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## **LOWER SAXONY – SCOTLAND TANDEM FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMME**

### ***Open Call for Applications***

#### **RESEARCH IN A CROSS-NATIONAL EXCHANGE AT THE MOST RECOGNISED INSTITUTIONS**

THE LOWER SAXONY – SCOTLAND TANDEM FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMME is an excellent opportunity for early career researchers to conduct research in a cross-national 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 cooperation in science and research, strengthens both regions as producers of excellent research in the European scientific landscape, and deepens the institutional links between participating higher education institutions.

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

#### **1. TANDEM – CONCEPT**

The Lower Saxony – Scotland Tandem Fellowship Programme connects tandems consisting of two early career researchers from a Lower Saxonian and a Scottish higher education institution. Together they form a partnership and work on a joint project. The researchers will already be involved in or intend to collaborate on joint projects between Lower Saxonian and Scottish higher education institutions.

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Funds will support short-term stays (from at least one up to six months; due to the Covid-19 pandemic, it is exceptionally possible to split the stay into several trips) for each early career researcher and are funded with 1,200 Euro per person per month.

Ideally, both partners should have a short stay abroad at the host institution (home institution of the tandem partner) for the purpose of the joint research project within the timeframe of the project.

## 2. ELIGIBILITY

Proposals are invited from early career researchers, postdoctoral researchers or persons holding a postdoctoral position who have completed their PhD within the last ten years and have an employment contract with a Lower Saxonian or Scottish university, university of applied science or recognized higher education institution, which extends for the length of the fellowship.

## 3. 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 (please submit all documents via [fellowship@ecas-academia.org](mailto:fellowship@ecas-academia.org)). There are no restrictions regarding the choice of theme or subject. Please bear in mind that your application might be assessed by persons who may have 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.

### a. REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

- CV.
- PhD/Dr. (med.) certificate/M.D. certificate.
- List of most important publications.
- Detailed description of the project the academics wish to conduct during the stay (max. 4 pages), incl.:

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- a project description (including the substantiation that the selection criteria are met, see 3b);
- timeline (for the joint project, with a maximum time frame of the stays abroad until the end of September 2023);
- description of the state of research in the relevant field.
- Confirmation of an employment contract with the Scottish/Lower Saxonian home institution as well as the declaration exemption from work for the entire period of the stay abroad.
- Application must be signed by the Dean/Head of School/Head of Faculty/the applicants' line manager of home and host institution.

#### **b. SELECTION CRITERIA**

The selection is made according to the following criteria:

- **Impact on Lower Saxony, Scotland and Society,**
- **Excellence, Quality and Academic Output,**
- **Feasibility &**
- **Sustainability.**

Criterion 2: "Excellence, Quality and Academic Output" counts twice as much (40 %) as the other criteria (20 % each). You can meet the criteria in different ways. Please describe in your project description how your project fulfils the criteria. The selection committee evaluates the attainment of the criteria in an overall view of the individual aspects. The Selection Committee comprises six senior academics from across Lower Saxony and Scotland.



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#### 4. DEADLINES

Applications must be submitted by **15 May 2022**. You will be informed about final decisions on the fellowships at the latest by 15 July 2022.

#### 5. 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 scholarship. The documents of unsuccessful applicants will be deleted and destroyed after a reasonable period of time.

#### 6. 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.

***For additional support, please contact the ECAS team at***

***[fellowship@ecas-academia.org](mailto:fellowship@ecas-academia.org)***

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