

# **Cultivating a Fellowship:** *From the seed of an idea to germination of a proposal*

**C-DICE Fellows**

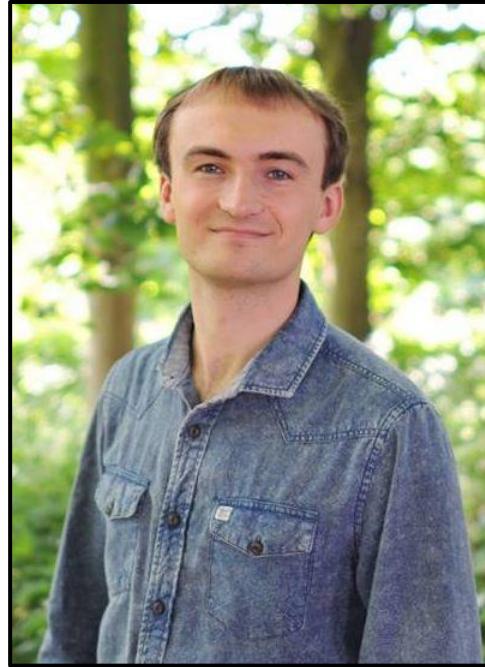
# Who We Are



**Dr Humera Ansari**

Doctoral Prize Fellow,  
Loughborough University

✉ h.ansari@lboro.ac.uk  
🐦 @humerasansari



**Dr Daniel Evans**

Lecturer,  
Cranfield University

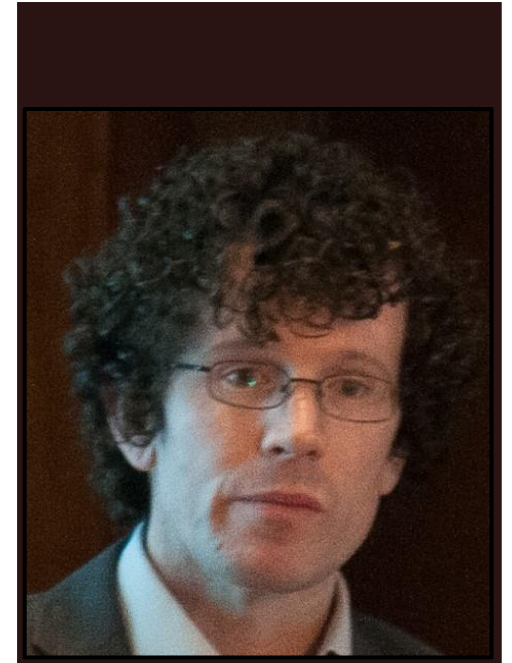
✉ daniel.l.evans@cranfield.ac.uk  
🐦 @danevansol



**Dr Alex Elliott**

Research Fellow,  
Cranfield University

✉ alex.j.elliott@cranfield.ac.uk  
🐦 @AJElliottEng



**Dr Tom Dolan**

Research Fellow,  
UCL

✉ thomas.dolan@ucl.ac.uk  
🐦 @itfctom

# What is a Fellowship?

## Postdoc

- Focus is **your PI's research**
- You are paid for by funding **secured by your PI**
- You support your PI's research group by supervising students, maintaining equipment or providing training etc.
- Fixed-term contract

## Fellowship

- Focus is **your own research**
- You are paid for by funding **secured by yourself** as part of a fellowship scheme
- You grow your own research independence, are responsible for purchasing resources and hiring PhD students/postdocs
- Fixed-term contract (usually)

# The Fellowship Application

3 P's

- Project** Your research
- Place** Your fellowship host
- Person** You as a candidate

# The Research Project

## Self-reflection

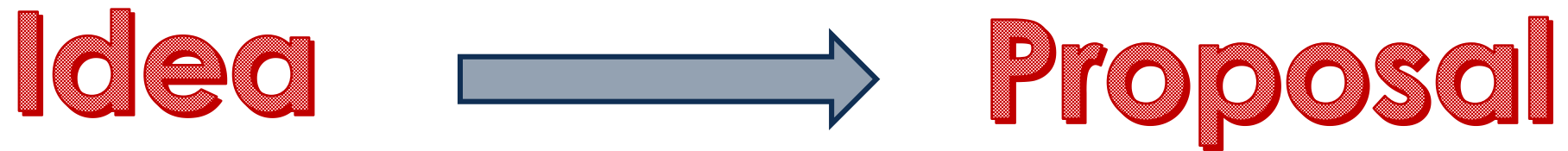
- Think about a research idea that you might want to develop for a fellowship
- Evaluate the idea:
  - Is it novel?
  - Is it practical?
  - What is the gap you are addressing?
  - Are there any funders who would be interested?
  - What are the desired outcomes?

# The Research Project

## Discussion

- In groups of 3, discuss your research ideas with each other
- Try to convince each other of the importance of your research and what would happen if this research was **not** carried out
- Provide feedback on whether you agree with each other's evaluations of their research ideas
- Ask questions to extract the true novelty and purpose of their research idea
- Are you convinced?

# Turning your Idea into a Proposal



**What do you think we need to include in a proposal of 2 pages?**

# Turning your Idea into a Proposal

## **A Research Proposal should contain:**

- Context of research (importance/need)
- Research gap that is being addressed
- Research hypothesis
- Methodologies (materials, experiments, computational etc.)
- Expected outputs (journal articles, conferences etc.)
- Impact of this research project
- Collaborators
- Why you have chosen the university/department/research institute
- Any supplemental funding
- Why you're the best person to carry this research out



# Pitching your Proposal

## **Prepare an Elevator Pitch (3 mins) for your Research Office**

- Individually, prepare an elevator pitch convincing your Research Office to support your research proposal
- In groups of 2, one person takes on the role of the candidate, and the other as a representative from your university Research Office. The candidate will then pitch their proposal. The Research Office will provide feedback and answer if they would support the candidate's research.
- Switch roles and repeat the process.

# Where to Look

**Lots of options – look for the one which best suits you and your research**

- UKRI Research councils – several offer Postdoctoral Fellowships
- British Academy
- Royal Academy of Engineering
- Royal Society
- Royal Commission for the Exhibition of 1851
- Independent Social Research Foundation
- Leverhulme Trust
- Universities – some have their own fellowship schemes
- Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions
- Wellcome Trust
- C-DICE...

# Conclusion

## Key Messages

- Focus on the 3 P's to write your research proposal
- Try to place yourself in the shoes of the funding body/research office to understand how you should highlight the importance of your research and its novelty
- Don't forget to include not only WHY but also HOW you will accomplish your research goals (specific details on research approaches, methodologies, research outputs etc.)

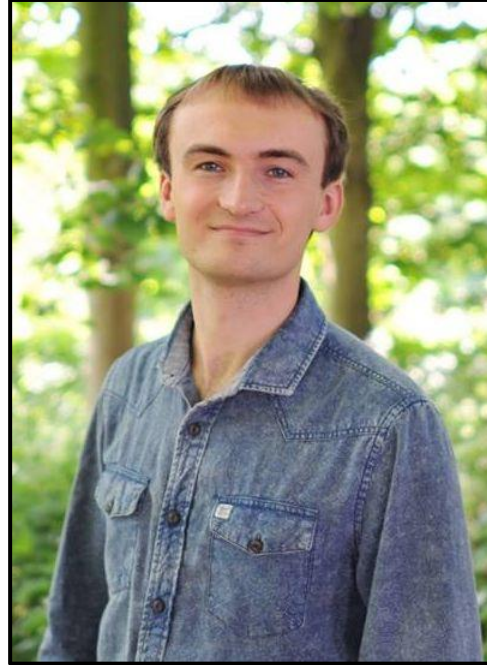
# Contact us for any more questions!



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Doctoral Prize Fellow,  
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✉ [h.ansari@lboro.ac.uk](mailto:h.ansari@lboro.ac.uk)  
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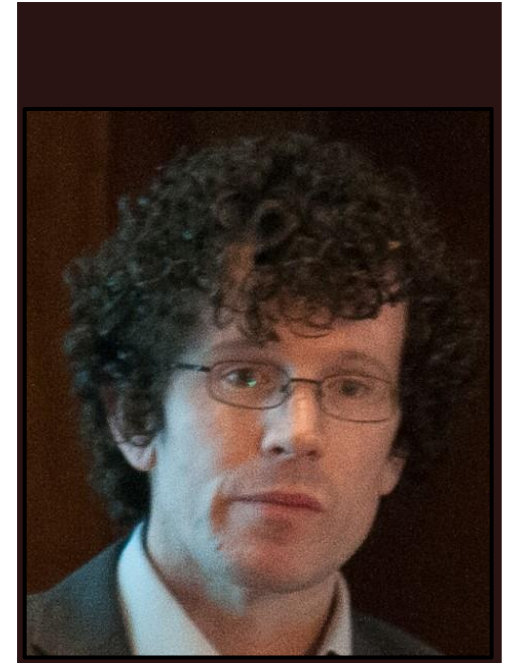
✉ [daniel.l.evans@cranfield.ac.uk](mailto:daniel.l.evans@cranfield.ac.uk)  
🐦 @danevansol



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