

The Baily Thomas Doctoral Fellowship

Guidelines for applicants

The Baily Thomas Charitable Fund is a registered charity which was established primarily to aid the research into learning disability and to aid the care and relief of those affected by learning disability by making grants to voluntary organisations working in this field.

In November 2015 the Fund launched the inaugural round of its Baily Thomas Doctoral Fellowships.

The Baily Thomas Charitable Fund will award up to two Baily Thomas Doctoral Fellowships per year. Submissions should be emailed to info@bailythomas.org.uk by the deadline of 1st March each year. Interviews for shortlisted applicants will take place in June.

The fellowships will include:

- an annual stipend for three years full time, set at £2,000 higher than the UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) prevailing rate over the duration of the Fellowship, equating currently to £17,609 outside London, or £19,609 within London (2021/22),
- the PhD registration fee, for three years, matched at the UKRI annual prevailing rate, currently £4,500 (2021/22),
- a training and support grant of £5,000 per annum, inclusive of consumable costs,
- a £300 per annum travelling and conference allowance, to attend and present at scientific meetings, or visits to collaborators.

Applications are accepted for part-time PhD training, pro-rata, as well as full-time training.

Applications with matched-funding are accepted.

The award can be hosted at any UK University. The supervisory team may be based at one University, or supervisors collaborating from different Universities, where this is appropriate and adds to the supervisory environment for the Fellow.

The lay summary of the projects of successful applicants will be displayed on the Baily Thomas Charitable Fund website.

During the PhD, an annual progress report is required in August of each year for successful applicants.

A final report is required, within one month of the award of PhD. A lay summary of this will be displayed on the Baily Thomas Charitable Fund website.

All outputs from the PhD should acknowledge the Baily Thomas Doctoral Fellowship award.

The awards are competitive, and the decision will be based equally on each of the following domains:

- the personal qualities of the applicant:
 - motivation,
 - evidence of importance of research to career,
 - potential for leadership,
- the importance of the proposed project to the lives of people with learning disabilities and/or their families:
 - originality,
 - relevance,
 - potential impact,

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- the proposed project methods:
 - clarity of aims and objectives,
 - appropriateness,
 - scientific rigour,
 - feasibility of completing the project,
 - intellectual/methodological challenge,
- training:
 - relevance to the project,
 - generic and specific skills,
- supervision and environment:
 - whether supervision arrangements match requirements,
 - whether there is the right inter-disciplinary mix of supervisors,
 - how progress will be monitored,
 - strength of the research environment to develop the fellow.

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Application form

Applicants for these personal awards should complete all parts of this application form.

1. Personal details

Title and name:

Address:

Email:

Telephone:

2. Summary of the proposed fellowship

Title of the research project:

Host University and Institute/Department:

Start date:

End date:

Full/part-time WTE:

3. Academic qualifications

Qualifications (and class if relevant), Subject, Institution, Date commenced, Date awarded

4. Details of present position

Post title:

Name and address of current employing organisation:

5. Employment history

Position, Employer, From, To

6. Research experience

Give details of research experience, including undergraduate research, and any relevant vacation employment

7. Publications

Give details of research publications and published abstracts.

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8. Additional information

Include any previously held grants or personal awards.

9. Proposed research

a. Scientific summary

Include a summary of the objectives, design, methods, outcomes.

Maximum 250 words.

b. Lay summary

Provide a summary which will explain to a lay audience, the proposed research, outcomes, and expected benefits for people with learning disabilities.

Maximum 150 words.

c. Research proposal

Use the following headings:

- introduction,
- results of any pilot studies,
- aims,
- research questions,
- plan, methods, analyses
- timetable,
- relevance/benefit to people with learning disabilities and/or their families
- references.

Maximum 4 pages, size A4, of which the introduction should usually be no more than 1 page.

d. Impact and dissemination plan

Maximum 1 page, size A4.

10. Details of proposed training, including PhD

For each course, use the following headings:

- name of course,
- Institute,
- formal qualification awarded, if any,
- details of the course,
- planned dates of attendance.

11. Reasons for choice of proposed training, and skills you expect to acquire

Maximum 1 page, size A4.

12. Career intentions

State your reasons for applying for this award, and your long term career plans

Maximum 1 page, size A4.

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13. Supervision arrangements

For each supervisor, include:

- name,
- Institution,
- Email address,
- brief summary of research skills,
- details of research supervision experience, including recent PhDs supervised to completion,
- current supervisory load.

14. Description of the supervision, including:

- how the supervision will be organised,
- how the skills of the supervisory team match the needs of the Fellow and the project,
- the research environment the Fellow will be in.