



Software
Sustainability
Institute

Fellowship Programme 2021 Launch Webinar



THE UNIVERSITY of EDINBURGH



The University of Manchester



UNIVERSITY OF
OXFORD

UNIVERSITY OF
Southampton



Arts and
Humanities
Research Council



Biotechnology and
Biological Sciences
Research Council



Economic
and Social
Research Council



Engineering and
Physical Sciences
Research Council



Medical
Research
Council



Natural
Environment
Research Council



Science and
Technology
Facilities Council



Welcome!

Practicalities



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🌸 If you experience any problems, please put a note into the chat and we will do our best to help

🕒 Note that there is a small lag between the Zoom webinar and the YouTube live stream

🙋 Please ask any questions in the chat

📺 This webinar is being recorded and the video will be made available on the SSI YouTube channel with captions after the event

🔗 Connect with us on Twitter @SoftwareSaved

Agenda



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15:00 Welcome

15:03 Introduction to the Software Sustainability Institute

15:10 About The Fellowship Programme

15:20 Fellowship experiences

- Reka Solymosi
- Yo Yehudi

15:40 Audience Q&A

16:00 Close



The Software Sustainability Institute

About the Software Sustainability Institute



www.software.ac.uk

- A national facility promoting the advancement of software in research since 2010, by cultivating better, more sustainable, research software to enable world-class research
- A collaboration between the universities of Edinburgh, Manchester, Oxford and Southampton
- In 2018, SSI was awarded funding from all seven UK Research Councils (and has been supported through grants EP/H043160/1, EP/N006410/1 and EP/S021779/1)

*Better software,
better research.*



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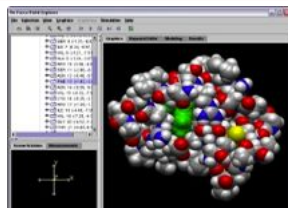
Engineering and
Physical Sciences
Research Council





Software

Helping the community to develop software that meets the needs of reliable, reproducible, and reusable research



Training

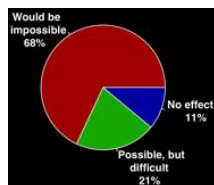
Delivering essential software skills to researchers, partnering with institutions, doctoral schools and the community

Outreach

Exploiting our platform to enable engagement, delivery and uptake

Policy

Collecting evidence on and promoting the place of software in research and sharing with stakeholders



Community

Developing Communities of Practice by supporting the right people to understand and address topical issues



Teams' activities



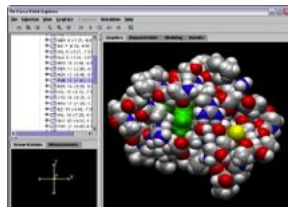
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Software

75+ software consultancy projects

200+ evaluations

4 surgeries



Training

300+ Carpentry workshops

7000+ learners, 250+ instructors

80+ guides

Outreach

170+ external contributors

20k unique visitors per month

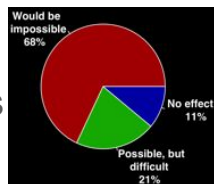
8000+ followers

Policy

1500+ RSEs engaged

Involved in UKRI long-term strategy

On 29 national & international committees



Community

147 Fellows

30+ workshops organised

(12 Collaborations Workshops)

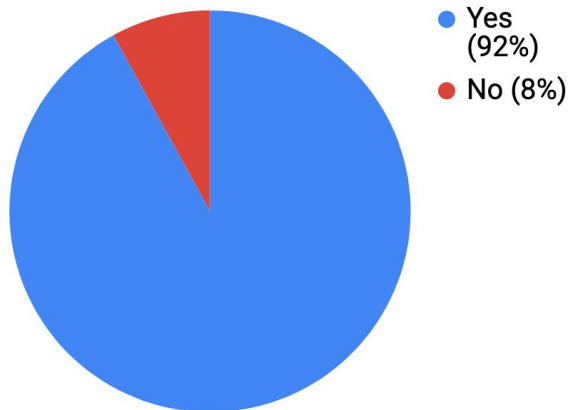


The UK research community relies on software

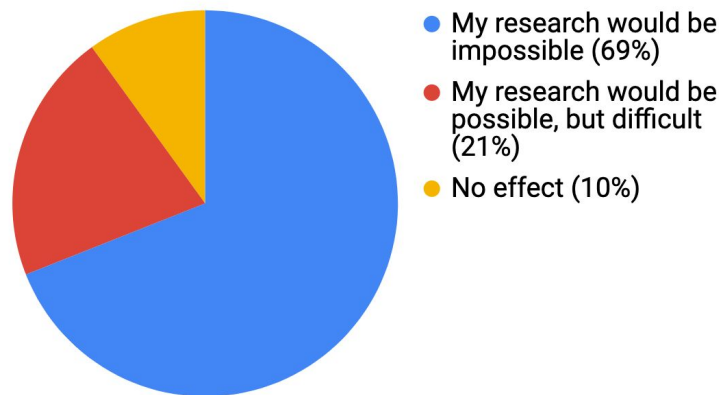


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Do you use research software?



What would happen if you could no longer use research software?



Survey of researchers from 15 Russell Group universities conducted by SSI between August – October 2014. 406 respondents covering representative range of funders, discipline and seniority: bit.ly/software-7-out-of-10



The Fellowship Programme



Why Fellows?

- Engaging with natural ambassadors of better software practice from the research community
 - The promotion of better more sustainable software is best done by those in the domains
- Supporting those involved with improving software practice; helping form communities of practice
- Help SSI discover important information about software in different research domains
- Help guide our training, policies, community work and consultancy engagements



Who are we looking for? (1/6)

- Applications are very welcome from all research domains and career stages!
 - Junior (PhD candidate, Junior Research Software Engineer)
 - Early (Research Assistant, Lecturer, Research Software Engineer)
 - Mid / Recognised (Senior Lecturer, Reader, Senior Research Software Engineer)
 - Established / Experienced / Senior (Professor, Director of Research Computing, Chief Data Scientist)

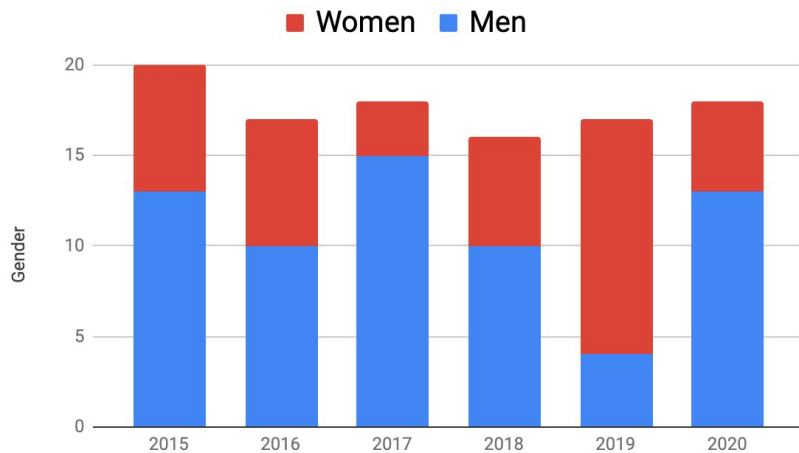


Previous years

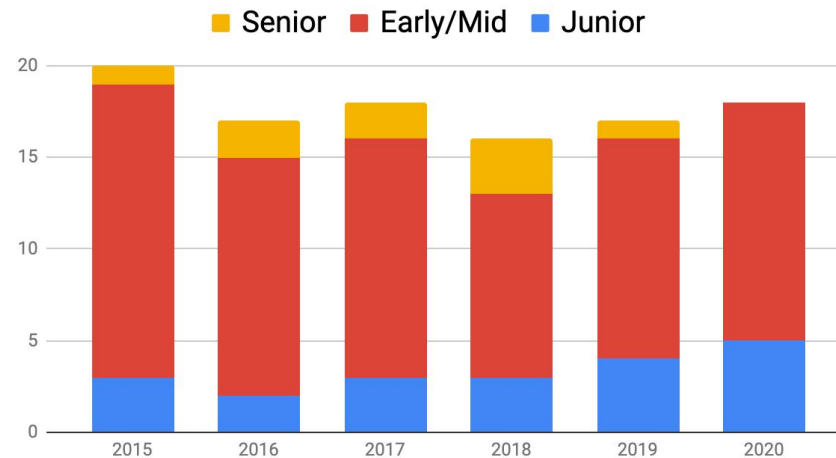


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Gender



Career Stage





Who are we looking for? (2/6)

- People supported by
 - UKRI (AHRC, BBSRC, EPSRC, ESRC, MRC, NERC, STFC)
 - Other funders are welcome, such as Wellcome, Jisc, and the EU
- You must be based in the UK or have a formal affiliation with a UK based institution or office
 - If you are currently not based in the UK, please contact us in advance to check if you are eligible to apply
- Your Fellowship plans must be primarily focused on improving UK capability



Who are we looking for? (3/6)

- You should be one or more of the following:
 - a researcher who uses software
 - a developer who writes tools for researchers
 - a research software engineer who supports the work of researchers with software
 - an advocate for best practice in software use for your research domain
 - in a leadership role in projects or organisations that make heavy use of software
 - a user of research software
 - passionate about software in research in any way!



Who are we looking for? (4/6)

- Champions of improved software practice in your domain/institution
- Effective collaborators
 - Enjoy working with others
 - Good at promoting your work to a wide audience (such as through outreach, blogging, tweeting, etc.)



Who are we looking for? (5/6)

- Contribution towards your community
 - Such as software, papers, presentations, datasets, data models, standards
- Can you communicate your ideas beyond your specialisation?
- Do you have the time to engage?
 - The programme requires ~10 days in the year of being involved in win-win activities



Who are we looking for? (6/6)

- Advocates of Open and Reproducible Research (optional)
- Involved in Communities of Practice (CoP; optional)
 - Including as a member, founder or contributor
 - Examples: [Mozilla Open Leaders](#), [rOpenSci](#), [The Turing Way](#)
- Collaborating with or taking an existing Fellows' work further (optional)
 - Are you a natural successor to an existing project or do you collaborate with any of our existing Fellows?

<https://www.software.ac.uk/about/fellows>



What we expect (Junior career stages)

- Having the time and inclination to contribute
- To engage with your research domain or institution
- Attend and organise events
- Share experiences, insights and outputs from event participation
- Use your platform as a Fellow to promote better software practice in research
- Align with and promote the Institute and its mission
- Attend any required events (more later)





What we expect (Early/Mid career stages)

All of Junior career stage points, plus:

- Help seed or nurture a community of practice in a research software related area
- Run workshops to promote software training/best practice in your domain/institute - (optional) work with other Fellows
- Contribute to policy (optional)
- Give a talk on behalf of the Institute (optional)
- Undertake The Carpentries Instructor Training (optional)



What we expect (Senior career stages)

All of Early/Mid career stage points, plus:

- Organise and chair networking events to help create policy on Institute priorities: better software, more recognition of software development and developers in research and software in the reproducible research agenda
- Promotion of Institute mission to research leaders in your institutions, research councils and government
- Possible attendance at Advisory board meetings
- Co-review outputs from Mid-career Fellows

What we expect



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We are also open to other suggestions or ideas Fellows have for activities!

Our promise



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To:

- Listen
- Be responsive
- Work with you as one of the team
- Support your work and ideas as a Fellow
- Be fair and flexible where possible
- Help you develop your community development skills



Benefits to being a Fellow

- £3,000 event fund
- Raise your profile
- Have your opinion heard
- Organise and attend events
- Present your work
- Teaching experience
- Pedagogy training opportunities
- Publishing opportunities
- Join a dynamic network of Fellows
- Higher visibility within institution, potential new collaborations
- Thought leader in area
- A platform to influence research software policy



Requirements

- Agree to the 2021 Terms and Conditions document
- Write a blog post for each supported activity
- Attend the Fellowship Programme inaugural meeting
- Take part in a mid-term review
- Attend Collaborations Workshop
- Attend SSI Fellows Community Calls when able
- Attend an Open Fellows Meeting (optional)
- Take part in a survey on your participation in the Fellowship Programme



Blog posts

- Once Fellows have used Fellowship funds to attend a conference, run a workshop or another event, they are expected to write a blog post
- Why a blog post?
 - Blogs not only report, but have key take home messages for the wider community and can point towards other resources
 - They are also the main output that is read by those who visit www.software.ac.uk (20k+ visitors a month)
- Blog posts about Fellows expertise and advice are very welcome
- Blog posts encourage outreach skills development



Fellowship Programme 2021 Timeline

- Monday, 7 December 2020: Applications open
- Thursday, 14 January 2021: Launch Webinar, 15:00 - 16:00 GMT
- Friday, 5 February 2021: Applications close at 23:59 GMT
- Monday, 1 March 2021: Shortlist announced
- Thursday, 11 March 2021: Online selection day (candidates should be available from 10:00 - 17:00 GMT)
- Tuesday, 30 March - Thursday, 1 April 2021: Collaborations Workshop 2021
- Thursday, 8 April 2021: Offers of fellowships to successful candidates
- Friday, 30 April 2021: Official announcement of 2021 Fellows

Application Form



www.software.ac.uk

Photo by [Jakob Owens](#) on [Unsplash](#)



[Visit bit.ly/ssi-fellows2021-apply](https://bit.ly/ssi-fellows2021-apply)



Application screencast

Your main application is a voiceover of a slide presentation screencast and reviewers will base the bulk of their decision on it. You will be measured on presentation style, content and **your plans**. Keeping to time is very important (you have 6 minutes only, if your screencast is any longer it will be trimmed to 6 minutes before sending to reviewers).

Below is a suggested format (although you may decide to spend more time on any section):

1. Who you are professionally (1 min suggested)
2. What you do (1 min suggested)
3. Your plans for the Fellowship (4 mins suggested)



Examples of previous Fellows activities

Organised their own workshops:

- Ally Skills by Malvika Sharan & Yo Yehudi
- Efficient & beautiful data visualisation by Gergana Daskalova
- ReproHacks by Anna Krystalli
- Reproducible Data Visualisations Using R & Binder by Andrew Stewart
- Northwest Universities R Day by Reka Solymosi
- Python in Astronomy by Thomas Robitaille and Brigitta Sipocz
- Benchmarking by Sarah Mount

The Carpentries inspired:

- Library Carpentry by James Baker
- GAP lesson/workshop by Alexander Konovalov
- Data Science for Doctors by Steve Harris & Danny Wong
- Social Science Carpentry by Heather Ford
- Geography workshop by Thomas Etherington





Considerations in light of COVID-19

- We encourage applicants to consider that travel and in-person events may not always be feasible, and we particularly welcome plans with online-based activities, such as:
 - Organising or attending online workshops
 - Attending virtual conferences
 - Use of software and hardware to enhance online events and activities
- You can read more about how our current cohort of Fellows adapted their plans to make the most of their SSI Fellowship in a COVID-19 world here: <https://www.software.ac.uk/blog/2021-01-05-how-make-most-ssi-fellowship-though-online-activities>





Please note

- The Fellowship does not support paying for hardware such as laptops/computers or for staff time for developing software; if you are interested in getting support in terms of effort for help with improving software then please check out the Institute's Open Call for projects <http://www.software.ac.uk/open-call>
- The Fellowship is primarily focused on supporting you at, for and leading events. Bringing people together to talk about the best way to integrate different codes as a workshop is in scope, paying for staff time to do a design is not. Any further questions please contact us at fellows-management@software.ac.uk



Fellows Inaugural Meeting

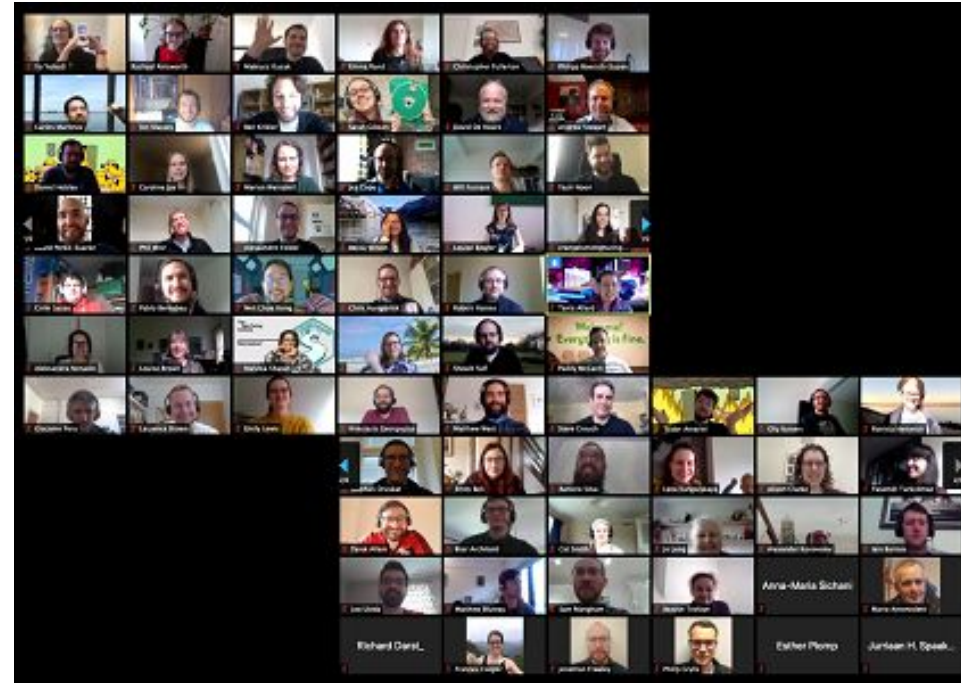
- New Fellows expected to attend (online, May/June 2021)
- Introduced to the Institute, staff and themes
- Networking
- Read about the last one here: bit.ly/ssi-fellows2020-inaugural





Collaborations Workshop 2021 (CW21)

- Annual unconference which brings together researchers, developers, innovators, managers, funders, publishers, policy makers, leaders and educators to explore best practices and the future of research software bit.ly/ssi-cw21
- Tuesday, 30 March to Thursday, 1 April 2021, Online
- Themes of keynotes, discussion groups, mini-workshops, hackathon & more: FAIR Research Software, Diversity and Inclusion, and Software Sustainability



Continuing Fellowship



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- Once a Fellow, always a Fellow!
- Benefits
 - Communal pot for attending/organising events
 - Asked for opinions
 - Networking (SSI Fellows Community Calls)
 - Influence continues (such as acting as reviewers or helping to recruit new Fellows)





Links

- About the programme: bit.ly/ssi-fellows2021
- Application form: bit.ly/ssi-fellows2021-apply
- FAQ: bit.ly/ssi-fellows2021-faq
- 2020 Terms and conditions: bit.ly/fellows2020-t-and-c
- 2020 Successful applications: bit.ly/ssi-fellows2020-videos
- Twitter: twitter.com/SoftwareSaved
- LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/software-sustainability-institute>
- E-mail: fellows-management@software.ac.uk



Fellowship Experiences

Fellowship experiences



www.software.ac.uk

Reka Solymosi



Yo Yehudi





More Fellowship Experiences

- Fellows' Updates during Community Calls [[YouTube Playlist](#)]
- Being a Digital Humanist in 2020 by Emily Bell [[Blog post](#)]
- Malvika Sharan's Fellowship experience [[Slides](#)]
- A current Fellow's experience of the SSI Fellowship scheme by Andrew Stewart [[Blog post](#)]
- Raising the status of software in research: A survey-based evaluation of the Software Sustainability Institute Fellowship Programme [[Research article](#)]





Audience Q&A

Questions



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Photo by [Camylla Battani](#) on [Unsplash](#)



Please add any questions to the chat.
Application form at bit.ly/ssi-fellows2021-apply



Thank you!

- Thank you to:
 - All who attended, especially Reka Solymosi and Yo Yehudi for sharing their Fellowship experiences
 - The Institute team for some of the slides, photos, information and helping out
 - Our funders: EPSRC through grant EP/H043160/1; EPSRC, BBSRC and ESRC through grant EP/N006410/1; and EPSRC, BBSRC, ESRC, NERC, AHRC, STFC and MRC through grant EP/S021779/1
- Material
 - These slides are available on Zenodo and licensed CC BY 4.0:
<https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.4432059>
 - The recording of the webinar will be available on the SSI YouTube channel

Contact



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If you have any further questions about the Fellowship Programme or want to discuss your specific case, please email: Rachael Ainsworth, Research Software Community Manager via fellows-management@software.ac.uk



Close