

Postdoc Award

Purpose of the fund:

This fund is to provide postdoctoral positions within active Information and Communication Technology (ICT) research groups working in one of the BuildIT participating Universities. Awards are made to individuals or research groups who are then responsible for filling the position with a suitable candidate.

Amounts granted and duration:

Each Fellowship will be of two years duration and will comprise a salary component of \$58,000 pa (excl GST) adjusted by a 4% cost of living increase each year (i.e. the total award value is \$118,000 for an award made in 2008, \$123,000 for an award made in 2009, and \$128,000 for an award made in 2010). Expenses over and above this amount will be borne by the host institution.

Timing of applications and number of fellowships:

Applications will be considered annually with 3 awards being made in each of 2008 and 2009, and 2 awards being made in 2010. Applications are due on 20th June in 2008 and 1st March in each subsequent year.

Eligibility:

Applications may be made by either individual researchers or a team of up to three researchers. Applicants must, at the time of application be a member or members of the permanent academic or research staff of a participating University working in the ICT area. Individuals or team members who have already been successful in being awarded a BuildIT postdoctoral fellowship are not eligible to apply again.

Application process:

Applicants must complete the postdoctoral fellowship application form and forward this together with:

1. Copies of the applicants' academic CVs
2. Either a copy of the proposed postdoctoral fellow's CV or a job description and planned search procedure of the proposed fellow if a suitable candidate has not been identified
 - Note: identification of a candidate is the preferred option. If such a candidate is not available the panel needs to be convinced that a suitable candidate can be secured in a timely fashion (see conditions below)

electronically to postdoc@buildit.csi.ac.nz

Criteria for selection:

Eligible applications will be ranked using the following equally weighted criteria:

1. The quality and viability of the proposed research programme and the likely benefit to the applicant(s) from gaining the fellowship
2. The research track record of the applicant(s) and, if identified, the track record of the proposed postdoctoral fellow. If a candidate fellow has not been identified the likely difficulty of appointing a fellow in the nominated area will be taken into account.
3. The quality of the host institution support, including provisions for mentoring of the fellow and any additional financial support provided

Process for assessment:

Each application will initially be considered by two members of the fund panel who will prepare a report for the full panel. They may co-opt assistance from a respected academic in the area if they do not feel they have sufficient expertise to appropriately assess the application. The full panel will then meet to consider all applications for the year and will rank eligible applications based on the above criteria. They will then decide on the award recipients for that year.

Conflicts of interest between members of the panel and applicants must be declared and conflicted members must not participate in the ranking of applications which they have a conflict of interest with. When the panel chair has a conflict of interest the deputy chair will assume the chair while that applicant is ranked.

Conditions for award recipients:

1. Recipients will have six months from receipt of the fellowship grant to secure appointment of a suitable postdoctoral fellow. The panel may provide a further 3 month extension in exceptional circumstances. Application for such an extension must be made to the panel chair.
2. Payment of the fellowship grant will be made to the host institution in full once the appointment of a suitable postdoctoral fellow has been secured
3. Recipients must provide a brief six monthly report on the progress of the fellow and the associated research programme to the panel chair.
4. Recipients and their host institutions are responsible for obtaining any additional funding required to support the fellow in excess of that provided by the fellowship grant.
5. Grants will be paid to the host institution which will oversee expenditure and will be responsible for ensuring these conditions are met.
6. Should the fellow's appointment be terminated prior to the two year term of the grant, the successful applicant, via the host institution, must make a proposal in writing to the panel chair outlining how the remainder of the fellowship is to be spent in keeping with the original goals of the project. This could, for example, be via appointment of another fellow for a shorter period, or a research assistant. The panel will consider the proposal and may: endorse the proposal, impose extra conditions, or request an alternative proposal be made. If agreement cannot be reached the remainder of the grant must be returned to the fund manager.