



Software  
Sustainability  
Institute

# Fellowship Programme 2023 Launch Webinar



THE UNIVERSITY of EDINBURGH



The University of Manchester



UNIVERSITY OF  
OXFORD

UNIVERSITY OF  
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Humanities  
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Physical Sciences  
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Medical  
Research  
Council



Natural  
Environment  
Research Council







Science and  
Technology  
Facilities Council



# Welcome!



# Practicalities

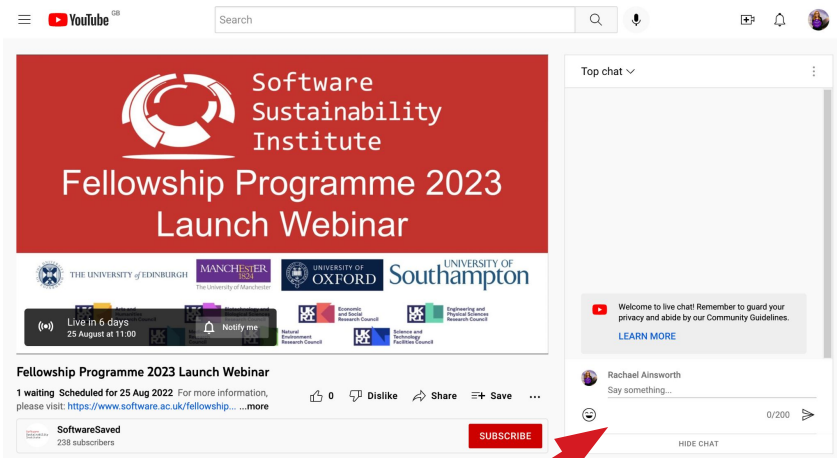
-  If you experience any problems, please put a note into the chat and we will do our best to help
-  Note that there is a small lag between the Zoom webinar and the YouTube live stream
-  This webinar is being recorded and the video will be made available on the SSI YouTube channel after the event
-  Connect with us on Twitter [@SoftwareSaved](https://twitter.com/SoftwareSaved)

# Questions



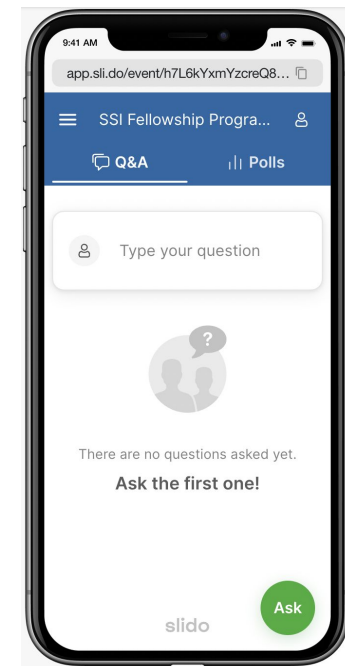
www.software.ac.uk

Submit questions in the YouTube chat



or via Sli.do

Event code: #4415610



# Agenda



[www.software.ac.uk](http://www.software.ac.uk)

11:00 - Welcome

11:03 - Introduction to the Software Sustainability Institute

11:10 - Introduction to the Fellowship Programme

11:20 - Fellowship experiences

- Lucy Whalley (2019 Fellow)
- Emily Bell (2020 Fellow)
- Kim Martin (2022 Fellow)

11:50 - Questions and answers

12:00 - Webinar ends





# The Software Sustainability Institute

# About the Software Sustainability Institute



[www.software.ac.uk](http://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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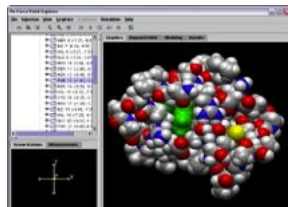
Engineering and  
Physical Sciences  
Research Council





## Software

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



## Training

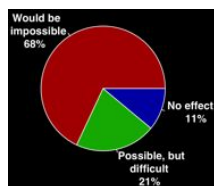
Delivering essential software skills to researchers, partnering with institutions, doctoral schools and the community

## 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



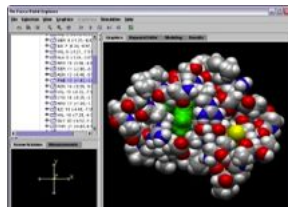
www.software.ac.uk

## Software

75+ software consultancy projects

200+ evaluations

4 surgeries



## Training

460+ Carpentry workshops

9k+ learners, 300+ instructors

85+ guides

## Outreach

170+ external contributors

20k unique visitors per month

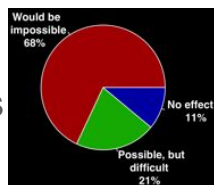
10k+ followers

## Policy

Hidden REF

Involved in UKRI long-term strategy

On 29 national & international committees



## Community

193 Fellows

3800+ RSEs engaged

30+ workshops organised

(14 Collaborations Workshops)

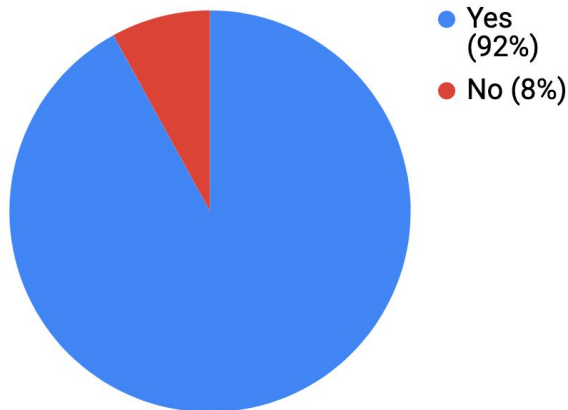


# The UK research community relies on software

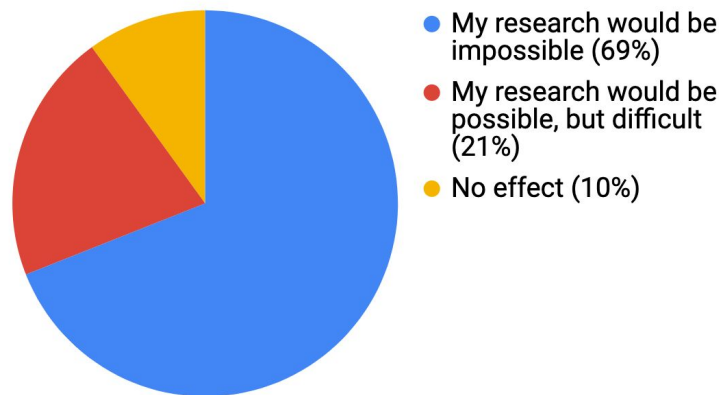


www.software.ac.uk

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](https://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





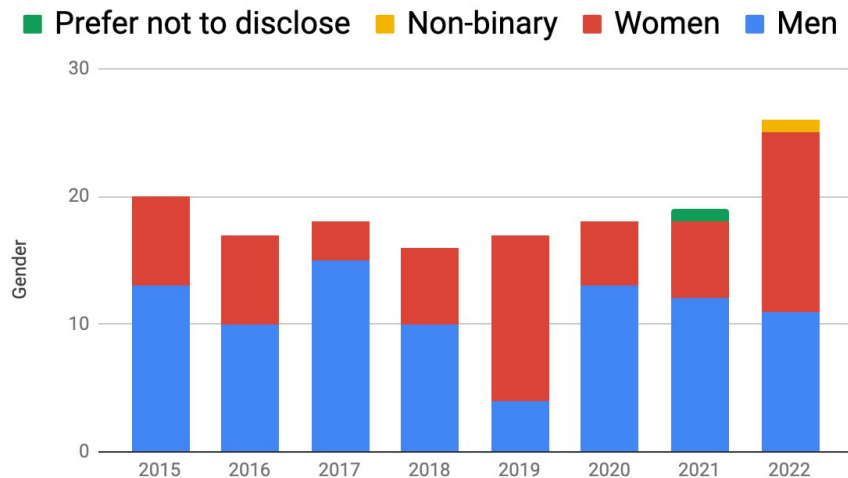
# Who are we looking for? (1/6)

- Applications are very welcome from all research domains and career stages!
  - Phase 1 - Junior (e.g. PhD candidate, Junior RSE)
  - Phase 2 - Early (e.g. Research Assistant/Associate, first grant holder, Lecturer, RSE)
  - Phase 3 - Mid / Recognised (e.g. Senior Lecturer, Reader, Senior Researcher, Senior RSE, Research Software Group Leader)
  - Phase 4 - Established / Experienced / Senior (e.g. Professor, Director of Research Computing, Distinguished Engineer, Chief Data Scientist)

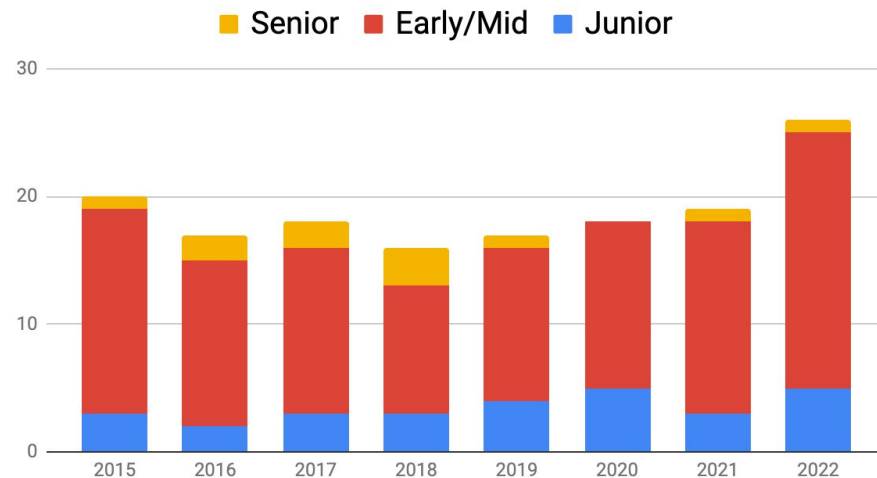


# Previous years

### 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 international funding agencies
- You are based in the UK or have a formal affiliation with a UK-based institution or office; or are based outside the UK and applying to our International Fellowship pilot.
- Your plans are primarily focused on improving UK capability (since the Institute is a UK-funded organisation) and potentially include promoting a UK-based approach abroad.





# Who are we looking for? (3/6)

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





# Who are we looking for? (4/6)

- Champions and ambassadors 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, social media, 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: [Open Life Science](#), [Programming Historian](#), [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 (Career Phase 1)

- 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 (Career Phases 2-3)

All of Phase 1 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 (Career Phase 4)

All of Phases 2-3 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



[www.software.ac.uk](http://www.software.ac.uk)

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

# Our promise



[www.software.ac.uk](http://www.software.ac.uk)

To:

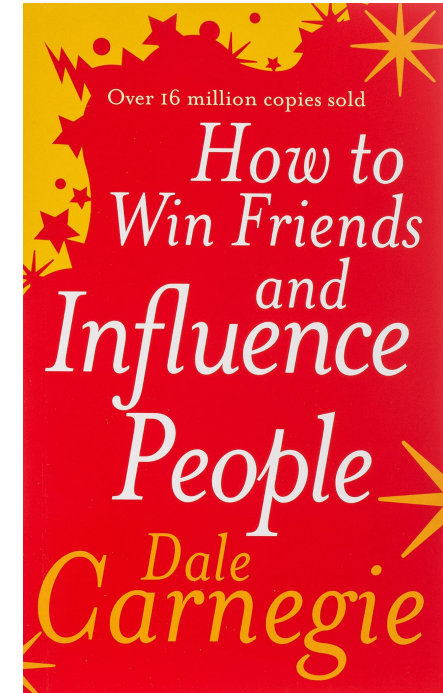
- Listen
- Be responsive
- Work with you as one of the team
- Support your work and ideas as a Fellow
- Be fair and flexible where possible
- Help you develop your community development skills





# 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
- Higher visibility within institution, potential new collaborations
- Thought leader in area
- Platform to influence software policy
- **Join a dynamic, supportive and inspiring community of Fellows**





# Requirements

- Agree to the 2023 Terms and Conditions
- Write a blog post for each supported activity
- Attend the Fellows 2023 Inaugural Meeting
- Take part in a mid-term review
- Attend Collaborations Workshop 2023
- 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](http://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 2023 Timeline

- Monday, 15 August 2022 - Fellowship Programme 2023 applications open
- Thursday, 25 August 2022 - Fellowship Programme 2023 Launch Webinar
- **Monday, 3 October 2022 - Applications close at 23:59 BST**
- Tuesday, 1 November 2022 - Shortlist confirmed
- Thursday, 17 November 2022 - Online Selection Day (shortlisted candidates should be available from 10:30 to 16:00 GMT)
- Monday, 28 November 2022 - Offers of Fellowships to successful candidates
- Thursday, 15 December 2022 - Official announcement of 2023 Fellows

# Application Form



www.software.ac.uk

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



Visit [bit.ly/ssi-fellows2023-apply](https://bit.ly/ssi-fellows2023-apply)



# Application screencast

The main application is a six-minute voiceover of a slide presentation screencast and reviewers will base the bulk of their decision on it.

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

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

We have created an Application Video Guide to help you produce your application video:

<https://software.ac.uk/fellowship-programme/2023/application-video-guide>

We will accept written applications where a video application is not possible (for example, due to a disability, economic reasons, or lack of equipment).





# Shortlisting Criteria

Full criteria: <https://software.ac.uk/fellowship-programme/2023/shortlisting-criteria>

## Ambassadorship (30%)

- Have a clear link to research software or the research software community.
- Have experience advocating, organising or participating in activities to improve research or computational practice in their area of work.
- Clear and effective communication.

## Fellowship Plans (70%)

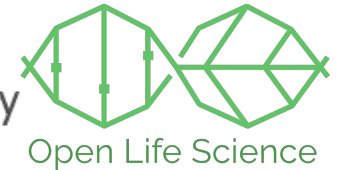
- The plans demonstrate an understanding of the bigger picture and vision for improving computational practice in their area of work. They articulate potential solutions as part of their plans for the Fellowship and how/why their methodology will have impact.
- The plans are SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant & Time-bound).





# Examples of Fellows' activities

- Carpentries Offline by Jannetta Steyn, Abhishek Dasgupta, Alison Clarke, Colin Sauze, Emily Lewis, Rebecca Wilson, et al.
- Reproducible Research and R workshops for Archaeologists by Alison Clarke & Emma Karoune
- Good mental health, good research software by Dave Horsfall
- Intermediate Research Software Development in Python at UKAEA by Matthew Bluteau
- RSE@Northumbria Launch Event by Lucy Whalley
- Software Carpentry at STFC by Eli Chadwick
- Great R packages for Ornithologists by Philipp Boersch-Supan
- Reusing Research Software and Tools in Digital Humanities Scholarship by Emily Bell & Anna-Maria Sichani
- Open Life Science by Yo Yehudi & Malvika Sharan
- Library Carpentry by James Baker







# 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 Fellows have 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>





# International Fellowship Pilot (1/3)

The Fellowship Programme 2023 round will be a continuation of our pilot for opening up the programme to international applicants.

We will be able to offer up to three places for successful international applicants (who are based outside the UK or without a formal affiliation with a UK-based institution or office).

This is a pilot to help us identify and address challenges for opening and scaling up the Programme internationally in the future, particularly around finances and logistics.





# International Fellowship Pilot (2/3)

Because the Institute is UK-funded, applicants who are not based in the UK or who do not have a formal affiliation with a UK-based institution or office will need to demonstrate that their plans for the Fellowship:

1. **Have a focus on improving UK capability**, for example
  - Feeding in successful research software related initiatives/approaches from abroad into UK-based projects ("I plan to work with project A in the UK to help them incorporate approach B which my lab has been developing"), or
  - Adding capacity to do particular tasks and to collaborate with UK-based teams ("I plan to collaborate with UK team Y to contribute Z").

**And**

2. **Promote UK-based approaches abroad**, for example promoting UK-based initiatives, projects or ways of working abroad (such as promoting the Institute, RSE, credit for software, reproducibility, career paths, and skills).





# International Fellowship Pilot (3/3)

You should also demonstrate how your Fellowship can successfully deliver on its plans if there are potential challenges related to time zones, language barriers or the cost of having to travel large distances.

Changes to eligibility are subject to new information learned along the way.

Financially, there may be exclusion of some countries/regions due to applicable laws or restrictions around the movement of funds. There will likely be some additional steps in the administration of funds and small discrepancies in the reimbursement of expenses due to differing currency exchange rates.

These are all areas that we are looking to explore and address through this pilot.





# 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 Research Software Healthcheck: [software.ac.uk/programmes-and-events/research-software-healthcheck](https://software.ac.uk/programmes-and-events/research-software-healthcheck)
- The Fellowship is primarily focused on supporting you at, for and leading events/activities. Bringing people together to talk about the best way to integrate different codes as a workshop is in scope, paying for staff time to develop code is not. Any further questions please contact us at [fellows-management@software.ac.uk](mailto:fellows-management@software.ac.uk)



# Online Selection Day

- Shortlisted candidates will be invited to participate in the Online Selection Day: a full day of group activities where candidates will be assessed on **how** they contribute to a session (collaboration and communication skills), and **what** they contribute to a session (discussion or event planning contributions). Full criteria: <https://www.software.ac.uk/fellowship-programme/2023/selection-criteria>
- The Online Selection Day will take place on Thursday, 17 November 2022 from 10:30 - 16:00 GMT (we will provide breaks throughout) - so please save the date!
- The final selection of Fellows will be made based on the combined assessment of the candidates' performances during the Online Selection Day and the Fellowship Plans proposed in the screencast applications.



# Fellows Inaugural Meeting



www.software.ac.uk

- New Fellows expected to attend (online or hybrid TBC, January/February 2023)
- Introduced to the Institute, staff and themes
- Networking
- Read about the last one here: [bit.ly/ssi-fellows2022-inaugural](https://bit.ly/ssi-fellows2022-inaugural)

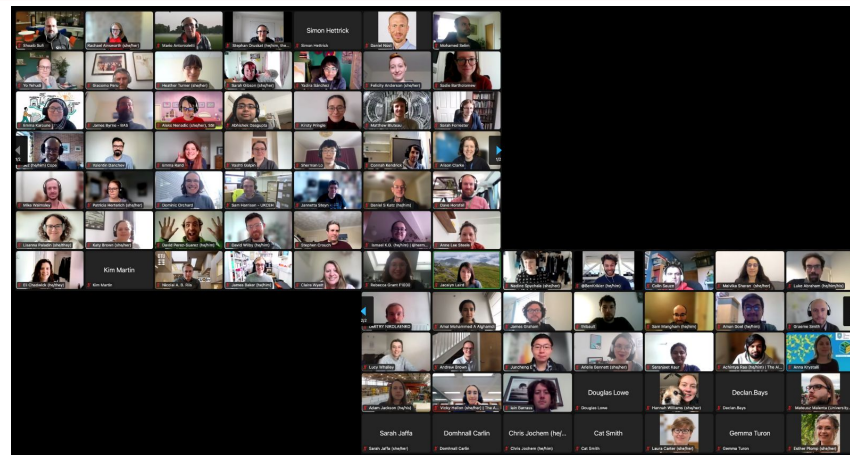


# Collaborations Workshop 2023 (CW23)



www.software.ac.uk

- Brings together researchers, developers, funders, publishers, educators & more to explore important ideas in software/research, & start interdisciplinary collaborations
- Unconference: keynote presentations, mini-workshop/demo sessions, discussion groups, lightning talks, collaborative ideas, speed blogging and a hack day
- Themes: Software Sustainability +
  - Code Review, Ethics (2022)
  - FAIR4RS, Diversity & Inclusion (2021)
  - Open Research, Data Privacy (2020)
- CW23 will take place 2-4 May 2023
  - Hybrid
  - Sustainable Career Development





# Continuing Fellowship



www.software.ac.uk

- 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-fellows2023](https://bit.ly/ssi-fellows2023)
- Application form: [bit.ly/ssi-fellows2023-apply](https://bit.ly/ssi-fellows2023-apply)
- FAQ: [bit.ly/ssi-fellows2023-faq](https://bit.ly/ssi-fellows2023-faq)
- 2022 Terms and conditions: [bit.ly/fellows2022-t-and-c](https://bit.ly/fellows2022-t-and-c)
- 2022 Successful applications: [bit.ly/ssi-fellows2022-videos](https://bit.ly/ssi-fellows2022-videos)
- Twitter: [twitter.com/SoftwareSaved](https://twitter.com/SoftwareSaved)
- LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/software-sustainability-institute>
- E-mail: [fellows-management@software.ac.uk](mailto:fellows-management@software.ac.uk)



# Fellowship Experiences

# Fellowship experiences



[www.software.ac.uk](http://www.software.ac.uk)

**Lucy Whalley**



**Emily Bell**



**Kim Martin**





# More Fellowship Experiences

- Fellows' Updates during Community Calls [[YouTube Playlist](#)]
- Would I even fit in? Why and how I applied for an SSI Fellowship by Jesper Sören Dramsch [[Blog post](#)]
- Lessons from my SSI fellowship: first half(ish) by James Byrne [[Blog post](#)]
- Being a Digital Humanist in 2020 by Emily Bell [[Blog post](#)]
- Raising the status of software in research: A survey-based evaluation of the Software Sustainability Institute Fellowship Programme [[Research article](#)]





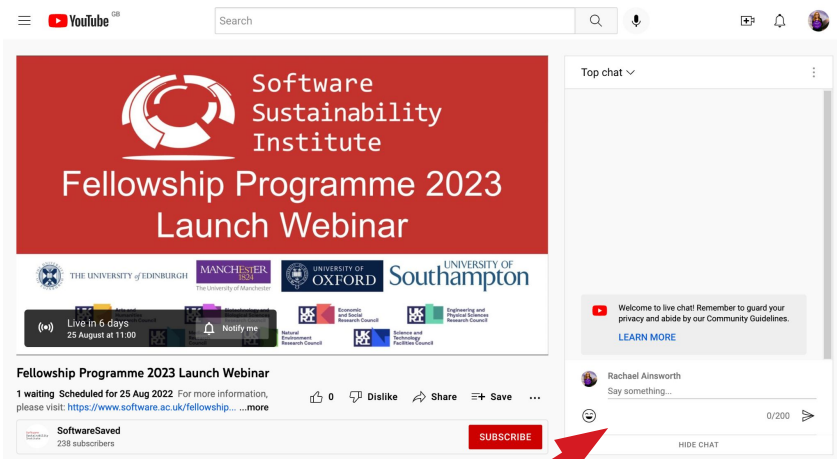
# Audience Q&A

# Questions



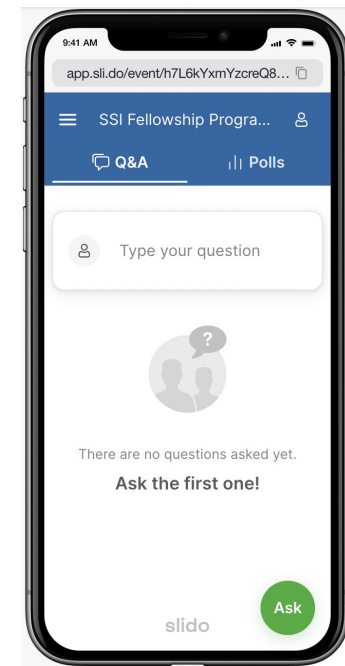
www.software.ac.uk

Submit questions in the YouTube chat



or via Sli.do

Event code: #4415610



# Questions



www.software.ac.uk

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

Please add any questions to the YouTube chat or Sli.do  
Application form at [bit.ly/ssi-fellows2023-apply](https://bit.ly/ssi-fellows2023-apply)



# Thank you!



www.software.ac.uk

- Thank you to:
  - All who attended, especially Lucy Whalley, Emily Bell and Kim Martin 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.7007444>
  - The recording of the webinar will be available on the SSI YouTube channel

# Contact



[www.software.ac.uk](http://www.software.ac.uk)

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](mailto:fellows-management@software.ac.uk)





# Close