

Senior Fellowship Pathway

What is the Senior Fellowship Pathway?

The Senior Fellowship Pathway supports staff to gain Senior Fellowship of the Higher Education Academy. Senior Fellowship is a recognition of the positive impact of experienced staff on student learning, both by directly influencing students themselves, and by influencing their colleagues.

What are the benefits of participating in the Pathway?

Applying for Senior Fellowship of the HEA is an opportunity to take time out to reflect on your practice and the impact of your work. It is also a chance to identify your hopes and priorities for the next stage of your career in learning and teaching.

What is the Pathway for?

The Senior Fellowship Pathway is designed to give you space, guidance and peer support to create your application, which consists of i) a reflection on your roles, responsibilities and professional experience, and ii) two case studies (6000 words in total).

Who is the Pathway for?

Senior Fellowship is suitable for those who have a few years of experience of teaching and/or supporting learning, and can talk about how they have influenced colleagues as well as students. It is not only academic staff who are eligible: anyone who has a role in supporting student learning is able to apply, e.g. learning technologists. The Pathway supports colleagues on all Heriot-Watt campuses.

What does participation in the Pathway involve?

The Pathway runs for 6 months, and is designed to take you from your first look at the SFHEA application form to submitting your application.

- There will be a workshop every month, where you will receive advice and guidance, and work with peers on aspects of your application. There will be brief online activities before and after each session to help you get the most out of them
- Each month there will be a writing retreat, which you may find useful for carving out time and space to work on your application
- You will be provided with a mentor who has successfully gained their Senior Fellowship, to provide support throughout the Pathway
- You will be provided with feedback as you draft your application
- Heriot-Watt will pay for your application to Advance HE

The intention is for participants to submit their applications at the end of the 6-month Pathway. The total time commitment will depend on the individual, but a rough guide would be 40-60 hours (including attendance at Pathway sessions)

To express an interest in the Senior Fellowship Pathway or to find out more, please contact the Learning and Teaching Academy (LTAcademy@hw.ac.uk)

At a glance

The Senior Fellowship Pathway supports experienced staff to gain advanced professional recognition for their positive impact on students' learning

Pathway Timeline

January 2021	Workshop 1: Introduction to the Senior Fellowship Pathway
	Writing retreat
February 2021	Workshop 2: How to write reflectively
	Writing retreat
	Feedback opportunity (100-word extract)
March 2021	Session 3: Selecting your case studies
	Writing retreat
	Feedback opportunity (longer extract, e.g. full case study)
April 2021	Session 4: Mapping your application to the Professional Standards Framework
	Writing retreat
May 2021	Session 5: Incorporating research and scholarship in your application
	Writing retreat
	Feedback opportunity (full draft)
June 2021	Session 6: Wrap-up, plus – what do SFHEA reviewers expect?
	Writing retreat
July 2021	Submission of application to Advance HE