

## **STFC Education, Training and Careers News**

The [Education, Training and Careers Committee](#) (ETCC) met on 3 July 2020. The main items on the agenda were: the Consequences of COVID-19; Fellowship Assessment and Criteria sub-panel; Summer School Assessment; Annual Student Survey Exercise; Student engagement during lockdown.

### The Consequences of COVID-19

STFC reported on issues that had arisen due to COVID-19. Studentship extensions - two surveys had been issued to departments regarding students in their final year eligible to receive up to a six-month extension. Long Term Attachments – students could not travel at this time due to FCO advice which would invalidate UKRI insurance policy. (Update: STFC funded students may resume business critical LTAs at CERN if they have the approval to travel from the university. Students would be covered by the UKRI insurance policy). New calls – [Ernest Rutherford Fellowship call](#) was opened on 1 July and had a closing date of 17 September; however, the [Stephen Hawking Fellowships](#) dates had been delayed. Effects on existing grants and fellowships – UKRI had issued [guidance](#) in respect of extensions on grants and fellows whose work had been affected. Summer Schools 2020 – some [2020 summer schools](#) were delayed/postponed or being held online.

### Ernest Rutherford Fellowship Assessment Criteria

A sub-panel had been set up to review the scoring and assessment of applications following feedback after the 2018/19 ERF exercise. Feedback from the Fellowship Panel following the 2019/20 exercise was positive to the changes. A meeting had been held in May to discuss further improvements. Amendments have been made to the criteria with the criterion related to Pathways to Impact removed. The new criteria were now mapped to the competency criteria to allow applicants to see the standard required. The case for support had been increased to four sides.

### Summer School Assessment

With the increase in [bids](#) to hold summer schools, the Committee recommended a sub-panel should be set up to assess these ahead of the November meeting.

### Annual Student Survey Exercise

The Committee reviewed data from the annual student survey carried out in February/March 2020. The students targeted in the exercise were those who undertook their PhD during the years 2016/2020. The key findings will be published on the [Student Questionnaire webpage](#).

### Student engagement during lockdown and accreditation of departments

STFC had contacted departments to confirm accreditation would not take place in 2020. STFC had also asked departments to provide a brief summary of the practices they had in place or developed to support their students during lockdown. The Committee recommended sharing these best practices to departments.