

Writing a WISERD Post-Doctoral Fellowship Proposal

In addition to providing a CV and 2-page supporting statement that details how you meet the essential and desirable criteria as part of the application process, applicants must also submit a 2000 word Fellowship Proposal – outlining a programme of activities that reflects their prior knowledge and experience, links to the relevant research area for the fellowship they are applying for and to key themes within WISERD, and which supports their longer term research career aspirations.

Fellows' actual programmes or proposed programme of activities should reflect their prior knowledge and experience and be designed to support their longer-term research career aspirations. Activities could include but are not limited to:

- Production of publications in order to help establish track record
- Engaging with a range of different audiences to communicate research findings
- Building networks to develop impact opportunities and inform and support further development
- Further training to improve research and related skills
- Developing funding proposals
- Carrying out further limited research (up to 25% of the programme of work) related to their PhD, but note there is limited resource for additional fieldwork costs (see note about project costs below)
- Other contributions to WISERD, such as training and capacity building, supervising students on placements in WISERD and organising dissemination activities.

Fellowship holders are not expected to complete all activities on the above list, and the chosen activities should be tailored to the aims of the fellowship and relevant to the fellow's desired career intentions. Applicants must demonstrate a realistic and practicable programme of work in their proposal; proposals considered to be unrealistic or overambitious are unlikely to be competitive.

Proposal Template

- 1. Summary of progress/thesis abstract (500 words):** Applicants should provide a summary of their in-progress or completed thesis including: main claims to originality, methodology used and significant findings.
- 2. Planned programme of activities (1000 words):** This section should detail your planned programme of activities and the key milestones for these activities. Please note that the programme of activities should be tailored to support your longer-term career aspirations, whether you are aiming for a career in academia or a research career in the broader economy.

Fellows are not expected to undertake major new research during a grant. However, limited additional research directly linked to the PhD can be undertaken. The fellowship does not have to be directly building on the work of the PhD; however, it does need to follow on or be related to it.

The programme of activities should provide the fellows with time to maximise the impact of their PhD, which could include communicating the research findings arising from their doctoral work, building international networks to develop impact and further research, collaborating with users, learning the skills of writing for publication, and further improving their research and related skills. We expect fellows to have identified the potential impacts

of their research on policy and practice, and to actively consider how these can be maximised and developed.

We recognise that during the grant period a limited amount of teaching could be beneficial to the professional development of the fellows. Grant holders will therefore be permitted to put aside a maximum of six hours per week (pro rata) to teaching, including preparation time.

- 3. Fit with WISERD Civil Society (500 words):** Applicants must demonstrate how the planned programme of activities fits with the specific area relevant to the fellowship they are applying for and how it fits with one or more of the key themes in the WISERD Civil Society [Civic Stratification and Civil Repair](#) programme of research. Projects being undertaken by colleagues in Cardiff include: Patronage, elites and power relations; trust, human rights and civil society; Children and young people's rights; identity and civic divides in the UK; experts, expertise and citizen science: a case study of air quality monitoring. More details on the complete programme of projects can be obtained by emailing wiserd@cardiff.ac.uk

Project costs

The focus of these fellowships is not on pursuing new research agendas but on consolidating insights from doctoral work. There are very limited fieldwork budgets attached to these posts and we encourage applicants to explore opportunities afforded by the [ESRC secondary data](#) repository. If you anticipate that your proposed programme of activities will incur significant fieldwork costs, please email wiserd@cardiff.ac.uk to discuss with our team prior to submitting your application form.