23 April 2009

Dear Vice-Chancellor

2010/11 Fellowship Opportunity at Durham University’s Institute of Advanced Study

I am writing to you in my capacity as Vice-Chancellor of Durham University to remind you of the prestigious funded fellowship scheme at our Institute of Advanced Study (IAS) that is open to the most creative and accomplished scholars from all over the world.

The Durham IAS is an ideas-based institute launched in October 2006 as a forum for high-level inter- and multi-disciplinary debate on major themes. The aim of the Institute is to produce new thinking about ideas that change the world through dialogue among and between scholars and intellectuals in different disciplines, and to communicate this thinking to the wider academic community, policymakers and the public in general. At its core lies a generously funded UK and international fellowship programme. It allows the IAS to gather together the world’s finest scholars and non-academics from the full spectrum of science, social science, arts and humanities disciplines to address themes of global significance.

We are very keen that the Institute’s fellowship programme attracts the very best scholars from across the world and hence I am writing to you directly to request that you draw this opportunity to the attention of your colleagues. There are two types of fellowship available: ‘fast-track’ for early- to mid-career academics and ‘distinguished’ for mid- to late- career academics. Each fellowship bestows its recipient with an honorarium (£2-3,000), a travel allowance, accommodation, and money to buy out them out from their teaching if this is necessary in order for them to be able to accept the fellowship (up to £8,000).

There are up to 20 fellowships available and each is for a three month period (either October-December 2010 or January-March 2011) and most, but not all, will be awarded to individuals whose research provides the best fit with the Institute’s annual theme. During their stay, in addition to pursuing their research, fellows are required to engage with each other and with staff at Durham, deliver a public lecture and an IAS seminar, and work on an IAS web-based publication of circa 5,000 words.
The Institute's annual theme for 2010-11 will be 'Futures' with the potential for research to be carried out in areas concerning the prediction of the future, attempts to sustain the future, the various ways in which the future is represented in the arts, the effect the past has on our experiences now and in the future, and how the future is conceptualised to name but a few. We think this theme will be of great interest to a wide range of scholars from across all disciplines. Applications for the 2010/11 fellowships are welcome from 27 April 2009; the closing date for applications is 14 June 2009.

I enclose the full details of the 2010/11 fellowship scheme with this letter but if you require an electronic copy of this documentation then please email enquiries.ias@dur.ac.uk. Alternatively, full details can be obtained by your colleagues from the Institute's website: http://www.dur.ac.uk/ias/fellows/apply/. I am also enclosing, for your information, a copy of the Institute's annual report on its 2007-08 'Modelling' theme and a copy of the Institute's 2008-09 annual programme on its 'Being Human' theme. I do hope you will encourage your colleagues to apply.

Yours faithfully,

Professor Chris Higgins
Vice-Chancellor and Warden
The IAS is an ideas-based institute launched in October 2006 as a forum for world-class multi- and interdisciplinary debate. The Institute seeks to catalyse new thinking on major annual themes through critical dialogue between gifted individuals from different professional and academic backgrounds. The theme for 2010/11 is "Futures", interpreted in its broadest sense - scientifically, symbolically, legally, philosophically, literarily, politically, economically, and sociologically. Applications are now invited for up to 20 funded, three-month fellowships (October-December 2010 and January-March 2011) most, though not all, of which will be linked to the annual theme. Applicants may be scholars, writers, artists or thinkers/practitioners from any discipline and from anywhere in the world. Distinguished and fast-track fellowships are available: both include stipend, travel, accommodation, subsistence and costs associated with replacement teaching or loss of salary (where appropriate).

Further particulars are available from the IAS website www.dur.ac.uk/ias. Further details of the 2010/11 Futures theme can also be found here. Informal enquiries with the Directors of the Institute can be made via Catherine Paine, the IAS administrator (Tel: +44(0)191 3342589 or email catherine.paine@durham.ac.uk). **Closing date for applications is Sunday 14 June 2009.**

---

**Further Particulars**

**Introduction to the IAS**

The IAS is a flagship project launched in October 2006 to mark the 175th anniversary of the foundation of Durham University. The aim of the Institute is to cultivate - and communicate to various publics - new thinking on big ideas through critical dialogue across professional and disciplinary boundaries. At the core of IAS activities lies a generously funded UK and international fellowship programme. This allows the IAS to gather together the world's finest scholars and non-academics (e.g. intellectuals, artists, writers, journalists, policy makers, and politicians) from the full spectrum of science, social science, arts and humanities disciplines to address themes of global
significance. The Institute provides its fellows with a setting that offers them freedom to think in an unconstrained way, exempt from the day to day demands of their normal professional obligations, and in the company of other thinkers from very different backgrounds. The IAS seeks to develop a truly global perspective by ensuring that its fellows are recruited from all over the world, including the global south.

The theme for 2010/11, for which applications are now invited, is “Futures”, interpreted in its broadest sense to be of potential interest to those working in a wide range of disciplines. A number of specific sub-themes have already been identified, including:

- Time and Evolution
- Theorising the Future
- Anticipating the Future
- Experiencing the Future
- Figuring the Future
- Sustainable Futures

Fellows will be able to engage in these themes or to propose others that are related to the theme of Futures.

There are two types of fellowship available: ‘distinguished’ and ‘fast-track’. Each type of fellowship is available for a 3-month period between October 2010 and March 2011 (shorter stays to be negotiated with the Directors). Distinguished fellowships will normally be offered to mid/late career scholars and non-academics who have an established international reputation, have shaped their field, and can provide evidence of research leadership and/or public impact. They are expected to have played a significant role in shaping their field through their outputs, achievements and markers of esteem. Fast-track fellowships will normally be offered to early/mid career individuals who have an emerging international reputation and are beginning to shape the agenda in their field. Most, but not all, of the fellowships will be offered to those whose research complements the 2010/11 annual theme.

What the fellowships offer:

An IAS fellowship provides the holder with the opportunity to develop their research and ideas in a thriving community of intellectuals of national and international standing, within the Institute, through the College system, and by forging strong links with at least one department at Durham.

For the duration of their stay, all fellows will be provided with a single occupancy office in Cosin’s Hall, the home of the Institute of Advanced Study. The Hall, a magnificent listed building dedicated to the IAS and elegantly refurbisted, is situated on a World Heritage site that includes Durham Cathedral and Durham Castle. In addition, all fellows will be welcomed into a college community where they will be offered half board accommodation (in a one or two bedroom flat), and membership of the college’s Senior Common Room.
The Institute will cover the costs associated with the fellow travelling to Durham, UK from their home institution (return fare – economy class) and will provide all fellows with an honorarium. ‘Distinguished’ fellows receive an honorarium of £3,000; ‘Fast-Track’ fellows receive an honorarium of £2,000.

Teaching buy-out costs of up to £8,000 will be available to academics who will not be on research leave/sabbatical whilst on fellowship at Durham. Alternatively individuals who will experience a loss of income as a result of accepting an IAS fellowship are entitled to apply for a contribution towards their lost salary/earnings (limited funds are available for this).

Your contribution to the IAS:

To ensure the best experience at the IAS, Fellows are required to:

- Reside in Durham for three months (shorter stays may occasionally be negotiated with the Directors; this must occur prior to the award of the fellowship).
- Participate in IAS activities and engage with staff and research students in relevant departments and Colleges at Durham University
- Present an ‘in house’ IAS seminar and a public lecture.
- Write a short paper (3-7,000 words) for the Institute’s flagship publication ‘Insights’
- Contribute, where appropriate, to other relevant activities in the thematic programme
- Acknowledge IAS support in any publications resulting from their period of stay in Durham.
- Produce an ‘End of Fellowship’ report (no more than 1,000 words) detailing their activities and achievements during their Fellowship

How to Apply

To apply for an IAS fellowship you will need to submit the following:

- A letter of application
- A Curriculum Vitae/ Résumé
- Two references
- A 500-word statement

Letter of Application

In your letter of application you should make it clear the type of fellowship for which you are applying (Distinguished, Fast-Track or both) and the period that you would like to spend at Durham (October-December 2010 or January–March 2011).

If a teaching buy-out or a contribution towards a loss of earnings is required please provide a costing in your application. Note that this cannot be done retrospectively (i.e. once an offer of a Fellowship has been made) so please consult with your home institution prior to applying.
We normally offer teaching buy-out costs at a pro-rata rate at junior replacement level, up to £8,000 (for the full three month period). In due course, should the IAS offer you a fellowship, a letter from your home institution will be required supporting this claim. The costs of salaried fellows will be paid directly to their home institutions, while fellows who are self-employed will be paid directly.

Finally, please indicate in your letter of application if you will be accompanied by a spouse or partner and/or if you have a family that will be travelling with you. However, please note that accommodation suitable for families is limited and that the IAS cannot, therefore, guarantee that such accommodation will be provided. The IAS cannot cover the costs of family travel and subsistence.

Curriculum Vitae/Résumé
Your Curriculum Vitae/Résumé should include evidence of your research interests and career to date, and of your international standing and impact in your field.

References
References should be emailed by your referees directly to the IAS Administrator (see below) by 14 June 2009. References should include comments about the applicant’s standing in their particular field, the quality of the applicant’s research, the level of recognition that has been received for this research, and the degree to which the applicant could contribute to and benefit from being in a multi-disciplinary community of fellows. Regrettably testimonials cannot be accepted by the IAS; the Directors do require references written specifically in connection with an application to the IAS Fellowship scheme.

500 Word Statement
The 500-word statement should include details of your planned activity whilst holding an IAS fellowship, the contacts and contribution you envisage making at Durham, and how your planned research will fit with the 2010/11 Futures theme.

The majority of fellowships will be offered based on the applicants’ fit with the 2010/11 theme. However, there are a small number of freestanding fellowships available. All applications will be carefully considered by the Directors of the IAS and it is intended that decisions will be announced by the end of September 2009. The Directors reserve the right to invite Fellows to join the IAS; however, they will endeavour to award a minimum number of Fellowships through the application process.

Applications are welcome from Durham University staff and should be accompanied by a letter from their Head of Department confirming that they have their permission to apply.
Please email your application to the IAS Administrator, Catherine Paine, by no later than Sunday 14 June 2009, quoting the reference number from the Fellowship advertisement.

Email: catherine.paine@durham.ac.uk

Tel: +44(0)191 3342589
Fax: +44(0)191 3344699

Should you wish to discuss informally matters relating to the IAS fellowships in general please contact Catherine Paine or the Executive Director, Professor Amin (ash.amin@durham.ac.uk). The other Directors (Professor Colin Bain, Chemistry; Professor Michael O’Neill, English Studies; and Professor Susan Smith, Geography) are also available for informal consultation.