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News from Head of School

SAP Engagement

You may recall that we hosted Ben Green from the SAP Research Laboratory in Belfast almost a year ago, since when there has been little visible evidence of follow-up. In fact, there has been an ongoing process of trying to establish the contractual details that will allow collaborations whereby SAP employees work on PhDs with a supervisor from Manchester. Although the contractual details are not fully in place, the first such collaboration has started (in text mining), and we are hopeful that further opportunities will arise in due course.

University Teaching Awards 2011-12

Dear Colleagues

Teaching Excellence Awards:

I am pleased to announce that the Teaching Excellence Awards are now open for submission. You can find full details of this scheme on the Teaching and Learning Support Office website here:

<http://www.tlso.manchester.ac.uk/teaching-and-learning/excellence/20112012scheme/>

Faculty of Engineering and Physical Sciences:

Submissions should be sent to Rosemary Tomkinson (rosemary.tomkinson@manchester.ac.uk<<mailto:rosemary.tomkinson@manchester.ac.uk>>) by November 28th, 2011

The Faculty will then conduct a first sift before submitting the strongest cases to the institutional panel.

Faculty submissions after this date are by prior arrangement only. The awards will be decided early in the second semester and there will be an awards lunch.

National Teaching Fellowship Scheme:

The University is also looking for candidates to nominate for National Teaching Fellowship (a national scheme run by the Higher Education Academy). Full details of how potential candidate can express their interest can be found in the downloadable Teaching Awards Guidance document via the link above. Expressions of interest (detailed in the document) should be submitted to teaching.excellence@manchester.ac.uk<<mailto:teaching.excellence@manchester.ac.uk>> by 28th November, 2011 and a decision will be made before Christmas as to which 3 candidates will be the University's nominees.

Distinguished Achievement Medal (Teacher of the Year)

This scheme is administered by the President's Office and the invitation to nominate colleagues is normally sent out towards the end of this term.

If you have any questions about this information please feel to contact me.

Regards
Patricia Clift Martin

Questionnaire on Flexible Working

For the attention of academic and research staff who have primary responsibility for the care of children or dependent relatives

We have been asked to complete a brief online survey about Flexible Working in the School of Computer Science.

You may know that the University won an Athena SWAN Bronze Award in 2008. It can only be held for three years, so the time has come for the University to re-apply. Since then, Life Sciences has won a Silver Award and Chemistry a Bronze. Other schools are working on applications for SWAN awards. As individual schools can't apply for an award unless the university holds a Bronze award, it is very important that the University retains its Bronze. Also I am sure that holding a SWAN award plays an important part in recruiting and retaining excellent female academics.

As part of the University's initial application, two online surveys about Flexible Working were conducted among academic staff in the three SET Faculties. Survey A was for academic line managers (Deans, Heads of School, Group and Division) and Survey B was for academic and research staff with primary responsibility for the care of children or dependent relatives. The analysis of these surveys was commended in the feedback on the submission. These surveys are being repeated for the resubmission, so that any changes of awareness or practice can be highlighted.

Could I ask you, therefore, if you have primary responsibility for the care of children or dependent relatives, to complete Survey B, which should take no more than 7 minutes; the link is:

www.survey.ls.manchester.ac.uk/TakeSurvey.aspx?SurveyID=9IKH3n45

The closing date for completing the surveys is **2 November 2011**; after that the web site will be removed.

ACM Award Nominations

As part of its mission, ACM brings broad recognition to outstanding technical and professional achievements within the computing and information technology community. Each year our award committees evaluate the contributions of candidates for various awards that span a spectrum of professional and technological accomplishments. Nominations by ACM members of those who deserve recognition for their contributions to the field of computing are welcomed.

The deadline for the following ACM awards is **November 30, 2011**:

- A.M. Turing Award: <http://awards.acm.org/homepage.cfm?awd=140>
- ACM – Infosys Foundation Award: <http://awards.acm.org/homepage.cfm?awd=165>
- Distinguished Service Award: <http://awards.acm.org/distinguished%5Fservice/>
- Grace Murray Hopper Award: <http://awards.acm.org/hopper/>
- Paris Kanellakis Theory and Practice Award: <http://awards.acm.org/kanellakis/>
- Karl V. Karlstrom Outstanding Educator Award: <http://awards.acm.org/karlstrom/>
- Eugene L. Lawler Award for Humanitarian Contributions within Computer Science and Informatics: <http://awards.acm.org/lawler/>
- Outstanding Contribution to ACM Award: <http://awards.acm.org/outstanding%5Fcontribution/>
- ACM – AAAI Allen Newell Award: <http://awards.acm.org/newell/>
- Software System Award: <http://awards.acm.org/software%5Fsystem/>

For information on SIG Awards please see: <http://www.acm.org/sigs/sig-awards>

Here are the exceptions to the November 30th deadline.

- ACM Doctoral Dissertation Award - **October 31, 2011:** <http://awards.acm.org/html/dda.cfm> ACM--IEEE CS Eckert-Mauchly Award - **March 1, 2012:** <http://awards.acm.org/eckert%5Fmauchly/>
- ACM--IEEE CS Ken Kennedy Award – **July 1, 2012:** <http://awards.acm.org/homepage.cfm?awd=167>
- ACM Gordon Bell Prize – TBA <http://awards.acm.org/bell/>
- SIAM-ACM Award in Computational Science and Engineering - TBA (biennial - next award – 2013) <http://www.siam.org/prizes/sponsored/cse.php>
- ACM-W Athena Lecturer Award: http://women.acm.org/participate/awards/athena_announcement.cfm
-

(nominations by SIG Officers – deadline **Feb. 1, 2012**)

Please refer to the ACM Awards page, <http://www.acm.org/awards/>, for:

award descriptions, and lists containing the names of the previous ACM Award winners and their citations;

nomination procedures for the 2011 awards, including the membership of the 2011 Award Committees, and contact information for the chairs: http://awards.acm.org/html/award_nominations.cfm

Events

CDT seminar: The Fun & Science of Computer Reasoning **2 Nov 11**

Professor Andrei Voronkov, University of Manchester

17:30 Registration, 17:30 Lecture. Lecture Theatre 1.1, Kilburn Building.

This is a free event, but we ask that you [register here](#) to reserve your place.

Funding Opportunities

Royal Society Research Grants **25 Oct 11**

Aim: This scheme provides 'seed corn' funding for new projects initiated by research scientists at an early stage of their career (within the first 5 years). The objective of the scheme is to increase the availability of specialised equipment, consumable materials and services, and to support essential field research. The scheme also provides support for research in the history of science or to assist with publication of scholarly works in the history of science.

Subjects covered: All areas of the life and physical sciences, including engineering, but excluding clinical medicine. Additionally, the scheme provides support for research in the history of science and we welcome any research proposal or publication in the area of Royal Society history.

Eligibility: Applicants must be resident in the UK. They should have postdoctoral level or equivalent status at the time of the application and have a permanent or a named limited-tenure position in an eligible organisation. An applicant who is a post-doctorate paid by a grant for which someone else is the principal investigator is not eligible. Applicants must play a major part and take a leading role in the project and not make its fulfilment more than marginally dependent on the services of postgraduate/doctoral students. For further information regarding eligibility, please refer to the 2011R2 scheme notes, which will be available on the website when the round opens.

Length of tenure: The grant is for a period of 12 months

Place of tenure: UK University or not-for-profit research organisation (except for Research Council Institutes).

Value: For all subject categories, up to £15,000 (including VAT) is available for the purchase of specialised equipment, essential consumable materials and services. Up to £5,000 (including VAT) is available for the publication of scholarly works in the history of science. For further information regarding admissible costs, please refer to the 2011/R1 scheme notes, which will be available on the website when the round opens.

[More Information](#)

Opening date: 30 August 2011

Closing date for approved applications: 25 October 2011

Royal Society Opportunities

Various

Senior career schemes:

Royal Society Wolfson Research Merit Awards

Jointly funded by the Wolfson Foundation and BIS, this scheme aims to provide universities with additional support to enable them to attract to this country, or retain, respected scientists of outstanding achievement and potential. Awards are made to the university and as such researchers must remain at the university named on the application.

The focus of the award is a salary enhancement. Research expenses are also considered for research costs not suitable for Research Councils' research grants applications and for overseas applicants to support integration into the UK research and funding environment.

Eligibility: Applicants can be of any nationality and must hold, or be guaranteed, a permanent post at a UK university. All applicants must have their basic salary wholly funded by the university.

Length of tenure: Five years funding after which the award holder continues with the permanent post at the host university.

Place of tenure: UK university. Please note that these awards are made to the host university and cannot be transferred to another university.

Value: Salary enhancements have been made usually in the range of £10K to £30K per annum.

Website link: royalsociety.org/Wolfson-Research-Merit-Awards/

Closing date for approved applications: 08 November 2011

Leverhulme Trust Senior Research Fellowships

The Royal Society Leverhulme Trust Senior Research Fellowships were established through the generosity of the Leverhulme Trust and seek to provide opportunities for academic researchers to be relieved of all their teaching and administrative duties to allow them to concentrate on full-time research for up to one year.

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

Eligibility: Applicants must hold a permanent post at a UK institution and be at a suitable stage in their career when they would particularly benefit from a period of full-time research.

Length of Tenure: Between one academic term and one year.

Value of Grant: The fellow's employing institution will be reimbursed for the full salary cost of a teaching replacement (up to the equivalent of the minimum point on the lectureship scale as paid by the host university). Research expenses up to a maximum of £2,500 are available to each fellow to cover the costs of consumables, equipment, travel and communicating science.

Website link: <http://royalsociety.org/Leverhulme-Trust-Fellowships/>

Closing

date:

11

January

2012

Brian Mercer Feasibility Award

Subjects Covered: Built environment, clean technology, energy and nanoscience/nanotechnology. One award in each round will be specifically in the general field of electrotechnology (including telecommunications and IT systems), and this award is supported by the ERA Foundation.

Eligibility: The Brian Mercer Feasibility Award is open to applicants of any nationality who have a PhD (or are of equivalent standing in their profession), who hold a substantive post in a UK university or not-for-profit research organisation and who will be in post for at least the duration of the project. The project must commence within three months of the date of notification.

Applicants may make only one application per round. Applications from individuals or groups who already have established contacts with industrial or commercial collaborators are particularly encouraged.

Length of Tenure: Awards are not expected to exceed 12 months in duration.

Value of Grant: Up to £30,000 (this figure includes VAT where applicable).

Number Offered: We have funds for 3 awards in the fields of built environment, clean technology, energy and nanoscience and nanotechnology, and one award in the field of electrotechnology. Once all awards have been made, the round will close.

Website links: royalsociety.org/Brian-Mercer-Feasibility-Awards/

Opening Information: 30 August 2011. These awards now operate on a rolling round, awards assessed on a first come, first served basis. Once all awards have been made, the round will close.

Royal Academy's Research Fellowship scheme

31 Oct 11

The Royal Academy's Research Fellowship scheme is now open for applications. In brief, it's a 5 year fully funded post-doctoral Research Fellowship scheme aimed at the best early career researchers. Applications are welcome from all engineering disciplines and applicants should have up to 3 year's post-doctoral experience at the time of application.

Full details are available on the website [Here](#)

The application and assessment process is the same as last year, being a Stage 1 outline application followed by a Stage 2 full proposal.

Most universities are limited to two applications each, some are allowed 3 based upon past success in the scheme – a list of which universities can submit three applications is on the website. We expect to receive in the region of 80 applications and to award 8 Fellowships.

The submission deadline for Stage 1 is **Monday 31 October 2011**.

If you have any questions on the scheme please contact either Angus Baker The Academy's Research Fellowship scheme is now open for applications. In brief, it's a 5 year fully funded post-doctoral Research Fellowship scheme aimed at the best early career researchers. Applications are welcome from all engineering disciplines and applicants should have up to 3 year's post-doctoral experience at the time of application.

Full details are available on the website [Here](#)

The application and assessment process is the same as last year, being a Stage 1 outline application followed by a Stage 2 full proposal.

Most universities are limited to two applications each, some are allowed 3 based upon past success in the scheme – a list of which universities can submit three applications is on the website. We expect to receive in the region of 80 applications and to award 8 Fellowships.

The submission deadline for Stage 1 is **Monday 31 October 2011**.

If you have any questions on the scheme please contact either [Angus Barker](#) or [Rob Barrett](#)

Invitation for proposals

EPSRC are one of eleven European Funding Organisations participating in the ERA-Net CHIST-ERA, a coordination and cooperation activity of the partner agencies in order to reinforce the transnational collaboration between member states in challenging multidisciplinary research in the area of Information and Communication Sciences and Technologies (ICST) with the potential to lead to significant breakthroughs.

The CHIST-ERA initiative is looking for highly innovative and multidisciplinary collaborative projects in information and communication sciences and technologies.

Thus CHIST-ERA is open to new ideas and original solutions, involving interdisciplinary skills. In addition, the transformative research done in CHIST-ERA shall explore new topics with potential for significant scientific and technical impacts.

In the 2011 Call, two separate topics are addressed, namely:

From data to new knowledge (D2K)
Green ICT, towards Zero Power ICT (G-ICT)

Full details and how to apply can be found on the Website:

<http://www.chistera.eu/call-2011-announcement>