



British Embassy  
Moscow



## Call for Applications

### UK-Russia Postgraduate Research Fellowship Programme in the fields of

-  **Arctic Research:** research into environmental change and its impacts in the Arctic and sub-Arctic areas and connected ecosystems (terrestrial, marine, cryosphere, atmosphere, and cross-cutting Arctic research).
-  **Life Science & Medical Research** connected to global public health challenges, including but not limited to COVID-19, antimicrobial resistance.
-  **Climate Change Research** connected but not limited to nature-based solutions, green finance, energy transition and efficiency, adaption and resilience, clean transport.

#### Programme Description

The Cultural and Education Section of the British Embassy in Moscow announces the UK-Russia Graduate Research Fellowship Programme for Russian female early-career researchers, who will receive financial support to undertake postgraduate fellowship research projects at UK institutions.

This Graduate Research Fellowship scheme is part of the [University Alliance programme](#) whose overarching goal is to connect the UK with Russia's universities and research institutions by expanding research collaborations and academic exchange.

#### Programme Information

The objectives of the Graduate Research Fellowship Programme are: 1) to support promising early-career researchers, 2) to contribute to joint UK-Russia research and create long-term links between UK host institutions and Russian applicants' home institutions, and 3) to increase participation of female researchers in science fields. The outcomes of the Fellowship Programme are expected to support and further develop long term research collaborations between UK-based and Russian researchers.

The Fellowship Programme is open to Russian female postgraduate students working toward their PhD/Doctorate (aspirantura/doctorantura) at Russian universities, research institutes and centres with priority to those who study the following subjects: Arctic Research, Life Science & Medical Research, Climate Change.



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The Programme will support from 3 to 9-month stay of a Russian postgraduate student at a UK university or research institution undertaking research which is complementary to the applicant's Doctorate/PhD project at their home institution. The placement will enable the applicant to work on a research project under the supervision of a UK scientist/s, make use of laboratories and equipment with some concrete practical outcomes.

A Russian applicant is expected to identify a university/research institution/department/research laboratory in the UK that they think is best suited for their Doctorate/PhD research project. Prior to submitting their application a Russian applicant must establish contact with a UK university/research institution and a potential UK supervisor within this university/research institution, receive a written confirmation from the potential UK supervisor/UK host institution that they are happy to support their research project and can offer them a placement. The funding for the approved fellowships will be transferred directly to the applicant's host institution in the UK.

As part of the application process, an applicant will be expected to clearly set out their research proposal to be undertaken during their stay in the UK, explain why it is important for them to do a research project at that particular university/research institution/department/research laboratory in the UK, how it will strengthen scientific collaboration between the UK and Russia and how this will contribute to the successful completion of their PhD/Doctoral thesis in Russia.

Under this Programme, 7 (seven) Postgraduate Research Fellowships will be awarded. A fellowship funding will be available for a minimum of 3 months and maximum of 9 months. The length of the fellowships will vary based on the individual proposal, but the fellowship visits must take place in the following period: from March 2022 through to March 2023.

A maximum budget for a single fellowship will not exceed 20,000 GBP. Eligible costs can include travel and living costs in the UK, and costs associated with the research project (i.e. consumables, costs associated with using lab equipment, travel to conferences or work events within the UK).

The funding for the approved fellowships will be provided directly to the applicant's host institution in the UK. The UK institution must be able to sign an agreement with the British Council to accept the funding for the applicant's fellowship. The finance matters then will be discussed and arranged between the applicant and the host institution directly. The applicant will be responsible for making the necessary logistical arrangements themselves.



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## Eligibility

- Russian citizen
- Female
- PhD/postdoc researcher: currently enrolled in a PhD/Doctoral degree (aspirantura/doctorantura) at an accredited Russian university, research institute or research centre
- Pursuing their PhD/Doctorate studies in the fields of
  - Arctic research<sup>1</sup>
  - life science and medical research<sup>2</sup>
  - climate change<sup>3</sup>.

## Selection Process

Applications will be assessed by the international Selection Panel according to:

- general relevance to the fields of Arctic research, life science & medical research, climate change;
- quality of the scientific content of the proposed activity;
- whether the proposed research project will strengthen scientific collaboration between the UK and Russia;
- compliance with Guidelines for Applicants and the relevant Application Form instructions.

Applicants who are shortlisted will be invited for an interview.

## Timeline

27 September 2021:	Call for Applications
8 December 2021:	Application Deadline
13 – 22 December 2021:	Interviews
27 December 2021:	Notification of the Finalists
January – February 2022:	Agreements with UK universities are signed
March 2022 – March 2023:	Fellowships will take place

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<sup>1</sup> Research into environmental change and its impacts in the Arctic and sub-Arctic areas and connected ecosystems (terrestrial, marine, cryosphere, atmosphere, and cross-cutting Arctic research).

<sup>2</sup> Research connected to global public health challenges, including but not limited to COVID-19, antimicrobial resistance.

<sup>3</sup> Research connected but not limited to nature-based solutions, green finance, energy transition and efficiency, adaption and resilience, and clean transport.



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### Submission Instructions

Applicants interested in pursuing the fellowship should complete the Application Form template and attach the following documents:

1. Copy of an Academic Transcript
2. Copy of a Doctorate/PhD Research Plan and a timeline
3. A letter of recommendation from a current supervisor in Russia (endorsing the applicant and their proposed research project and explaining why the supervisor supports their fellowship at a UK university/research institution)
4. An acceptance letter from the UK university/research institution. It should be a letter of support from your intended host institution in the UK. The letter must be written by a UK professor/supervisor/head of laboratory/head of the host department on the official letterhead. The letter should indicate that the UK university/research institution is ready to take responsibility for the organising and accommodating the fellowship visit and that they are ready to conclude an agreement with the British Council and accept the money. The letter should confirm their agreement to support the delivery of the applicant's project proposal.

Applications must be submitted electronically to the University Alliance programme email [futurescience.ukrussia@gmail.com](mailto:futurescience.ukrussia@gmail.com) with the subject "UK-Russia Fellowship Programme" by the end of the day on **8 December 2021, 23.59 Moscow time.**

Applications submitted after this date will not be considered for selection.

Inquiries should be directed to [futurescience.ukrussia@gmail.com](mailto:futurescience.ukrussia@gmail.com)

We look forward to receiving your application!