

AFHEA Pathway for Doctoral Researchers

Eligibility Criteria

There are two things you need to consider before deciding if you are eligible to apply:

- **Process:** whether you meet the application criteria
- **Experience:** whether you have enough content to complete a successful application.

Process: To be eligible for consideration for selection for the AFHEA Doctoral Route, applicants must have:

- previously attended the [Preparing to Teach](#) course
- sufficient and relevant "teaching" hours which enable you to demonstrate an engagement in the delivery and support of teaching and learning activity.
 - This experience must meet the requirement of a minimum 20 hours of completed activity.
 - See related document "[What counts as teaching?](#)" for the broad range of activities which are eligible
- support from your doctoral supervisor and Head of School (or equivalent)
- have read the other documents provided on the "AFHEA pathway for doctoral researchers" [webpage](#).

Experience: once you have decided whether you meet the minimum requirements to apply you then need to establish whether your application has enough content to meet the award criteria.

- Fellowship is awarded on the basis of current practice. For D1 you should draw on experience within the last 2-3 years
- You will need to have completed a minimum of 20 hours of relevant activity. The more experience you have, the more likely you are to be able to demonstrate the breadth and depth of activity required. Your chances of

success at selection, and with the subsequent application depend on your ability to refer to completed T&L activity/related support, and use these as your examples. The more experience, the more examples you may have to choose from, and the greater the opportunity for demonstrating your understanding. This is a competitive process and the 20 hours is not a threshold but a sliding scale. It does not guarantee success at selection in and of itself.

- All experience presented must be drawn from within a Higher Education context. Teaching within in a school context is not relevant for a Fellowship application.
- You should draw primarily on experience at the University of Reading. If you plan to include examples from a different institution, it will need to be supported by a supporting statement from that institution

Following these steps helps ensure that you are as ready for the process as possible.

Key Points

There are a limited number of places on the scheme so not everyone who applies for selection will be successful.

The process involves two stages:

- Stage 1: Selection. You will submit a short expression of interest. This will be used to ascertain the likelihood that you have the breadth and depth of experience required to be successful at D1. If successful you will move to stage 2.
- Stage 2: Application. If you are selected to enter the scheme proper, you will complete a full D1 application.

Priority will be given to second year and third year full-time students (or part-time equivalent). This is because the level of commitment required to prepare an application could place significant pressure on someone in the writing-up phase of doctoral studies

- Please note that due to the level of commitment required, we recommend that doctoral researchers **do not** embark upon this scheme during the writing-up phase of their doctoral studies.

If after completing the AFHEA pathway for Doctoral Researchers you then have a change in contract (for example commence a teaching position at the University) and fall within the eligibility criteria for the Academic Practice Programme or modules therein, as a new member of staff you will still be expected to participate in the taught programme.