The SSI Fellowship Programme invites applications from individuals from a range of backgrounds. Whether you are an established professor, a self-taught coder, a professional from a non-traditional career path, all three, or someone else, your unique perspective is valued. At the SSI, we understand that groundbreaking ideas emerge from diverse experiences. Thus, we enthusiastically encourage both academics and professionals from non-traditional backgrounds to apply, fostering a community that thrives on the richness of varied expertise.

Eligibility criteria

Applications are welcome from individuals at various stages: from those actively pursuing a PhD or junior software/data professionals with equivalent experience to mid-career researchers and research software engineers to those with the status of Professor or Research Software Engineering leaders.

Fellows do not need to be researchers or academics and can work in professional services roles that support training, (open) research, or research infrastructures. Fellows also do not need to hold any formal qualifications in software development / software engineering.

Applicants to the "UK Fellowship" should be based in the UK or have a formal affiliation with a UK-based institution or office.

If you are based outside the UK, you can apply for one of the "International Fellowship" places on offer. In this case, your application should show how your plans foster international collaboration or how UK research culture benefits from your unique perspective and/or techniques.

Applicants from all areas are considered. However, the SSI has a special interest in people who are working in themes aligned to UKRI strategic themes:
- build a green future
- build a secure and resilient world
- create opportunities and improve outcomes in communities across the country
- secure better health, ageing and wellbeing for everyone
- tackle infections

For more information about these themes, visit https://www.ukri.org/who-we-are/our-vision-and-strategy/ukri-strategic-themes/

What we are looking for in applicants

The SSI Fellowship Programme is aimed at **those who are passionate about software in research in any way**.

This person could fall into one or more of the following categories:
- A researcher who uses and/or develops software/digital tools
- A developer who writes tools for researchers
- A research software engineer (RSE) who contributes to the work of researchers with software or by maintaining digital research infrastructure
- An advocate for best practice in software use or development in research
- An individual holding a leadership role in research projects or research organisations that make heavy use of software
- A user of research software

Depending on their career stage, Fellows' plans generally contribute to developing:
- A good understanding of challenges in their domain or area of work which are related to research software practices.
- A good understanding of best software engineering and research software practices in one or all of the following areas:
  - Reproducible, Linked Open Useable Data, and/or FAIR research
  - Career paths associated with software-dominated roles (e.g. RSEs)
  - Recognition of software as a research output
  - Increasing software skills and training
  - Documenting computational practice in their domains
  - Working with others to form fruitful collaborations in the context of software-driven research and development
- How to become an effective communicator regardless of whether they are naturally an extrovert or introvert. This might be in written form, in person, in social media, blogs, workshops, or some other medium.
- Activities that support the goals and objectives of the SSI and their communities.

Potential Fellowship activities include:
- Contributing to, or helping form, Communities of Practice in research software related to their domain or cross-cutting areas.
- Running training workshops for their domain. For example, Software Carpentry, Library Carpentry, Data Carpentry or adapted versions for their communities, or other training workshops.
- Organising events that bring together people who can work on solutions to problems in their particular domain.
- Attend key conferences and workshops that promote their work while raising awareness of key research software matters to a wider community.
- Feedback intelligence about their communities' software use and needs.
- Get involved in policy initiatives that aim to better understand computational practice and needs in their communities.
- Work with funders to influence their software oriented policies.
- Other ideas are most welcome.

To learn more about our current Fellows, including their plans and original applications, please visit: https://www.software.ac.uk/fellowship-programme/our-fellows

For specific questions about the Fellowship Programme or the application process, please contact fellows-management@software.ac.uk