



OPPORTUNITY

British Council Fellowships for Women in STEM (East Asia)

Reference: 0047-23

Salary: Grade 7, £31,502 per annum

Contract Type: Fixed term (12 months)

Basis: Full Time

Job description

Job Purpose:

We're offering three STEM fellowships to women from East Asia: Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Thailand, Vietnam, in partnership with the British Council.

Funding: Grade 7 (25) (£31,502)

Academic year: 2023/24

Open to: Female researchers from East Asia: Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Thailand, Vietnam who have received their PhD within 3 years of applying

Qualification level: Postgraduate research

Number available: 3

This year the British Council has awarded Aston University three Early Academic Fellowship Grants that are specifically designed for women who have recently completed a research or terminal academic qualification (PhD or equivalent) and not be in an established academic post with a research-related role or function and wish to have a research experience at a UK university or research institution, converting their doctoral work into publications or other academic outputs, and establishing new research relationships.

This scholarship programme aims to increase opportunities in STEM for women. According to data from the UN Scientific Education and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), fewer than 30 percent of researchers worldwide are women and only 30 percent of female students select STEM-related fields in higher education. Globally, the representation of female scientist is particularly low in Information and Communications Technology (three percent), natural science, mathematics, and statistics (five percent), and engineering, manufacturing and construction (eight percent).

For more information about the scheme please see the British Council webpage

<https://www.britishcouncil.org/study-work-abroad/in-uk/scholarship-women-stem>

The British Council Women in STEM Academic Fellowship Programme will:

- Significantly increase the number of opportunities for women from the eligible countries in 2023/24 academic year.
- Increase research partnership opportunities for women in East Asia: Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Thailand, Vietnam with the UK.
- Ensure fellow selection will be based on an individual's academic potential and demonstrated case for financial support. We will be particularly encouraging of women whose identities include multiple intersecting factors, including race, class, and religion, and women who are mothers.
- Provide the selected fellows with a foundation to launch their careers in higher education and research in their home country.
- Enable individuals to promote and enhance science and innovation in their home country through their exposure to the expertise in the UK's renowned STEM research sector.
- Ensure fellows create strong and lasting connections with the UK through active engagement in the alumni network, directly contributing towards/supporting the success of this programme in future iterations of the Fellowship.
- Provide a platform for the countries included in this call and the UK to work together to address the significant challenge of the gender gap in STEM.

More information: <https://www.britishcouncil.org/study-work-abroad/in-uk/scholarship-women-stem>

How Aston University will support STEM Fellows

Aston is proud to be one of only 21 Athena Swan Gender Equality Institutional Silver award holders in the UK, and that our College of Engineering & Physical Sciences (EPS) holds a Gold Departmental award. We have an active Athena Swan team comprised of women and men from academic and professional backgrounds across the university. This team will work collaboratively with the research team and colleagues within EPS to ensure that the scholars are supported in the following ways:

- An academic Athena Swan point of contact will be assigned on arrival and will act as a mentor for the duration of the scholarship.
- The scholars will be encouraged to join Aston's Women in Engineering, Science and Technology (WEST) society, which aims to collaborate with external organizations to provide career opportunities, provide a supportive network for women, and influence wider change in the community.
- The scholars will be encouraged to join Aston's Inspiring Women at Aston network, providing twice monthly opportunities for networking and relationship building.
- Scholars who are parents will be encouraged to join Aston's Parent and Carer network, providing regular face to face and virtual support.
- Parents of younger children will also be put in touch with our on-campus nursery for childcare support and receive financial support for childcare costs (see section 3 below).
- Practical support for schooling and registering with a doctor will be provided as required.
- Scholars will have access to staff benefits including our Employee Assistance Programme that provides confidential support for various matters including illness, personal crises, mental health support, moving to a new house, and managing money.
- Scholars will be encouraged to connect with one of Aston's in-house, work-based coaches to support with career progression and professional development needs.

About the Department (Aston Institute of Photonic Technologies):

AiPT is one of the world's leading photonics research centres, cultivating an environment where academics, post-doctoral researchers and students work together on major scientific and engineering challenges in a welcoming and collegial atmosphere. Our successful track record of scientific achievements ranges from medical lasers and bio-sensing for healthcare to the high-speed optical communications technology that underpins the internet and the digital economy.

AiPT is one of the UK's largest photonics centres with a workforce of ~100: 24 Faculty, ~45 postdocs/Fellows, ~25 PhD students, ~10 managers. We have a vibrant team of researchers guided by world-leading academics, with 10 members of staff at AiPT appearing in the Stanford database [1] of 'Top 2% of scientists worldwide'.

Working at AiPT means receiving a solid experience for an academic or industrial career with immersion in cutting-edge scientific and engineering research varying from high-speed optical communications and lasers to bio-medical photonics and machine learning, working alongside world-leading scientists, having access to state-of-the-art photonics labs and facilities and a top-level international academic and industrial network.

More information about AiPT: <https://www.aston.ac.uk/research/eps/aipt>

This call seeks proposals from Fellows, with a focus on the following programme areas:

Academic Supervisor Prof. Sergei K. Turitsyn:

- Photonic technology for food industry
- Machine learning for environmental sensing
- Digital technology in agriculture

Academic Supervisor Prof. Edik Rafailov:

- Advanced lasers for health and life science
- Mid-infrared light sources for environmental monitoring
- Wearable devices for healthcare

Academic Supervisor Prof. David J. Webb:

- Smart sensors for agriculture
- Sensing technology in healthcare and food industry
- Smart manufacturing

Academic Supervisor Prof. Misha Sumetsky:

- Nano-photonics
- Nano-photonics for food industry applications
- Optical frequency comb

Key Responsibilities:

- ▶ To use standard research techniques to gather and manipulate data and information, interpreting the results for use by self and others.
- ▶ To undertake basic research by preparing, setting up, conducting and recording the outcome of experiments and field work.
- ▶ To analyse and interpret the results of own research and generate original ideas based on outcomes.
- ▶ To manage data to ensure data integrity and ease of access to data for the principal and co-investigators.
- ▶ To prepare study findings for presentation in study reports and publication in scientific journals.
- ▶ To ensure that all work is undertaken and analysed in a timely manner and in line with the milestones and deliverables outlined by the principal investigator.
- ▶ To present information on research progress and outcomes to the research team and bodies supervising research, e.g. steering groups.
- ▶ To liaise with research colleagues and study participants as required.
- ▶ To assist in the supervision of PhD and MS's student projects as required.

Additional responsibilities

- ▶ Engage in continuous personal and professional development in line with the demands of the role, including undertaking relevant training and development activities to develop themselves and support the development of others.
- ▶ Ensure and promote the personal health, safety and wellbeing of staff and students.
- ▶ Carry out duties in a way which promotes fairness in all matters and which engenders trust.
- ▶ Promote equality of opportunity and support diversity and inclusion as well as working to support the University's environmental sustainability agenda and practices.

Person specification

	Essential	Method of assessment
Education and qualifications	PhD within 3 years of applying.	Application form
Experience	<p>Experience in the field of the selected programme.</p> <p>Good publication record in international journals and conferences.</p>	Application form and interview
Aptitude and skills	<p>Creative problem-solving skills.</p> <p>Ability to contribute to and coordinate collaborative project reports and deliverables.</p> <p>Ability to work effectively in a team and with project partners.</p> <p>Ability to contribute to the planning of research projects.</p> <p>Ability to deliver research objectives, deliverables and milestones in a timely manner.</p> <p>Excellent verbal and written communication skills with the ability to liaise with partners.</p>	Application form and interview

How to apply

Please see British Council Women in STEM (<https://www.britishcouncil.org/study-work-abroad/in-uk/scholarship-women-stem>) for more information about the scheme.

Prior to completing the application form, please contact **Prof. Sergei K. Turitsyn** s.k.turitsyn@aston.ac.uk to express your interest and select your proposed Host Supervisor.

To make an application, please complete the application form. Note that you will need to provide:

- A letter of application which contains all required personal information and states which host supervisor at Aston University you are applying to work with, and:
- an academic CV
- a case for supporting the fellowship
- a letter of recommendation your PhD institution
- a letter of recommendation from your proposed host supervisor at the Aston University.

Applicants are asked to:

- Demonstrate a plan and a passion for engaging other women and girls in STEM from their home country.
- Agree to their personal data being shared with the British Council as a condition of applying for the fellowship.
- Agree to maintain contact with the British Council and act as an ambassador for the UK and engage with activities as part of a Fellowship for Women in STEM alumnus during and after their studies in the UK, if you are awarded.

Selection process

A Steering Committee, composed of academic reviewers from the University and Programme Leads from the British Council will select the candidates through a points-based system, encompassing the programme's criteria.

Eligibility

Open to researchers from East Asia who have received their PhD within 3 years of applying. To be eligible for the British Council Scholarships for Women in STEM, you must:

- Identify as a woman.
- Be a passport holder and permanent resident of one of the eligible countries – East Asia: Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Thailand, Vietnam
- Obtain a letter of support from the host supervisor or department.
- Demonstrate a case for financial support/socio-economic need.
- Not be in receipt of financial support or funding towards their study programme in the UK from any other source.
- Have not previously studied at a degree level or higher in the UK or lived recently in the UK.
- Meet the English language requirement of the UK HEI.
- Be active in the field with work experience or with a proven interest in the proposed subject area.
- Be willing to demonstrate future contribution to capacity-building and socio-economic advancement through the benefits achieved after graduating from UK higher education.

- Employees of the British Council, the UK government or Scottish, Welsh or Northern Irish governments are not eligible to be awarded fellowships.

Please check your eligibility

https://www.britishcouncil.org/sites/default/files/women_in_stem_eligibility_criteria_new_0.pdf

Contact us: Send your CV and contact Prof. Sergei K. Turitsyn for more details or informal discussion via email: s.k.turitsyn@aston.ac.uk.



Contact information

Enquiries about the vacancy:

Name: Prof. Sergei K. Turitsyn

Job Title: Director of AiPT

Email: s.k.turitsyn@aston.ac.uk

Enquiries about the application process, shortlisting or interviews:

Recruitment Team via jobs@aston.ac.uk or 0121 204 4500.

Additional information

Visit our website <https://www2.aston.ac.uk/staff-public/hr> for full details of our salary scales and benefits Aston University staff enjoy

Salary scales: <https://www2.aston.ac.uk/staff-public/hr/payroll-and-pensions/salary-scales/index>

Benefits: <https://www2.aston.ac.uk/staff-public/hr/Benefits-and-Rewards/index>

Working in Birmingham: <https://www2.aston.ac.uk/birmingham>

Employment of Ex-Offenders: Under the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974, a person with a criminal record is not required to disclose any spent convictions unless the positions they applying for is listed an exception under the act.

Eligibility to work in the UK:

New immigration system from 1 January 2021

A new immigration system has been introduced for people arriving in the UK from EEA countries with effect from 1 January 2021. In addition to those who have always required a visa, EU citizens who were not resident in the UK before 31 December 2021 will need to get a visa in advance.

You can find more information [here](#)

Candidates should check their eligibility to enter or remain in the UK in advance of making any job application via the [UKVI website](#). Before applying you should ensure that you meet the requirements, including meeting the English Language requirements. If you do not meet the eligibility criteria, any application for a work visa would be unsuccessful.

If you require a visa to work in the UK the most common types of visa are:

- Skilled Worker Visa <https://www.gov.uk/skilled-worker-visa>
- Global Talent Visa

If you are a leader or potential leader in one of the following fields you may be eligible to

apply for a Global Talent Visa:

- Academia or Research
- Arts and Culture
- Digital Technology

Please click the following link for further information and to check your eligibility for this visa. <https://www.gov.uk/global-talent>

Equal Opportunities: Aston University promotes equality and diversity in all aspects of its work. We aim to ensure, through our admissions policies for students, and our staff recruitment and selection processes that we encourage applications from all groups represented in the wider community at a local, national and international level.

The University will endeavour not to discriminate unfairly or illegally, directly or indirectly, against student or potential students, staff or potential staff. This commitment applies to all functions of the University and to any stage of an individual's career.

An Equal Opportunities Monitoring Form is included within the application form. Data you provide on the Equal Opportunities Monitoring Form will be included in a general database, for statistical monitoring purposes, enabling the University to monitor the effectiveness of its Policy, Codes of Practice and Guidelines on Equal Opportunities in Employment. Individuals will not be identified by name.

Data Protection: Your personal data will be processed in compliance with the Data Protection Act 2018 and the General Data Protection Regulation ((EU) 2016/679) ("GDPR"). The University's Data Protection Policy and Privacy Notices, including the Job Applicant Privacy Notice can be found at <https://www2.aston.ac.uk/data-protection>. Your application will only be used to inform the selection process, unless you are successful, in which case it will form the basis of your personal record with the University which will be stored in manual and/or electronic files. Information in statistical form on present and former employees is given to appropriate outside bodies.

Full details of our terms and conditions of service and associated policies and procedures are available online at <https://www2.aston.ac.uk/staff-public/hr/policies>

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**Where change
gets real.**