News from Head of School

Newsletter
During August and early September the newsletter will be produced when there is something to say and there is someone around to say it. There will be some newsworthy items: the results of the National Student Survey will be published, the position on home undergraduate admissions will become clear, and we will hopefully finalise at least some appointments (we currently have offers out to three people for academic posts). If you are having a vacation at some point over the summer, I hope that you have an enjoyable and relaxing time.

Events

Japanese schoolchildren visit

Again this year we have a group of Japanese schoolchildren (age: 16-17) on a study visit to the University (from the school in Kanazawa, Ishikawa-ken at which my wife used to teach).

They will be giving two 15-minute talks, one on Japanese culture, the other on a scientific topic, on Weds 3 August at 2pm in the Atlas rooms.

You are all cordially invited to attend. Those who have attended in previous years will know that it's a lot of fun.

Toby Howard

Research Awards and Prize Opportunities

Royal Society University Research Fellowships

The University Research Fellowships scheme aims to provide outstanding scientists, who should have the potential to become leaders in their chosen field, with the opportunity to build an independent research career. Those appointed are expected to be strong candidates for permanent posts in universities at the end of their fellowships. This scheme is very competitive with an average success rate of 7.6%.

Subjects covered: All areas of the life and physical sciences, including engineering, but excluding clinical medicine.

Eligibility: Applicants must have a PhD or equivalent research experience by the time they apply, we will not accept applicants who have just submitted their PhD. Applicants are expected to be at an early to mid-stage of their career (between three to eight years of research experience since their PhD) at the time of application.

Applicants must either:

• be a citizen of the European Economic Area (EEA), i.e. European Union, Iceland, Norway or Liechtenstein; or a Swiss citizen.

• or have a relevant connection to the EEA or Switzerland (a relevant connection
can be established if an individual has a PhD from a university in the EEA or Switzerland, or has worked as a research scientist in a university or research institute in the EEA or Switzerland for at least the past two years, or has done so before taking up an appointment outside the EEA or Switzerland. Persons holding a permanent post in an EEA or Swiss university will not be considered (includes UK).

Length of tenure: Initially funding is provided for five years followed by an extension of three years. In exceptional circumstances the Society can consider a further extension taking the fellowship to a maximum of 10 years. Available from 1 October 2012.

Place of tenure: Fellowships must be held in a UK university or not-for-profit research organisation (except for Research Council Institutes).

Value: Provides funding to cover the research fellow's salary costs, estates costs and indirect costs. Under the full economic costing model, 80 per cent of these costs will be met by the Royal Society. Research expenses (up to £13,000 for the first year and up to £11,000 annually thereafter) will also be provided. The Research Fellowship provides researchers with maximum flexibility and can be held part-time, and allows sabbaticals, secondments or international experience.

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Opening date: Open now

Closing date for approved applications: 15 September 2011

Royal Society International Exchanges Scheme Various

Aim: This scheme is for scientists in the UK who want to undertake a collaboration with scientists overseas through either a one-off visit or bilateral travel.

Eligibility requirement: The scheme covers all areas of the life and physical sciences, including engineering, but excluding clinical medicine.

Both the UK applicant and overseas applicant must:
■ have a PhD, or be likely to have a PhD by the time the funding starts.

■ hold a fixed or permanent contract at an eligible organisation for the duration of the project (ineligible organisations include industrial, private and commercial organisations, university spin-out companies, government bodies and research institutes and research councils).

■ be based in the respective countries at the time of the application.

■ Collaborations should be based on a single project and travel can only take place between the UK and a country where the overseas collaborator is based. In the case of cost share applications (see below), a relationship between both parties should already be established prior to making an application. The International Exchanges Scheme is available for travel to all countries outside of the UK.

Applicants should ensure that they meet all the eligibility requirements, which are explained in the scheme notes (available on the website). Value and tenure. The funding available is dependent upon the length of the visit. Applicants may request:
- up to £3,000 for one-off travel lasting up to 3 months

- up to £6,000 for multiple visits to be completed within 1 year (including a maximum of £1,000 for research expenses)

- up to £12,000 for multiple visits to be completed within 2 years and cost share projects fixed at 2 years (including a maximum of £2,000 for research expenses)

**Cost-share programme:**

Depending on which country your collaboration is with proposals can be considered as a cost share application. This entails the UK applicant submitting a proposal to the Royal Society for up to £12,000 AND the overseas applicant simultaneously submitting a proposal for an additional amount up to/equivalent to £12,000 to a partner organisation, with whom the Royal Society has a funding agreement. For details of countries covered, application and eligibility requirements please read the cost share programme scheme notes (available on the website).

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**Next round (2011/R2 and China cost share round) opening date:** 29 July 2011

**China cost-share round closing date for approved applications:** 10 October 2011

**2011/R2 round closing date for approved applications:** 17 October 2011

**European Union Women Innovators prize 20 Sept 11**

The EU Prize for Women Innovators will be awarded to three women entrepreneurs, who were at some point during their careers beneficiaries of funding for projects under the RTD Framework Programme (FP) or the Competitive and Innovation Framework Programme (CIP). It is time to have your accomplishments recognised and maybe win one of the first EU Prizes for Women Innovators!

In total, three prizes will be awarded:

1st prize: €100,000

2nd prize: €50,000

3rd prize: €25,000

The application process is designed to be as simple as possible. Should you need further clarification, please call the help line directly on: 0032 483 506 825 or email us.

**The deadline for submission of applications is 20 September 2011 at 17.00 (Brussels local time).** Full details can be found [here](#).