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**CANDIDATE BRIEF**

British Council International Early Career Fellowship, School of Dentistry, Faculty of Medicine and Health



Bursary of £32,546 per annum

Reference: MHDEN1277

Closing date: 6th June 2025 | Interview dates: W/C 16th June 2025

3 Full Time Visitor positions for 12 months to complete specific time limited work, starting between September and November 2025. This is a training/ discrete placement.Location: University of Leeds Main Campus and St James’ University Hospital  
Reporting to: Dr Reem El-Gendy (Principle Host Investigator)

British Council ISPF Early Career Fellowship (Egypt)

Call for Early Career Researchers (ECRs) from Egypt to apply for the British Council’s International Strategic Partnership fund (ISFP) Early Career Fellowship scheme, which will be hosted by the University of Leeds, School of Dentistry.

The International Science Partnerships Fund puts research and innovation at the heart of our international relationships, supporting UK researchers and innovators to work with peers around the world on the major themes of our time: planet, health, tech and talent.

This fellowship opportunity will be hosted by the University of Leeds, School of Dentistry.

**Overview of the Role**

The British Council is sponsoring three Early Career Research Fellows from Egypt to be hosted by the School of Dentistry at the University of Leeds. They will join a research programme focused on advanced scientific projects.

The fellows will be assigned to one of the following research projects based on their expertise:

1. **Stem Cell Characterisation in Health and Disease** (2 positions available)
2. **Development and Characterisation of an Alternative Antimicrobial Biomaterial for Regenerative Dentistry Applications (**1 position available)

The fellowship offers a dynamic and collaborative environment, providing fellows with opportunities to contribute to groundbreaking research and develop their careers. The Early Career Researchers will receive a comprehensive lab induction and initial training to support them in their roles.

**Why you should apply**

ISPF Early Career Fellowships supports fellows conducting research at UK institutions linked to health, tech and talent. The scheme provides:

***Financial benefits:***

* Minimum £32,546 per annum bursary. Where applicable, accompanying child allowance for fellows consistent with UK visa requirements ([Government Authorised Exchange](https://www.gov.uk/government-authorised-exchange/your-partner-and-children) / [Global Talent](https://www.gov.uk/global-talent/your-partner-and-children)).
* £10,000 per 12 months for research-related expenses. This can contribute to consumables, small equipment, travel and subsistence within the UK, publication costs, or other expenses related directly to the research project.
* Other allowable costs within the grant include:
* IELTS exam fee if applicable (for fellows with a valid Test of English).
* Return economy-class travel from home country to the UK (this will not reimburse costs fares for dependents)
* Visa and insurance / National Health (NHS) surcharge costs)
* Ad hoc costs (heavy baggage, etc.,)
* Childcare and dependent support costs
* Accessibility support
* Subsidised temporary accommodation support
* No administrative fees or deposits can be charged to applicants or recovered from the grant.
* Please note some fees such as those for Visa’s and the NHS health surcharge will require the candidate to initially pay this upfront and to then be reimbursed.

***Career development opportunities including:***

* Discipline related training
* Self-development and leadership training
* Co-authoring high impact publication/s
* Networking and multidisciplinary collaboration opportunities

Main activities

Under the supervision of the relevant Principal Investigator/Lead Academic:

* **Experimental Planning & Execution:** Develop experimental plans to achieve the objectives of the assigned research project, execute lab work, and analyze resulting data.
* **Progress Meetings:** Attend regular supervisory and update meetings with academic leads to review project progress.
* **Training & Skill Development:** Participate in workshops and events focused on enhancing research, leadership, and personal skills, in accordance with a plan agreed upon with the host institution.
* **Networking:** Engage in multidisciplinary networking events and industrial visits organized by the host.
* **Conference Participation:** Present research findings at national and international conferences.
* **Publications:** Contribute to and co-author at least one publication arising from the project.
* **Postgraduate Mentorship:** Support the training of new postgraduate students within the host research group.
* **Teamwork:** Organize lab meetings and journal clubs to facilitate discussion and collaboration within the research group.
* **Initiating Collaborations with Home Country:** Assist in organizing meetings and symposia in Egypt to foster long-term academic and research collaborations (at least one event organized by the cohort of three fellows).
* **Reporting:** Write and present detailed progress reports, including reports for the British Council and other stakeholders.

**Optional Activities**

* **Teaching Experience:** Minimal involvement in teaching activities to gain experience in the UK academic environment.

Eligibility

This opportunity is available to early career researchers who meet the following criteria:

* Be a permanent resident of Egypt.
* Be an Early Career Researcher [**[1]**](#Bookmark1) and have a letter of acceptance from the hosting lab or department.
* Not currently in receipt of financial support or funding towards any other programme in the UK from any other sources.
* Meet the English language requirement of the University of Leeds.
* Have a background or a proven interest in the proposed research area. Be willing to demonstrate future contribution to capacity-building and socio-economic advancement through the benefits achieved after completing the fellowship programme.
* Agree to maintain contact with the British Council for purposes of monitoring and evaluation during and after their fellowship.
* Demonstrate a plan and a passion to engage other early career researchers from their home country.
* Employees of the British Council, the UK government or Scottish, Welsh, or Northern Irish governments are not eligible to apply for this programme.

For more information please visit:   
British Council ISPF website

[1] Early Career Researchers (ECRs) have completed or are close to completion of their PhD, potentially waiting for their final viva voce examination, which must be passed prior to taking up the award. ECRs will not have held a permanent academic post or a permanent post with a research-related element, or one which allowed them to supervise PhD students or submit research grants as a principal investigator. Time spent in teaching-only roles or academic related roles does not affect ECR status, provided no research element was part of the role. If a researcher does not hold a PhD but has research experience equivalent to a PhD holder and works in a field where a PhD is not a prerequisite for established research activity, they can still be considered eligible. Participants from for-profit organisations cannot be funded. As we move toward greater inclusivity for ECRs from a wide range of backgrounds, we are no longer counting years spent in a specific career stage. Career breaks and alternative trajectories to an early academic career are all considered outside the definition of career stage.

Qualifications and skills

**Essential**

* Have or near to being awarded a PhD in Dentistry, Medicine, Biomedical sciences or a related discipline.
* Have preliminary laboratory skills in: Cell culture, or microbiology, or histopathology or molecular biology or any combination of these lab skills
* Have previous research involvement or interest in one of the following research themes: stem cell-based regeneration, effect of systemic disease on stem cells regeneration, cell-materials interactions.
* Willing to demonstrate future contribution to capacity-building and socio-economic advancement through the benefits achieved after completing the fellowship programme.
* Agree to maintain contact with the British Council for purposes of monitoring and evaluation during and after their fellowship.
* Demonstrate a plan and a passion to engage other early career researchers from their home country.
* Have satisfactory level of English language and be able to efficiently communicate verbally and in writing.

**Desirable**

* Have presented at international conferences.
* Participated in organisation and presentations at journal clubs and/ symposia locally or internationally.
* Have published in international journal in the field of stem cells characterisation, stem cell-based regeneration, cell-materials interaction, disease modelling, or antimicrobial biomaterials characterisation.

**How to apply?**

Don’t miss this opportunity to elevate your research career in a globally leading institution!

Please submit your application via the ‘Apply Online’ button on the vacancy page   
<https://jobs.leeds.ac.uk/MHDEN1277>

In addition to this, you will also need to submit:

* An academic CV (maximum of 2 pages);
* A cover letter (maximum of 1 page) highlighting why you are applying to this opportunity;
* The short job application form available to download from the vacancy page, detailing your interest, experience and skills in relation to the projects available.

**Additional Information**

**Host Institution**

The University of Leeds is one of the top 80 universities in the world.  We have a truly global community, with more than 39,000 students from 170 different countries and over 9,000 staff of 100 different nationalities.  Established in 1904, we have a strong tradition of academic excellence, reflected in first-class student education, along with world-leading research that has a real impact around the globe.

[International Strategy](https://spotlight.leeds.ac.uk/strategy-international/index.html)

Faculty of Medicine and Health

One of the top medical schools in the UK, with significant research funding.

[Faculty Overview](https://medicinehealth.leeds.ac.uk/)

School of Dentistry

Ranked among the top 10 dental schools in the UK, with a strong emphasis on research and innovation.

[School of Dentistry](https://medicinehealth.leeds.ac.uk/dentistry)

Division of Oral Biology

A key division within the School of Dentistry, hosting three major research groups and significantly contributing to research and innovation. The division has a strong track record of mentoring international postgraduate students and fellows, with well-established collaborations in the Global South, including Egypt and Brazil.

[Research & Innovation](https://medicinehealth.leeds.ac.uk/dentistry-research-innovation)

Research Host

Dr. Reem El-Gendy is an emerging world leader in stem cells and tissue regeneration research. Her work focuses on stem cell characterisation in diabetes and osteoporosis, cell-material interactions (cytotoxicity, biocompatibility, inflammation, degradation, and antimicrobial effects). She has an extensive international collaboration network, particularly with the Global South, and currently holds the International Strategic Fund Pump Priming Award for collaborations with Egyptian and Brazilian universities.  
[Dr. Reem El-Gendy’s Profile](https://medicinehealth.leeds.ac.uk/dentistry/staff/1625/dr-reem-el-gendy)

**The provisional timeline for the application process is as follows:**

* **6th June 2025:** Deadline for fellows to apply to the programme.
* **16th – 20th June 2025:** Interviews held
* **By 15th July 2025:** Offers given to selected fellows.
* **September-November 2025:** Fellowship projects start in the UK.

Our University

As an international research-intensive university, we welcome students and staff from all walks of life. We foster an inclusive environment where all can flourish and prosper, and we are proud of our strong commitment to student education.  Within the School of Dentistry we are dedicated to diversifying our community and we welcome the unique contributions that individuals can bring, and particularly encourage applications from, but not limited to Black, Asian, those who belong to a minority ethnic community; people who identify as LGBT+; and disabled people. Candidates will always be selected based on merit and ability.

**Visa Information**

For fellowships, you may be eligible for sponsorship under the Temporary Work – Government Authorised Exchange visa, using the Sponsored Researcher scheme. For more information, please visit: <https://www.gov.uk/government-authorised-exchange>