

## **UF-UK Fellowship Program**

*An agreement between the Florida Climate Institute at the University of Florida, US and Oxford Martin Programme on the Future of Food at the University of Oxford, UK*

### **Introduction**

The fellowship concept originated during conversations between Dr. James Jones, Distinguished Professor and Director of the Florida Climate Institute and Professor Charles Godfray, Director of the Oxford Martin Programme on the Future of Food at Oxford University. The goals are to provide opportunities for faculty to broaden their scope and develop collaboration among faculty through an exchange program. The exchange will help to foster the development of innovative, interdisciplinary research projects and publications that will help find solutions to the challenges of sustainably, healthily and equitably feeding a global population that will most likely peak at 9-10 billion people in the second half of this century when the Earth's climate is likely to be very different from that of today. The organizations above will facilitate interactions between Oxford researchers and those at the University of Florida.

### **Anticipated outcomes and benefits**

The fellowship will provide opportunities to outstanding faculty by:

- producing research of international importance
- developing their research careers and interdisciplinary networks
- providing opportunities for future science leaders
- collaborating toward solutions for complex, large-scale issues
- increasing understanding of global changes and societal impacts
- jointly pursuing collaborative funding calls
- sharing expertise and resources at respective universities

### **Fellowship eligibility**

Fellowships are open to faculty of any nationality and in any area of study from the list below (see below). Applicants are selected on merit and **must be** employed by either Oxford University or the University of Florida.

### **Areas of study**

#### **Food Systems**

Both universities have internationally recognized track records in food systems research, with special emphasis on the interactions with climate change. Key strengths include using a food systems lens to research food security issues, and developing research partnerships with a wide range of stakeholders including business, policy, development agencies, NGOs and academia at large. The University of Florida has strong research and extension programs in plant breeding for sustainable food production, food safety, and intensive production technologies that allow farmers to produce near potential yields across

a wide range of crop and livestock systems. This includes modeling food production systems for assessment of climate change impacts, adaptation and mitigation opportunities, with best practices for protecting the environment. The University of Oxford has a number of major centers of excellence in fields relevant to the food system. These include nutrition and obesity, food taxes, food and climate change, animal welfare, sensory perception of food, crop production research, and political economy and public health.

**Climate.** A wide range of research projects that address the impacts of climate change, the possibilities for mitigation and adaptation, the evolution of climate policy and the communication of climate change information to society. The University of Florida is a Land Grant institution with strong basic and applied research programs that develop basic understanding of agricultural production, processing, and distribution systems and technologies that provide solutions to the problems associated with those systems and also reduce impacts on natural systems. Its mission also includes an extension service that uses advanced methods for translating research into applications and communicating directly with stakeholders to achieve impact. The University of Oxford hosts the Food Climate Research Network, a project that communicates information on the complex interactions between our food system and climate change; brings people together to share knowledge and ideas on this topic; and acts as an 'honest broker' between different stakeholders, who may have very different perspectives and priorities. Oxford runs the future scenarios project within the CGIAR Programme on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security and has strong research in climate modelling for extreme weather event attribution and the climate impacts on flooding risks and infrastructure systems

**Ecosystems.** Research advancing our scientific understanding of ecosystems and their role in the Earth's system. Examining how humans and other species interact with these ecosystems, particularly in the context of climate change, and exploring the social, cultural and political impacts of such interactions. The University of Florida's comparative strengths are in developing solutions to solve problems at the interface of agricultural production and sustainable ecosystem services. This includes strengths in developing and using models of agriculture's impacts on water quality in humid subtropical areas.

The University of Oxford has strong research programs looking at the trade-offs between food production and biodiversity conservation and the relationship between biodiversity and the functioning of ecosystems. Researchers at Oxford are interested in biodiversity responses to environmental change and the scientific underpinning of practical and policy solutions to problems in wildlife conservation.

## **Applications**

The participating universities will advertise and make known that the faculty fellowship program is available to their faculty. Each university will screen, through its own review procedures, its applicants and forward no more than two highly qualified applicants for consideration of a fellowship award. Each university has the option to rank applications if it so chooses.

Each application by UF faculty members must include:

- The applicant's *curriculum vitae*
- A statement describing the purpose of the proposed exchange visit, the problem area, the faculty with whom the applicant intends to work with in the other university, a summary of the problem, the duration of the exchange visit, and a work plan, including a timetable for its completion (not to exceed 2,000 words)
- A budget detailing the expenses that the applicant will have. The maximum amount of each Fellowship will be \$4,500 for a one-time exchange visit.
- A submission letter summarizing the applicant's goals and value to the university and applicant
- One letter of recommendation from the faculty member's department chair
- *A letter from the faculty of the University of Oxford confirming that it has approved the exchange to take place and that it will host the applicant as indicated in the application*
- All components of the application should be submitted as a single PDF file via email to Jim Jones ([jimj@ufl.edu](mailto:jimj@ufl.edu)) and Carolyn Cox ([crcox@ufl.edu](mailto:crcox@ufl.edu)). The applicant's name and university should be on the header of each page.

### **Selection of Fellows**

**University of Florida.** The Faculty Advisory Committee of the Florida Climate Institute will review applications submitted by faculty from the University of Florida twice per year (during Spring and Fall semesters). Up to two Fellows will be selected per calendar year to visit the University of Oxford.

### **Fellowship Stipend**

**University of Florida.** Funding for the successful applicants from the University of Florida will be provided by the Florida Climate Institute (FCI) and the Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS). The maximum amount of the Fellowship is \$4,500, which must be justified in terms of travel and subsistence expenses during the exchange visit.

### **Responsibility of Fellows**

The Fellows are required to submit a written report of accomplishments within 6 weeks following the fellowship exchange visit. This report will be submitted to the FCI and the University of Florida and to the Oxford Martin Programme on the Future of Food at the University of Oxford. In addition, each Fellow will give a seminar at the supporting institution either before or after the exchange visit.