

LINDEMANN TRUST

LINDEMANN TRUST FELLOWSHIPS

NOTES FOR APPLICANTS

ABOUT

The Lindemann Trust offers 2-year fellowships, each worth \$71,000 a year, for post-doctoral scientists to carry out research in the USA. The Lindemann Trust Fellowships are designed as an early post-doctoral opportunity, and are awarded to graduates of exceptional promise in both the pure and applied physical sciences, who have shown capacity for producing original research. The subject areas eligible are defined broadly to include all areas of the physical sciences and mathematics, as well as their interfaces with the life sciences.

BRIGADIER CHARLES LINDEMANN

The Lindemann Trust has offered Fellowships since March 1972, following a bequest of £1,000,000 from Brigadier Charles Lindemann. Born in Scotland, Brigadier Lindemann trained as a physicist with his brother Lord Cherwell in Berlin, before serving in the British Army during the First World War, and at the British Embassy in Washington during the Second World War. In his will, Brigadier Lindemann directed that his residual estate be used to assist students with outstanding potential to become distinguished scholars or teachers in their chosen field.

ELIGIBILITY:

The Lindemann Trust believes that diversity is essential for delivering excellence in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM), and that there are varied research career paths. We are committed to increasing diversity in STEM and aim to promote and encourage this through our application process, regularly reviewing and revising it to ensure that all talented applicants have an equal chance of success. We are particularly keen to attract and support more applications from underrepresented groups, and candidates who fall into this category are therefore strongly encouraged to apply.

To be eligible to apply, candidates must meet all of the following criteria:

- Hold British, Irish or Commonwealth citizenship, or have UK settled status
- Be normally resident in the UK

- Either be in the final year of their doctoral studies at a UK university, or have completed their doctorate at a UK university and have no more than a total of three years' research experience since completion

In addition:

- Career breaks and part-time working will be taken into consideration, e.g. time away due to personal reasons such as maternity, paternity, shared parental and adoptive leave or other caring responsibilities; ill-health or working in a non-research environment/role such as industry.
- Where applicants have taken formal periods of maternity, paternity, shared parental and adoptive leave as the primary carer (either the mother, father, partner or adopter), or extended sick leave, an additional amount of time will be allowed on top of the three years, equal to the length of time of this formal period of leave.

RESTRICTIONS:

Fellowships may not be held concurrently with any other research grant or scholarship.

Applications from candidates who currently hold, or have held, a full-time stipendiary research post within the last year at an institution in the US will not be considered. In addition, the Trust will also not normally consider an application that is intended to extend the funding of a pre-arranged research position in the US; nor will it normally consider applications relating to the relocation to the US of an existing, formal research relationship.

APPLICATION PROCESS

The 2026-2028 application closing date is **Monday 2nd February 2026**. Please complete an online application, available at <https://lindemanntrust.co.uk/fellowships/how-to-apply/>

Candidates are required to upload a detailed description of their research proposal. This can be up to 1000 words but no more than 5 sides of A4. It should include a short introduction which can be understood by a non-specialist audience and candidates should be mindful that the shortlisting panel are unlikely to be experts in any of the areas of research presented in the applications. Proposals should be written with this in mind. As part of their research proposal, candidates might consider including the following information:

- how will this research contribute to the wider field and what makes it innovative? What are the expected outcomes?
- what are the first steps in the project likely to be, and, depending on the results, what subsequent steps are expected?
- what are the reasons for choosing the host institution?

Candidates are responsible for ensuring that two confidential academic references are uploaded to the online portal before the application closing date. It could be to the candidate's advantage to provide at least one reference that is independent of the candidate's current institution. Notes for referees are available at <https://lindemanntrust.co.uk/fellowships/how-to-apply/>

Candidates must also provide a letter of endorsement from their chosen US institution, stating that the institution is able to provide the appropriate facility for the candidate to undertake their proposed research. The letter should also outline what connection with the candidate has already been established and why they are keen to welcome them to the research group. This must be uploaded in the relevant space on the application form. Notes for hosts are available at <https://lindemanntrust.co.uk/fellowships/how-to-apply/>

Candidates should consider reminding their referees that the shortlisting panel come from a variety of different science backgrounds and references and letters of endorsement from hosts should be written with this in mind.

We aim to hold interviews for shortlisted candidates in April. Successful candidates will be informed of more details following the closing date.

WHAT DOES A FELLOWSHIP COVER?

The Lindemann Trust Fellowships enable post-doctoral scientists to pursue research in the USA without financial difficulty, and without being obliged to take up paid employment (except for incidental teaching if applicable). Recent fellows have pursued research at universities and research institutions across the USA, including Harvard, Stanford, Duke, the Dana Farber Cancer Institute, and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Alumni include Professor Roger Davies (former President of the Royal Astronomical Society and now member of the Lindemann Committee) and Sir Graham Hills (physical Chemist and former Governor of the BBC).

Each fellowship amounts to \$142,000, paid quarterly by the [English-Speaking Union](#) in equal instalments of \$17,750 each over the two year period. In addition, the ESU contributes £1,000 towards each Fellow's airfare. There may be additional travel grants available for Fellows whose spouse will be accompanying them to the US. Fellows are responsible for obtaining appropriate insurance cover for their Fellowship.

WHEN COULD I TAKE UP MY FELLOWSHIP?

Each Fellowship lasts for two years, and must be taken up between September and April following your successful application. Fellows are expected to return to the UK within two years of the conclusion of their Fellowship for a period of at least two years. Applications for exemption from this ruling must be made to the Lindemann Committee.

VISAS

It is the Fellow's responsibility to obtain a visa for their time in the USA. Fellows should liaise with their host institution in the USA, which will provide the necessary documentation for obtaining the relevant visa, and the Administrative Director of the Lindemann Trust can provide a letter showing proof of funding. We recommend that Fellows leave plenty of time to arrange the visa as recent changes in regulations have made the process a lengthy one.

CONDITIONS

The conditions of each Fellowship are as follows. Fellows are required to:

- Take up their Fellowship between September and April following their successful application, and inform the Lindemann Committee of their intended start date as soon as they have it.
- Inform the Lindemann Fellowship Committee of their planned date of return to the UK.
- Return to the UK within two years of the conclusion of their Fellowship for a period of at least two years. Applications for exemption from this ruling must be made to the Lindemann Fellowship Committee.
- Send the Lindemann Fellowship Committee two interim reports on their research and experiences, due before the Committee meeting usually held in March, and one full report within a month of completing their Fellowship.
- Send the Lindemann Fellowship Committee copies of any research papers that result from their Fellowship.
- Fully acknowledge their Lindemann Trust Fellowship in all presentations, publications, papers and reports produced as a result of research carried out during the Fellowship, making reference to both the Lindemann Trust and the English-Speaking Union.
- If asked, be prepared to take part in Lindemann outreach activities upon their return.

PARENTAL, ADOPTIVE OR EXTENDED SICK LEAVE

In the event that a Fellow needs to take a period of maternity, paternity, shared parental or adoptive leave, or extended sick leave, Fellowships can be put into abeyance for up to one year.

THE FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE

In commemoration of his brother's membership of Christ Church and Wadham Colleges, and the Royal Society, Brigadier Lindemann asked that they be specially represented on the selection committee. The Lindemann Fellowship Committee is chaired by Professor James Raven, Vice President of the ESU. Further details of Committee membership can be found on the website.

For more information, please see:

w: <https://lindemanntrust.co.uk/>

e: director.lindemann@gmail.com