

# ABSW Media Fellowships - formerly the BSA's Media Fellowships Scheme



## Guidance for sponsors:

You will be responsible for:

- Promoting the scheme within your organization (see suggested announcement below)
- Creating an online application process to allow you to shortlist applicants
- Providing details of your shortlisted applicants to the ABSW

Promoting the scheme:

- We recommend you allow at least three weeks for promoting the scheme to ensure all staff have an opportunity to apply
- We recommend using departmental and university-wide mailing lists, as well as targeting any staff groups who may have particular interest in media engagement.
- You may find it useful to create a web page to host details of the scheme and the application materials.

Online application process:

- Applications forms could be hosted online (preferred) or sent to you as an Excel/Word template (See attached example application form).
- Ensure your applicants have access to the Personal Specification and Terms and Conditions documents attached.
- All applicants are required to fill out the ABSW Equality Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) monitoring form via Google Forms:  
<https://forms.gle/rce61jW1UJELTpNJA>

Equality, diversity and inclusion considerations:

- Please promote the scheme to any staff groups which represent BAME, LGBT+, or disabled researchers.
- If possible, please anonymise the applications during the shortlisting phase.

## **Suggested announcement:**

### **ABSW Media Fellowships are open for applications**

We are delighted that [your organizations name] are supporting the Association of British Science Writers Media Fellowship scheme. The scheme is an opportunity for a member of staff at [your organizations name] to gain first-hand experience of reporting at a UK media outlet during Summer 2022. The deadline for applications is [insert].

### **The ABSW Media Fellowships**

The ABSW Media Fellowships provide a unique opportunity for practising scientists, clinicians, and engineers to spend two to six weeks working at the heart of a media outlet such as the Guardian, BBC Breakfast or the Londonist.

The ABSW Media Fellowships:

- Engage – give scientists the confidence to engage with the media
- Foster Trust – tackle mistrust and misrepresentation
- Bridge the Gap – between journalists and scientists
- Build Understanding – between science and society

\*The British Science Association (BSA) ran the scheme from 1987 – 2020 as part of their commitment to increasing the accessibility of the sciences and providing opportunities for discussion and debate.

### **How does the scheme work?**

Scientists, clinicians, and engineers are identified and shortlisted by their supporting institution, who fund their Fellowship.

The ABSW identifies media hosts and then carries out the final selection process to match individuals to media hosts.

The Fellows receive training from the ABSW prior to taking up their placements and are supported by the ABSW throughout their placement and beyond.

Placements normally take place for 2-6 weeks during the summer to fit with University teaching commitments.

### **How to apply for the ABSW Media Fellowship [YEAR]**

**Who is eligible?** Before applying you should read the Person Specification for the Media Fellowships and the Media Fellowships Terms and Conditions.

**Ready to apply?** This year we are collecting applications via [LINK TO FORM]. It will ask you a few questions about your role, your interest in the media, and what you hope to gain from the scheme. You can request a copy of the application questions in a Word Document if you would like to prepare answers before submitting.

The ABSW are committed to transforming the diversity and inclusivity of science. We will work with Media Fellows to ensure they have a positive experience on the scheme, and can accommodate requests for part-time, remote, or flexible working for people who would otherwise find it difficult to take part. We particularly encourage applications from researchers who are typically underrepresented by the scheme, including those who:

- have a disability, defined as a physical or mental impairment that has a substantial and long-term effect on someone's ability to do normal daily activities (Equalities Act 2010)
- do not have an academic family background (e.g. parents did not go to university)

Please note, diversity statistics are anonymised, and are collected separately from the main application form. If you would like to make us aware that you belong to one or more of the above groups, please mention it in your form and we will take this into account when assessing your application.

**Any further questions?** Contact [\[EMAIL\]](#)