

**Inviting applications:  
University College Early Career Research Fellowships**



**Early Career Research Fellowships**

We are reimagining the University College Fellowship programme and are excited to launch an ECR Fellowship scheme for 2023-24. This is an important part of our college strategic plan, which includes fostering intellectual curiosity within our learning community. The funding is provided courtesy of our endowed Slater Fund, to benefit University College's research culture.

**College Overview**

University College (Castle) is one of Durham University's oldest colleges. Founded in 1832, the College is based in Durham Castle, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. University College is home to 1100 undergraduate and 500 postgraduate students, with more than 500 living in college accommodation. The student community, organised into the Junior and Middle Common Rooms (JCR & MCR), is heavily engaged in more than 30 clubs and societies and led by two dedicated Executive Committees of student leaders. The Senior Common Room (SCR) includes more than 300 colleagues formally engaged with the College, many of whom actively participate in the life of Castle. The College hosts a vibrant calendar of social events alongside a wide range of academic, spiritual and charity events as well as volunteering programmes.

### **Purpose of the ECR Fellows**

- To further strengthen intellectual engagement in our college community.
- To share ECR experiences with University College postgraduate students.
- To provide a multidisciplinary network and learning community for ECRs who may be new to Durham University.

### **Fellows will be expected**

- To lead one initiative per year to support, inspire or encourage Castle's postgraduate research community. This could be a workshop, talk, activity, initiative, or project – we welcome creative ideas in this space.
- To share their research with the college community at least once during the course of their fellowship via a talk, panel discussion or other scholarly event.
- To become a College Mentor to a small group of undergraduate or postgraduate students.

### **Fellows will receive**

- A stipend of £800 per academic year to support their research.
- Access to £200 per academic year to enable their initiative supporting postgraduate research students.
- An invitation to a Formal Dinner each year as a guest of the College.
- SCR membership which includes access to the Senior Common Room in Castle, the opportunity to join for meals in term-time on a pay-as-you-go basis, and invitations to myriad SCR events.

### **Eligibility**

- The UKRI defines ECR as within 8 years of PhD award / 6 years of first academic appointment.<sup>1</sup> It is our intention that these Fellowships will support and enable ECRs who are on short-term contracts or new to Durham, and who otherwise might not have access to research funding.
- Fellows must be employed by Durham University in a research or teaching role.
- Postholders must have completed their PhD.

### **Posts**

- We plan to appoint up to four University College ECR Fellows for 2023-24, with one Fellowship per Faculty.
- Each Fellowship will be for one year initially, with the option to renew up to a maximum period of three years. The offer to renew is determined by an informal review.

### **Applications**

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.ukri.org/what-we-offer/developing-people-and-skills/ahrc/early-career-researchers-career-and-skills-development/> [accessed 29 March 2023]

To apply, please send the following to [univcoll.office@durham.ac.uk](mailto:univcoll.office@durham.ac.uk) by Friday 1 September 2023:

- Outline of the initiative that you would deliver to support Castle postgraduate research students (500 words)
- A summary of your current research (500 words)
- A short CV (4 pages maximum)

For informal queries about these Fellowships please contact Dr Ellen Crabtree, Vice-Principal, via [e.p.crabtree@durham.ac.uk](mailto:e.p.crabtree@durham.ac.uk).