

Janet Thornton Fellowship – Application Form Guidance

What eligibility criteria is there?

The Janet Thornton Fellowship is aimed at people who have:

- A minimum of 12 months break from scientific research, for any reason
- At least one year's Post-Doctoral research experience
- Not currently working in a scientific research role

What is the purpose of the Fellowship?

We understand that even a short time out of research can have an impact on a scientific research career, which is why we have created the Janet Thornton Fellowship. This provides an additional opportunity for those who have been out of scientific research for 12 months or more, to return to high-quality Post-Doctoral training. We pride ourselves in offering a first-class and well-resourced exceptional learning environment to equip individuals with the knowledge and skills they will need for a successful career in science. Our Post-Doctoral Fellowships provide a comprehensive training programme designed to equip individuals with the skills they need to further their career – whatever they may do.

How long are the Fellowships?

The Janet Thornton Fellowships are three years and can be worked full-time, part-time or flexibly.

When do the Fellowships start?

There is flexibility with the start date, but Fellows should be able to start within 6 months of being offered the position.

How much do the Fellows get paid?

The Janet Thornton Fellows are embedded within our [Postdoctoral Fellowship Development programme](#) and are paid in line with this pay scale (£35,707-£44,712 in 2023), dependent on skills and experience. The Janet Thornton Fellowship also includes research consumables of up to £18,000 per annum, dependant on the nature of the project and a budget of £1,500 per annum for the Fellow to attend conferences and training.

Can applicants choose which project outline to apply to?

Yes – details of the project outlines are [here](#). If you are not sure which project outline to apply to, email saher.ahmed@sanger.ac.uk and we can arrange a call to discuss further.

How do you apply for the Janet Thornton Fellowship?

The Fellowship is awarded after a competitive selection process, with applicants applying to one of the [broad projects on our webpage](#). You are encouraged to make contact with the named supervisor.

You are asked to provide:

- a current CV
- Application Form

To apply

Please apply via our job site: XXX

Stage 2 Form

If you meet the eligibility criteria we will invite you to complete stage 2 of the application process.

These questions are aimed at drawing out your contributions to excellent research. There is no right or wrong answer to these questions, we are keen to learn more about you. If you would like to discuss this part of the application process informally, please email saher.ahmed@sanger.ac.uk (noting that this will not affect or feed into any of the subsequent decision-making process).

(Between 1000 – 1500 words across the questions)

- Why are you interested in applying to this project outline?
- How do you think your research experience and broader contributions to the research environment will enrich your Fellowship experience at the Sanger Institute (*see guidance note below*).
- What academic achievements are you most proud of (*see guidance note below*)?
- What personal achievements are you most proud of (*see guidance note below*)?

Guidance note: within these questions you should highlight expertise or experience around the following themes:

- Your contribution to the **generation of knowledge** – this can include how you have contributed to the generation of new ideas and hypotheses and which key skills you have used to develop ideas and test hypotheses. It can be used to highlight how you have communicated on your ideas and research results, both written and verbally, the funding you have won and any awards that you have received. It can include a small selection of outputs, with a description of why they are of particular relevance and why they are considered in the context of knowledge generation. Outputs can include open data sets, software, publications, commercial, entrepreneurial or industrial products, educational products, policy publications and conference publications that you have generated.
- Your contribution to the **development of individuals** - this can be used to highlight expertise you provided which was critical to the success of a team or team members including project management, collaborative contributions, and team support such as mentoring. It can include your teaching activities, workshops or summer schools in which you were involved and the supervision of students and colleagues. It can be used to highlight the establishment of collaborations.
- Your contribution to the **wider research community** – this can include various activities you have engaged in to progress the research community. It can be used to mention commitments including editing, reviewing, refereeing, committee work and your contributions to the evaluation of researchers and research projects. It can be used to mention the organisation of events that have benefited your research community. It can highlight contributions to increasing research integrity, and improving research culture, equality, diversity, and inclusion. It can be used to mention appointments to positions of responsibility such as committee membership and roles within your department, institution or organisation.
- Your contribution to **broader society** – this can include examples of societal engagement and include engagement with industry, the private or public sector and the broader public. It can be used to highlight positive stakeholder feedback, inclusion of patients in processes and clinical trials, and other impacts across research, policy, practice and business. It can be used to highlight efforts to advise policy-makers and provide information through the press and on social media.

Interview Process

If you are selected to move onto the next stage, you will be invited to co-develop the fuller project

proposal with the Sanger Institute research lead. Applicants will be invited to attend a Zoom interview in December 2023. Candidates will be invited to present their previous research and their developed research proposal. This will be followed by a Q&A-style competency-based interview with the panel. You will be supported through all of these steps in the process.

Please email saher.ahmed@sanger.ac.uk you have any further questions.