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News from Head of School

Academic Staffing Levels

The school has been participating in a five year financial forecasting activity, which involves taking a view on various things, among which is planned staffing levels. Following on from discussions at a Professors meeting, we submitted a plan for the next 5 years in which there is one academic appointment each year (two of which have already been committed in association with external funding), even though a total of 10 academic staff retire during this period (mostly towards the end). Thus, in essence, the thought is that the school should seek to reduce in size in a managed way, at least in part because of the difficulty we have recruiting enough students to sustain current staffing levels. Such planning activities are not absolute commitments, but the school does at least need to have expectations in this area. I would be happy for this to be discussed further, for example at a School Board, if there interest in doing so.

Funding Opportunities

Royal Society Industry Fellowships Scheme Call for Applications

These appointments are funded by the Royal Society, the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council, the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council, the Natural Environment Research Council, Rolls-Royce plc and Astra Zeneca.

The scheme aims to enhance knowledge transfer in science and technology between those in industry and those in academia. It provides opportunities for an academic scientist to work on a collaborative project with industry, or someone employed in industry to work on a collaborative project with a university department or a not-for-profit research organisation. It is anticipated that fellows will establish personal and corporate links between the two sectors in the UK as a foundation for their long-term future development.

Applicants can be of any nationality and should be at a stage in their career when they would particularly benefit from establishing or strengthening personal and corporate links between the two sectors as a foundation for long-term future collaboration and development. They should hold a PhD or be of equivalent standing in their profession and hold a **permanent post** in either a UK university, a UK not-for-profit research organisation (e.g. the Marine Biological Association) or UK industry.

Deadline for applications: Wednesday 14 October 2009

[Further information](#)

Research Awards

Cost-efficient methods and processes for safety relevant embedded systems

Funding Body: EC

PI: Kung-Kiu Lau

Award Amount: €956189

Infrastructure for the European Network for Earth System Modelling

Funding Body: EC

PI: Graham Riley

Award Amount: €395300

Siemens 2

Funding Body: Siemens

PI: Alan Rector

Award Amount: \$2400000