

STFC Education, Training and Careers News

The [Education, Training and Careers Committee](#) (ETCC) met on 7 November 2022. The main items on the agenda were: Studentship Algorithm; Update on Report to STFC Council; Fellowship Review; The 2022–23 Ernest Rutherford Fellowships Exercise; CDT Strategy; Short Courses and Summer Schools.

Studentship Algorithm

The Committee noted the need to discuss the algorithm for the 2024 exercise, following the changes being made to the astronomy grants process. [Astronomy Small Award guidance for applicants](#) is now available on the UKRI website. Guidance for applicants to Astronomy Large Awards will be added shortly.

ETCC Report to STFC Council

ETCC gave an update to [STFC Council](#) at their September meeting. Council discussed the recent increase to the student stipend and some aspects of collective talent funding. A [blog](#) is now available on the UKRI website which expands on this and gives a roadmap with approximate timings.

Fellowship Review

ETCC discussed progress of the STFC Fellowship Review. The third meeting of the Fellowship Review subpanel was held on 4 October 2022 and focussed on ED&I aspects of STFC fellowships. Following the previous review meeting, a request had been sent to each department in receipt of an ERF allocation to complete an ED&I statement on how diversity within applications was encouraged. ETCC discussed the received statements and made suggestions for changes to the questions and agreed that receipt of the statements should be mandatory for the next exercise. The concluding meeting will take place in December and a final report will be shared with the Committee in March 2023.

The 2022–23 Ernest Rutherford Fellowships Exercise

ETCC discussed progress on the current [STFC Ernest Rutherford Fellowships \(ERF\)](#) exercise. The closing date for applications was 13 September 2022 and 170 applications were received. Sift meetings to consider the applications, shortlist candidates and appoint interview panels drawn from the fellowship panel's membership will be held between January and February 2023.

CDT Strategy

ETCC discussed the long-term strategy for establishing [Centres for Doctoral Training \(CDTs\)](#) for the future as part of the STFC studentship portfolio. ETCC noted the lessons learnt from the first CDT round and discussed how these could be fed into the ongoing CDT strategy. The Committee also discussed a survey to be circulated to the STFC community.

Short Courses and Summer Schools

Bids had been received for the following [short courses and summer schools](#) to be held in 2023:

- Astronomy in Conversation through the language of AI
- British Universities Summer School in Theoretical Elementary Particle Physics (BUSSTEPP)
- FPGA Programming
- High Energy Physics Summer School (HEP)
- Introduction to Astronomy
- Introduction to Solar and Solar Terrestrial Physics
- Space Technology; Applications in Science and Industry
- ICIC data Analysis Workshop
- XIII NEXt PhD Workshop

Further publicity ahead of the next call will be issued shortly.