

Lancaster University

Fellowship Summary

Against a backdrop of sustained engagement with African stakeholders, we have been funded through the British Council, British Academy and the FCDO to conduct action research around the development of capacity-building training programmes to 'stimulate sustainable entrepreneurial thinking in scientists' (SSETS) in Africa. We have worked with multiple African partners in Nigeria, Ghana, Kenya, Uganda and Zambia to undertake the co-design and piloting activities and developed an online toolkit to empower institutions to develop their own entrepreneurial capacity as well as design their own programmes that create impactful collaborative solutions to place-based global challenges using eco-innovative thinking.

At Lancaster, we launched our Centre for Global Eco-innovation in 2012 and since then it has grown into a multi award-winning centre that has delivered challenge-led/solution-driven R&D with a wide range of regional SMEs. We would like to use this framework to engage institutions to think more entrepreneurially about opportunities to develop hubs for eco-innovative partnerships that support greater partnerships between the academic and private sectors.

These Fellowships will support up to 5 Professional Fellows to champion place-based eco-innovation thinking, create a roadmap to launch their own Centre for Global Eco-innovation and encourage a catalytic effect on uptake and outcomes from connected entrepreneurial ecosystems.

Weblink for Candidates

<https://www.lancaster.ac.uk/global-eco-innovation/>

Eligibility Criteria

1. Mid-career professionals from African institutions in Sub-Saharan Africa directly engaged in sustainable innovation and interested in connecting academic with industry and policy. All candidates must have a Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) background or must be part of the international partnerships and research coordination offices of their institutions.
2. Must have an interest or some experience in entrepreneurship or in the utilization of innovation for societal impact or community change.
3. Candidates must commit to support the development of academic-private sector

Eligibility collaborations and the implementation of the Stimulating Sustainable Entrepreneurial Thinking in Scientists (SSETS) Toolkit in their institutions.

Proposed Programme Dates

18 February 2026 to 2 April 2026

Proposed Activity

The Centre for Global Eco-innovation was launched in 2012 and has delivered challenged/solution-driven R&D with many regional SMEs. We will use this framework to engage institutions in Africa to think more entrepreneurially about opportunities to develop hubs for eco-innovative partnerships between the academic and private sectors.

The Fellows will be based in the Centre and will champion place-based eco-innovative thinking. Each Fellow will be supported to create a roadmap to launch their own Centre and encourage the uptake from their entrepreneurial ecosystem. In support of this, we have developed a programme of events for the successful applicants.

18th February 2026

Introductory presentations

Campus orientation

19th February 2026

Session 1: Plans for the Fellowship and individual roadmap development

Introduction to mentors

Lancaster Castle & city centre

Orientation and local context (3hrs)

20th February 2026

Session 2: Utilizing the Stimulating Sustainable Entrepreneurial Thinking in Scientists Toolkit 1 (2.5hrs)

Session 3: Utilizing the SSETS Toolkit 2 (2.5hrs)

23rd February 2026

Session 4: The Enterprise Team: Work In Progress (1hr)

Planning with mentors

Individual project work

24th February 2026

Session 5: Aligning research with the SDGs (2hrs)

Session 6: Career enhancement (2hrs)

25th February 2026

Session 7: IP, Spin-outs and Commercialisation (2hrs)

25th February 2026

Visit Halton Mill and sustainable business workspaces

Visit Co-working facility visit, Fraser House, Lancaster

26th February 2026

Session 8: Knowledge Transfer Models (2hrs)

Session 9: Communication & engagement (2hrs)

27th February 2026

Individual work, action plan formulation (7hrs)

2nd March 2026

Progress review (1hr)

Individual work, action plan formulation (6hrs)

3rd March 2026

Session 10: Developing research partnerships (1hr)

Meeting co-located companies

4th March 2026

Individual work, action plan development (7hrs)

5th March 2026

Visit to Liverpool University and Liverpool John Moores University

6th March 2026

Visit Alderley Science Park visit & return to Lancaster

9th March 2026

Session 11: Use of AI research to address real world challenges (2.5hrs)

Session 12: Research ethics (1hr)

10th March 2026

Individual work, meetings & action plan development (7hrs)

11th March 2026

Individual work, meetings & action plan development (7hrs)

12th March 2026

London visit

Travel & orientation (7hrs)

13th March 2026

Meetings in London, including with Parliamentary Office of Science & Technology

16th March 2026

Lancaster University Management School MBA masterclass tbc (7hrs)

Tuesday 17th March 2026

Lancaster University Management School MBA masterclass tbc (7hrs)

18th March 2026

Lancaster University Management School MBA masterclass tbc (7hrs)

19st March 2026

Visit Cockerham Green Energy Limited (bioenergy generation from waste) (7hrs)

20th March 2026

Individual work, action plan completion (7hrs)

23rd March 2026

Session 13: Understanding International Funding & Grantsmanship

24th March 2024

Individual work, presentation completion (7hrs)

25th March 2026

Individual work, presentation completion (7hrs)

26th March 2026

Final presentations (7hrs)

27th March 2026

Follow-up discussions and next steps planning (7hrs)

30th March 2026

Visit Zero Carbon Cumbria & Futureproof Cumbria, Penrith

31st March 2026

Exit interviews – leaving celebration lunch

2nd April 2026

Departure

Priority Theme

Science and technology for development