

# WIRL-COFUND at Warwick

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# What is WIRL?

## *Warwick Interdisciplinary Research Leaders Programme*

- 5 year programme
- 30 x 2 year postdoctoral fellowships
- Based at Institute for Advanced Study
- Focus on training of early career researchers and their development as future research leaders

# The IAS at Warwick

- Promote interdisciplinary research across all faculties
- Foster new collaborative research activity
- Enhance opportunities for international scholars to engage with Warwick
- Enrich the research environment for postgraduate and early career researchers

# Early Career programmes at the IAS

- **Global Research Fellows:** 5 year senior fellowships aimed at establishing a permanent academic career
- **Postdoctoral Fellows:** 2 year fellowships for early stage postdoctoral researchers seeking to establish independent research
- **Early Career Fellowships:** 10-month fellowship programme open to Warwick PhD students seeking to establish postdoctoral research career

All Fellowships have a training and mentoring programme - ACE

# The ACE Programme

- Academic Careers and Employability
- 10 month skills programme to prepare for academic life
- Grant and fellowship writing, publication, communication skills, interviews, networking, outreach/public engagement, media training, wider academic issues (REF, TEF Impact etc)
- Budget to organise workshop event and establish wider networks

WIRL *builds on and extends* the existing programmes

Used existing 2 year PD fellowships as COFUND match

Doubles number of fellowships on offer and expands beyond Warwick researchers.

Focus still very much on researcher training and development

Interdisciplinary - fellows can conduct research in any area but must demonstrate a link to Warwick Global Research Priorities

Training programme expanded and adapted for fellows coming from outside UK

Fellows undertake secondment at another institute

# Progress to Date

<b>March 2016</b>	Award made
<b>May 2016</b>	Grant Agreement Signed
<b>Oct-Dec 2016</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> Call for applicants
<b>Jan 2017</b>	164 applications checked & 100 sent out for review
<b>Mar 2017</b>	Moderation panel-29 candidates invited to interview
<b>May 2017</b>	21 candidates interviewed – 9 offers made
<b>Sept 2017</b>	First fellowship cohort starts
.....repeat until 2020	



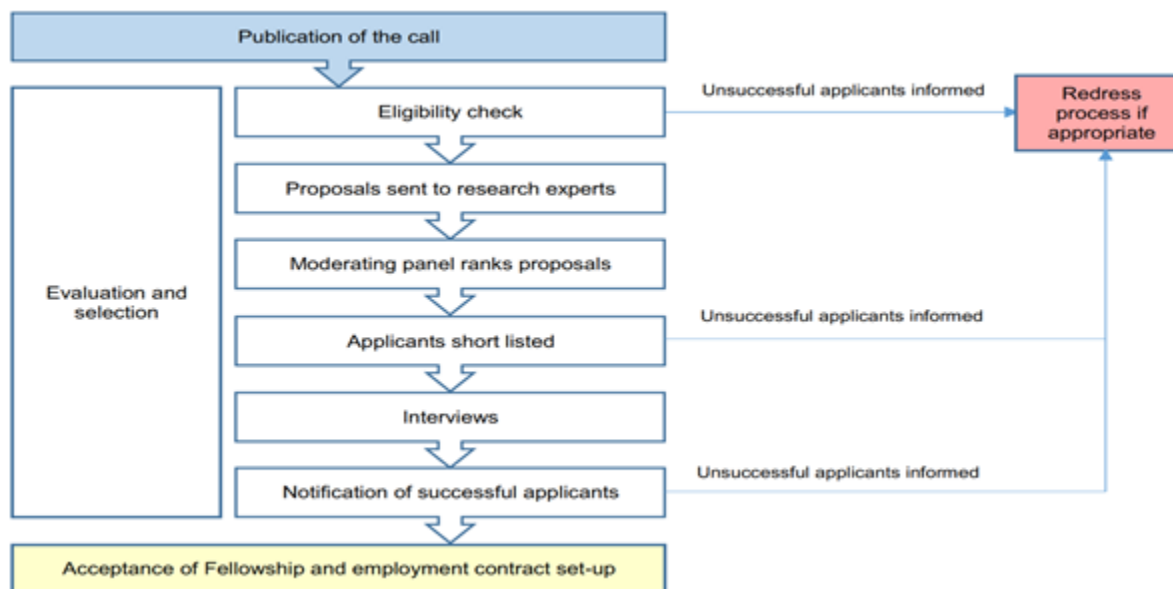
# Why were we successful?

## Excellence:

- *Transparency* of process & selection criteria, including measures to facilitate equal opportunities
- *Specificity* of evaluation criteria



# WIRL-COFUND Selection Process



# Why were we successful?

## Excellence:

- **Transparency** of process & selection criteria, including measures to facilitate equal opportunities
- **Specificity** of evaluation criteria
- Track record of delivering **high quality training** in research & transferable skills
- **Detailed** mentoring & supervision arrangements
- High quality research which is **interdisciplinary & intersectoral** (link to GRPs & 40+ Partner organisations for secondments named and providing letters of support)

# Why were we successful?

## **Impact:**

- Needs of wider employment market considered – increase pool of excellent researchers in Europe
- Alignment of institution and programme with European Charters & Code of Conduct (Researcher Recruitment, Researcher Conduct)
- Dissemination and communication of results (researchers & programme)
- Clear and IP Management plan

# Why were we successful?

## **Implementation:**

- Management structure & roles clearly defined
- External representation at all stages
- Justification for funding requested and detailed budget showing offer to fellows
- Detailed contingency and risk planning
- Working conditions and facilities

## Application – Top Tips

***Focus on the process not the research*** - Robust, transparent, fair

***Detailed descriptions*** of all aspects

***Match the criteria*** – Excellence, Impact, Implementation

***Talk to existing COFUNDS*** – Look at what works

**Be prepared for the administrative burden of the award**

## **WIRL-COFUND website**

[http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/fac/cross\\_fac/ias/wirl/](http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/fac/cross_fac/ias/wirl/)

Email: [WIRL.COFUND@warwick.ac.uk](mailto:WIRL.COFUND@warwick.ac.uk)