

QUEEN ELIZABETH II FELLOWSHIPS

On the occasion of the visit of Her Majesty earlier this year, the Commonwealth Government announced its decision to commemorate the Royal Visit by the foundation in perpetuity of post-doctoral Fellowships in the physical and biological sciences. With Her Majesty's consent, these Fellowships will be known as the Queen Elizabeth II Fellowships.

Physical and biological sciences have an increasingly vital role in national growth and welfare and the Government wishes the present foundation to make a worthy contribution to scientific progress in this country and to the professional resources of our universities and scientific institutions. It is proposed that ten Fellowships may be awarded each year. They will be tenable in Australian universities or approved scientific institutions and will be open to Australian and U.K. citizens.

The Government's intention is that these Fellowships will be awarded only to applicants of quite exceptional merit, young scientists who have demonstrated outstanding promise and capacity for original work. Fellowships will normally be tenable for a period of two years in an Australian university or approved scientific institution. In exceptional circumstances, a Fellowship may be extended for an additional year.

A Standing Committee to be known as the Queen Elizabeth Fellowships Committee will be established to consider applications and to administer awards. The Committee will be appointed by the Prime Minister and will comprise principally representatives of the Australian scientific body drawn from a panel nominated by the Council of the Australian Academy of Science. The Committee may, as it sees fit, establish sub-committees or make other arrangements to assist it in the performance of its functions. A Secretariat will be provided by the Prime Minister's Department.

Awards will be announced by the Prime Minister on the recommendation of the Standing Committee.

Applications:

1. Applications will be invited by the Committee from Australian or U.K. citizens who have completed a Ph.D., or have obtained equivalent qualifications, in one of the physical or biological sciences. For the award of the Fellowships, physical and biological sciences will be deemed to include mathematics and the scientific aspects of statistics, engineering, metallurgy, agriculture and medicine.
2. Applicants should be not more than 30 years of age. (In exceptional circumstances, an older applicant may be considered.)
3. Normally an applicant should be sponsored by his university and his application submitted by that university on his behalf. An applicant should therefore submit his application to the Registrar of the University at which his higher qualifications were obtained. If the university elects to sponsor the application, it will forward it to the Queen Elizabeth II Fellowships Committee with appropriate endorsement. If in any case it is appropriate for the application to be sponsored by a scientific institution at which he has undertaken research, the application may be made through that institution.

4. An application should state the general nature and scope of the research which the applicant wishes to undertake and may be supported by copies of scientific or other papers which the applicant has published or which are in the course of publication.
5. Where an applicant indicates the Australian university or scientific institution at which he wishes the Fellowship to be tenable, the Queen Elizabeth Fellowships Committee will require an indication on the part of the university or institution that in the event of an award it will be ready to accommodate the Fellow and accept responsibility for such supervision of his projected work as is necessary and for disbursing, on behalf of the Commonwealth, stipend and other payments associated with the Fellowship. The Committee will stand ready to help where necessary to secure suitable placement for successful applicants.
6. The applicant shall arrange for three referees to furnish statements to the Committee in support of his application.
7. Applications should be lodged with the Secretary of the Queen Elizabeth Fellowships Committee, C/- Prime Minister's Department, Canberra. Dates for the lodging of applications and for the announcement of awards will be determined from time to time by the Standing Committee.
8. Each successful applicant will be required to sign an undertaking to accept and observe the conditions on which his Fellowship is to be held.

Conditions:

1. For the time being, Fellowships will carry a stipend at the rate of £2,500 per annum. In special cases where the post-graduate experience of a Fellow would justify it, the Fellowships Committee may approve a higher stipend up to a maximum rate of £3,000 per annum. Dependants' allowances will also be paid on the basis of £250 per annum for a wife and £100 per annum in respect of each child under 16 years of age.
2. Where a Fellowship is awarded to an overseas resident, the Commonwealth will meet the cost of tourist air fares, including an agreed luggage allowance, for the Fellow and his family to Australia and return on completion of the Fellowship. In the case of an award to an Australian resident, the Commonwealth will meet any reasonable transfer expenses for the Fellow and his family which may be involved in undertaking the Fellowship.
3. An allowance at the rate of £500 per annum will be paid to the University or scientific institution where a Fellowship is tenable in recognition of expenses which may be incurred by the University or scientific institution incidental to a Fellow's research work. Any reimbursement of expenses to a Fellow under this head will be at the discretion of the institution in which the Fellow is working.
4. The Commonwealth will make a contribution of up to 10% of the annual stipend towards a Fellow's superannuation provisions under F.S.S.U. or equivalent arrangements.
5. A Fellow will normally be expected to take up duty within six months of the announcement of the award and will be entitled to payment of stipend and allowances as from the date on which he takes up duty.

6. A Fellow shall devote his whole time to the specified research and may not accept any additional appointment or emolument without the approval of the Standing Committee and the University or scientific institution concerned. A limited amount of time, however, may with the approval of the Committee be spent in delivering an advanced course of lectures.
7. At the end of his first year's research, a Fellow will be required to report to the Standing Committee as to the progress of his work. The Committee will also receive a report from the Head of the Department in which the Fellow is working. If the Committee is of the opinion that the Fellow has not made good use of his opportunities, it may at its absolute discretion terminate the Fellowship.
8. At the end of the tenure of a Fellowship, a Fellow will submit to the Committee a complete report on the research carried out.
9. A Fellow will be expected to conform to such of the regulations (including disciplinary provisions) of the University or scientific institution in which he is holding the Fellowship as are applicable to him and the Committee may terminate his Fellowship if he fails to conform.
10. A Fellow shall not be entitled to relinquish his Fellowship except on and subject to such conditions as are determined by the Committee.

Prime Minister's Office,
CANBERRA. A.C.T.