funding requested.

Two-stage process for PDFs – significant career-defining opportunity

Simpler process for SRGs – more awards for significantly smaller value

Subject specialists within the Academy

Code of Practice for all assessors

# Public Engagement

Applications to the BA do not require an impact statement, but we do want to know about

- Media engagement and interest
- Social media
- Blogs
- Websites
- Conferences and Public Talks
- Partnerships
- Book launches

# Contacts



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# Mailing List and Information

To have news about the Academy, such as forthcoming grant deadline dates, policy statements and events, delivered straight to your inbox, please subscribe to our mailing list. Register from link on website, [www.britishacademy.ac.uk](http://www.britishacademy.ac.uk)

Follow the Academy on Twitter and Facebook

Twitter: @britac\_news

@newtonfund

Facebook: [facebook.com/The BritishAcademy](https://facebook.com/TheBritishAcademy)

# Websites

[www.britishacademy.ac.uk](http://www.britishacademy.ac.uk)

<https://britishacademy.flexigrant.com>

[www.newtonfellowships.org](http://www.newtonfellowships.org)