

Frequently Asked Questions

Research proposal

1. What are the assessment criteria for the research proposal?

Your research proposal will be assessed against the following criteria:

- a. *Relevance to the research area* – Alignment with description, justification for proposed research, relevance to sustainability
- b. *Quality, including description of impact, focus, and methods* - Problem focus, including aims and objectives, novelty and/or relevance, proposed impact strategy for planned outputs, proposed research approach and methods, expected deliverables and contribution
- c. *Feasibility of research* - Realistic timeline/ schedule and milestones (for 3-year project), realistic resource requirements, level of ambition and complexity, consistent with the above.

2. What will be my relationship with the donor?

Funding for the Fellowships has been secured through philanthropic donations from companies, foundations, and individuals, but stewardship lies with CISL. The donors have had the opportunity to shape the initial research area in which they perceived a knowledge gap but have no direct influence over the three-year research project. Fellows are under no obligation to engage with the donors; however CISL wishes to maintain good relations with them and there may be benefits to be gained from further engagement, e.g. access to data, case studies and/or additional support for fieldwork.

3. What is my yearly budget?

The donations are designed to cover the Fellow's salary with on-costs at the level of Senior Research Associate, corresponding to the University's Grade 9. In addition, some donors have also indicated a willingness to support reasonable costs associated with executing the research (e.g. fieldwork or data acquisition) subject to the development of a research plan but are unlikely to support additional expenses greater than £10,000/ annum or £30,000 in total. Candidates are welcome to supplement the available funding with additional sources, subject to agreement by CISL.

Qualification

1. I don't have a PhD but relevant professional experience, am I eligible to apply?

CISL invites applications from candidates with a PhD or equivalent qualifications. Candidates without PhDs may be considered if they have advanced research experience in academic or non-academic institutions, with strong publication records.

2. I am still completing my PhD, am I eligible to apply?

For applications at the level of Research Associate, the essential criteria outline that amongst others, we require candidates to be educated to degree level, normally with a PhD in the relevant specialist subject area. If not yet awarded, we would expect candidates to be close to completing their PhD with a clear timetable for submission and award.

General

1. Do I have to take up residency in Cambridge?

Except when on approved fieldwork or travel, Fellows are expected to conduct their research at CISL in line with the percentage (minimum of 80% FTE) of their appointment, hence are expected to live within commuting distance of Cambridge.

2. Where will I be working?

From 2020 the Programme will be based at CISL's new premises; a low carbon retrofitted building at Regent Street in the centre of Cambridge, which will serve as a vibrant, collaborative atmosphere for transdisciplinary research, education, industry and policy engagement.

3. What are alternative forms of appointment?

CISL is open to appointments under secondment models or maintenance grants. If you wish to take up appointment under one of these models, please indicate your preference on your proposal template but note that details of such appointments are subject to discussion between the Fellow and CISL and evidence of approval from the home institution will need to be provided to progress such an appointment.

4. Can I take up the role part-time?

CISL is open to part-time appointments to accommodate existing commitments but expects Fellows to take up the role on a minimum 80% FTE basis.

5. Are research teams eligible to apply for the Fellowship Programme?

CISL supports Fellows seeking collaborative opportunities across institutions. However, only one post-holder will be eligible to carry the title of Fellow and the available funding is intended to primarily cover one Fellow's salary at the level of Senior Research Associate.

6. Can I apply to more than one Fellowship?

Candidates may wish to apply for several Fellowships. However, CISL intends to only appoint one candidate per Fellowship and candidates will be unable to take up more than one Fellowship at the same time.

7. I don't have the right to work in the UK, am I still eligible to apply?

Where necessary, CISL is open to support sponsorship for applicants requiring a Tier 2 visa.