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LOWER SAXONY – SCOTLAND TANDEM FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMME - Open Call for Applications -

RESEARCH IN A CROSS-NATIONAL EXCHANGE AT THE MOST RECOGNISED INSTITUTIONS

THE LOWER SAXONY – SCOTLAND TANDEM FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMME is an excellent opportunity for post-doctoral researchers to conduct research in a cross-national exchange at most higher education institutions between Lower Saxony and Scotland.

It is an initiative to implement the declared goal of the Landeshochschulkonferenz of Lower Saxony and Universities Scotland to strengthen the cooperation between the universities in Lower Saxony and Scotland as expressed in their joint Memorandum of Understanding from 2019. This includes the promotion of internationalisation and competence building, a contribution to cross-border European cooperation in science and research, the promotion of both regions as generators of excellent research in the European environment, and the deepening of institutional linkages between universities of both regions.

The programme is funded by the Ministry of Science and Culture of Lower Saxony (MWK) and is supported by accompanying functions, including logistical and technical assistance as well as providing an academic collaborator at participating Scottish universities.

1. TANDEM - CONCEPT

The Lower Saxony – Scotland Tandem Fellowship Programme, will connect two postdoc researchers from a Lower Saxonian and a Scottish higher



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education institution, who together form a partnership working on a joint project. The researchers will be already involved in or intend to collaborate in joint projects between Lower Saxonian and Scottish higher education institutions.

Funds will support short-term stays (up to six months, which can also be split in multiple stays) for each postdoc researcher and are funded with up to 1.200 Euro per person per month.

Either one or both of the partners should have a short-term stay in the partner region (institution) abroad for the purpose of the joint research project and do so within the timeframe of the project. While such a residency is appreciated and encouraged it is not a requirement that both tandem partners leave their home institution for a research stay.

2. ELIGIBILITY

Proposals are invited from:

- Postdoctoral researchers, early career researchers or persons holding a Postdoctoral position who have completed their PhD within the last 10 years

and

- who have an employment contract with a Scottish or Lower Saxonian university, university of applied science and recognized higher education institution located in Lower Saxony or Scotland, which extends for the length of any potential fellowship.

3. ADMISSION

All proposals must be submitted in English, using the application form and annexes provided on our website. Each tandem partner fills out a separate form and names his or her tandem partner on it.

There is no restriction regarding the choice of theme or subject. Please bear in mind that your application will also be assessed by persons who may have limited knowledge of your particular field of expertise. Proposals should

therefore be accessible and where possible, written in terms accessible to the educated non-expert.

a. REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

- CV
- PhD certificate
- List of most important publications
- Detailed description of the project the academics wish to conduct during the stay (max. 4 pages), incl.
 - a project description (including the substantiation that the selection criteria are met, see 3b),
 - timeline (for the joint project, with a maximum time frame of the stays abroad until the end of October 2022),
 - description of the state of research in the relevant field
- Confirmation of an employment contract with the Scottish or Lower Saxony home institution as well as the declaration exemption from work for the entire period of the stay abroad
- Application must be signed by the Dean / Head of School / Head of Faculty / the applicants' line manager of home and host institution

b. SELECTION CRITERIA

The selection is made using the following criteria:

**Impact on both regions,
Relevance,
Feasibility &
Sustainability.**



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You can meet the criteria in different ways. Please describe in your project description how your project meets the criteria. The selection committee evaluates the fulfilment of the criteria in an overall view of the individual aspects. The Selection Committee comprises 6 senior academics from across Lower Saxony and Scotland.

4. DEADLINES

Applications must be submitted until **31 August 2021**. You will be informed about final decisions on the fellowships by the end of September 2021.

5. DATA PROTECTION

The application documents remain with ECAS and become its property. The applicants' data will be stored in accordance with the German Federal Data Protection Act and the EU Data Protection Regulation, insofar as they are necessary for processing the application or the scholarship. The documents of unsuccessful applicants will be deleted and destroyed after a reasonable period of time.

6. MISCELLANEOUS

If you do not have a partner yet, but wish to submit an excellent project idea, ECAS will support you prior to the deadline in identifying suitable partners in Lower Saxony or Scotland.

ECAS reserves the right not to consider incomplete applications. The applicants are responsible for the timely submission of the complete documents.

For additional support, please contact the ECAS team at

fellowship@ecas-academia.org