

# Research Statements

## 1. What is a research statement?

A research statement describes your research so far, followed by the research you would do, if you were appointed as a Lecturer or Principal Investigator (PI).

**It should be an assertive statement about your research goals, how you will get there and how you will fund your ideas.**

## 2. When is a research statement required?

A research statement is often requested as part of the application process for a lectureship. It may be requested as a stand-alone document or as a section in your cover letter, CV, or application form.

The application process for a lectureship varies from one institution to another. **Read the requirements carefully. You could be deselected for not following the application instructions correctly.**

It is useful to have a research statement prepared, which you can then adjust and adapt depending on the word limit and role you are applying for.

## 3. Preparing for a research statement

Talk to potential collaborators at the institution of interest, in advance of your application. This will help you to confidently share your ideas for collaboration in the statement, highlighting your interest in the institution and your fit.

Research the role and the institution you are applying to as this will help you tailor your research statement appropriately.

Address the following questions in your preparation:

- What research is happening at the institution and who is doing it?
- Who could you collaborate with?
- What is the mission and research vision of the institution?
- What could you add to their work?
- Beyond teaching and research, what else do they do e.g., is there a focus on business development and spin-out companies?

## 4. Structure of a research statement

A research statement is usually between 2 and 5 pages long but read the application requirements for specific instructions on length.

There is no universal template for a research statement, but it usually has three components: past, present, and future research. You could use the headings **Past and current work** and **Future work**, for example. You can use subheadings throughout, to add structure, and diagrams for clarity, if the template and application process allows this.

It is essential to consider the department/school and the institution when you are thinking about your track-record and future research. This will help you highlight and focus on areas that complement and strengthen the department/school and institution to which you are applying.

### Past and Current work

Set the scene by explaining your past work and build up to your current work. Focus on the aspects of your past and current research that are relevant to your future research rather than giving a detailed autobiographical history of your research.

Highlight outputs such as awards and achievements as well as publications, grants, and patents. See the academic successes tips sheet for ideas.

You can also mention current collaborations here as these will be an important resource that you will bring to the new role.

### Future work

This is the section where you should think big and drop the modesty! Having a research vision is essential to securing a lectureship or PI role. Define your [research vision](#) and point out how this will strengthen the work of the institution you are applying to.

Write about the aims of your future research. What questions do you want to explore and answer? Who will you collaborate with, both within and beyond the institution, and how will you fund your research?

Come and see the PFDC for your application. Finally, edit and proofread thoroughly!

