The Harry Kroto Fellowships
Programme Specification

BACKGROUND
The University’s Strategic Plan Making the Future establishes the ambition to develop joint publications and research projects with international partners. The Harry Kroto Fellowships are designed to further this ambition. In this round, the scheme will enable visits by Sussex Early Career Lecturers/Researchers to institutions overseas.

PURPOSE OF THE SCHEME
This new University funded scheme, which is administered by Sussex Research, aims to consolidate sustainable collaborative research with international partner institutions and to provide Sussex’s Early Career Lecturers/Researchers with opportunities to establish their research trajectories and generate research income.

The scheme is intended especially to assist those recently appointed to lectureships who are balancing the demands of both teaching and research. Applicants are invited to work with whichever institution outside of the UK is most appropriate for the intended outputs, and we particularly welcome applications to work with the University’s designated strategic partners. A full list of these specific partners is available on the International Office website at:

www.sussex.ac.uk/studentrecruitment/internationaloffice/partnerships/strategicinitiatives

The scheme aims to:
- initiate and strengthen meaningful and concrete international research collaborations
- provide specific support for our Early Career Lecturers/Researchers as they establish their research trajectories and international networks,
- increase internationally co-authored publications, and
- increase and diversify our sources of funding through internationally collaborative grant applications.

The overseas visit can be for a period of between 2 weeks and 3 months. An especially compelling case will be expected for a visit approaching 3 months’ duration. We anticipate that between 4 and 8 awards will be made annually.

Applicants are expected to have a clear plan for collaborative research with a named partner or group at the host institution, and to have agreed arrangements to cover their absence from Sussex with their Head of School. Applicants applying to visit their host institution during a teaching period must have agreed their potential absence with their Head of School in advance of teaching timetables being agreed.

Applicants will be responsible for arranging the practicalities of the visit, including but not limited to, travel plans, visa application, and insurance.

ACTIVITIES
During the overseas visit Harry Kroto Fellows will be expected to initiate or develop a programme of research leading to substantive joint funding proposals and co-publications, enhancing Sussex’s
research reputation and driving up research income. The expectation is that outputs resulting from the visit will be attributed to Sussex.

Applicants may be expected to deliver a guest lecture, research seminars or PhD workshops at their host institution but should not be expected to deliver core teaching.

**FUNDING**

This scheme is intended to develop collaborative partnerships and networks. Funding will not be provided for conference attendance or independent fieldwork. For visits of a long duration, research expenses necessary to cultivate the partnership may be provided up to a maximum of £1,000. Requests for funds from this scheme should not be a substitute for requests for a normal School personal research allowance. Teaching replacement is an ineligible cost.

Funding could be used for travel, accommodation and incidental and specific research expenses.

**Details of how to cost your budget and guidance on university travel procedures can be found at** [www.sussex.ac.uk/staff/research/sussexresearch/krotofellowship/costing](http://www.sussex.ac.uk/staff/research/sussexresearch/krotofellowship/costing)

The application budget should include any fees charged by the host institution. Where applicable, applicants are encouraged to apply for relevant external funds to match those provided by this fund, and hence extend the period of the visit. In some cases partner institutions may have internal funding schemes to which applicants can apply.

Given the range of possible locations for visits, award values will vary but the expected maximum value is £5,000. We require a full breakdown and justification of costs in the application. The award panel will expect value for money for this investment of internal funds.

**ELIGIBILITY**

The Harry Kroto Fellowships are open to Early Career Researchers from all disciplines. The scheme is particularly directed towards those appointed on Teaching and Research contracts, in order to enable them to embark upon an independent research trajectory in tandem with the development of their teaching role at Sussex. The Fellowships are for members of University of Sussex Staff; students are ineligible to apply. Staff on teaching-only contracts are also ineligible to apply to the fund.

For the purposes of this scheme Early Career Researchers are defined as those who have no more than 7 years of relevant academic research experience (excluding any period of doctoral study). Applications are welcomed from those who have taken a non-standard career path and the period of academic research experience does not have to be continuous.

Early Career Researchers would be expected to demonstrably fulfil the following attributes:

- **Research excellence:** Delivery of outstanding research and an indication of where the research contributes to delivering impact. Awareness of the international context of the research.
- **Setting the research agenda:** Has a clear vision of the contribution they can make to their research area. Evidence of independence (of research) ideas.
- **Strategic vision:** Shows awareness in identifying, exploring and developing research opportunities more broadly across different interfaces. An aspiration to develop a network of independent contacts and an awareness of how to position themselves to deliver on research opportunities. Ability to make decisions to deliver their research ideas.
- **Profile and influence:** shows potential to act as an ambassador and advocate for their research field/theme and for University of Sussex research more generally.
Staff on fixed-term contracts are eligible to apply provided their contract lasts for at least one year beyond the end of the proposed visit. Staff employed as postdoctoral research fellows on funded projects must demonstrate in their application that the funder approves, that the aims of the funded project will be furthered as a result of the visit, and that the PI supports the application.

In accordance with the University's Athena SWAN objective of addressing gender inequality, the scheme welcomes bids from applicants returning from parental leave. This scheme is also aligned with the principles of The Concordat to Support the Career Development of Researchers, specifically supporting researchers to be 'adaptable and flexible in an increasingly diverse, mobile, global research environment'.

APPLICATION PROCESS
Applicants are encouraged to be as concise as possible and not exceed the maximum page limits specified. Any material beyond these page limits will not be considered. Single line spacing may be used and font should be 11pt Arial. The application form must be used - continuation sheets will not be accepted. Applications are structured as follows:

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<td>Justification of Early Career Researcher Status</td>
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<td>Rationale for collaboration</td>
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<td>Part 9</td>
<td>Applicant CV (maximum 2 pages)</td>
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Applications are not complete unless they include statements from the applicant’s Head of School and the head of the relevant unit at the host institution. Applicants should submit their completed application to research.initiatives@sussex.ac.uk by **12 noon on Tuesday 2 May 2017**. Applications submitted after the deadline and incomplete applications will not be reviewed.

**KEY COMMISSIONING DATES**

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<th>Decision to applicants</th>
<th>Earliest start date</th>
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<td>12 noon 2 May 2017</td>
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**REVIEW PROCEDURE**
Applications will be reviewed by a panel consisting of the Pro-Vice Chancellor Research, Deputy Pro-Vice Chancellor (Interdisciplinary Research), Director of Research and Enterprise, Director of Doctoral School, and Director of Research Staff Development with both the Assistant Head, International Liaison and the Research Staff Officer advising.

Applications should address the following criteria which will be used to review the proposals:

- Rationale for collaboration between applicant and host institution
• Quality of expected outcomes (publications and grant applications)
• Importance of research questions underpinning the collaboration
• Likelihood that objectives will be achieved
• Evidence of partner’s commitment to the project
• Value for money
• How the collaboration will enable career progression at Sussex for the applicant
• Project’s importance for applicant’s school research strategy

If, after being reviewed against the above criteria, two applications receive the same score, the panel will take into consideration whether the applicant has ticked the box confirming that they have recently returned from parental leave.

Applicants may be invited for interview before final decisions are made.

REPORTING REQUIREMENTS
Successful applicants will be expected to submit a brief report detailing outcomes one month after the applicant has returned to Sussex. In order to assess the impact of this funding scheme, a follow-on report will also be requested six months after the initial report.

FURTHER INFORMATION AND SCHEME CONTACTS
If you would like to discuss your application please contact:

Alan Lester, Deputy Pro-Vice Chancellor (Interdisciplinary Research), A.J.Lester@sussex.ac.uk
Carly Brownbridge, Sussex Research Initiatives Officer, C.Brownbridge@sussex.ac.uk