

**LOWER SAXONY – SCOTLAND TANDEM FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMME
LEADING THE WAY IN EXCELLENT RESEARCH EXCHANGE**

OPEN CALL for Applications

Published: April 2024
For: **Postdoctoral Researchers**
Term: July 2024 – December 2024

This Open Call compiles the most important information about the funding, eligibility, admission, and selection process within the framework of the Lower Saxony – Scotland Tandem Fellowship Programme. For more information, please see the contact section at the end of the document.

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1. Premise

The **Lower Saxony – Scotland Tandem Fellowship Programme** is an excellent opportunity for early career researchers to conduct research in an international exchange at the most recognised higher education institutions in Lower Saxony and Scotland.

The promotion of internationalisation and competence building is a central component of the programme. It leads to cross-border European cooperation in science and research, strengthens both regions as producers of excellent knowledge in the European scientific environment, and deepens the links between participating institutions.

2. Concept & Eligibility

The programme facilitates partnerships between tandems comprising **two early career researchers, with one researcher hailing from a higher education institution in Lower Saxony and the other from a Scottish counterpart**. Together, they collaborate on a joint project.

Prospective candidates must have obtained their doctoral degrees within the past ten years and currently hold a contractual position with a university, university of applied sciences, or accredited higher education institution based in Lower Saxony or Scotland. The duration of this employment contract should align with the duration of the fellowship.

Applicants may already be involved in various joint projects between different higher education institutions from both regions.

3. Funding

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

The fellowship of up to **1,400 Euro per month per fellow** is paid in addition to a **regular employment contract** between a fellow and a respective Lower Saxonian or Scottish higher education institution. The funds are exclusively designated to support each researcher during their stay abroad, which can be planned and separated into shorter individual stays throughout the duration of the whole fellowship (six months).

During the stay, the tandems can intensify their collaboration by working on the joint project, presenting concrete results and, potentially, preparing an application for third-party funding.

4. Admission

All proposals must be submitted in English, using the application form provided on our website. Each tandem partner must complete and submit a separate application form (including all required documents) via email at fellowship@ecas-academia.org. There are no restrictions regarding the choice of theme or subject. Please bear in mind that your application will be assessed by all members of the Selection Committee, who may or may not have advanced or limited knowledge in your particular field of expertise. Proposals should therefore be comprehensible and, if possible, written in terms accessible to the educated non-expert.

Required Documents:

- Curriculum vitae.
- PhD/Dr. (med.) certificate/M.D. certificate.
- List of most important publications if available.
- Detailed description of the tandem research project (max. 4 pages; written in Times New Roman (size 12) or Arial (size 11) font with single line spacing in between), incl.:
 - substantiation that all selection criteria are met (see: page 4),
 - timeline and roadmap for planned stays at your partner's institution throughout the fellowship,
 - description of the state of research in the relevant field.
- Confirmation of an employment contract with the Lower Saxonian/Scottish home institution as well as the declaration exemption from work for the entire period of all planned stays abroad.
- Application must be signed by the Dean/Head of School/Head of Faculty/the applicants' line manager of home and host institution.

5. Selection Criteria & Selection Committee

Each member of the Selection Committee for the Lower Saxony – Scotland Tandem Fellowship Programme represents a different field of research and offers a unique insight into their area of expertise. The aim of such an interdisciplinary committee is to fairly evaluate the merits of each applicant and identify the most suitable projects for the programme.

The selection is made according to the following criteria:

- I **Impact on Lower Saxony, Scotland & Society (20%)**
- II **Excellence, Quality & Academic Output (40%)**
- III **Feasibility (20%)**
- IV **Sustainability (20%)**

Please note the percentage distribution of each individual criterion indicated in brackets at the end of all the individual criteria listed above.

Important: Please refer to all criteria in your application form (section: Project Description) and demonstrate how exactly your project meets and fulfils each individual selection criterion.

6. Deadline and Timeline

For the current Open Call, the applications must be submitted by **15 June 2024** via email at fellowship@ecas-academia.org.

The fellowship extends over a period of six months – **starting on 1 July 2024 and ending on 31 December 2024**. Applicants must ensure that they plan their research stay within the stated time frame.

7. 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 fellowship. The documents of unsuccessful applicants will be deleted and destroyed after a reasonable period of time.

8. Miscellaneous

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

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

9. Contact Details

If you have any questions about the above or require more general support regarding the programme and application process, please contact Karolina Michniewicz (ECAS Academic Coordinator) at:

Phone: +49 152 3897 3666 or +49 4131 677 1913

E-Mail: michniewicz@ecas-academia.org or fellowship@ecas-academia.org

