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Strathclyde Global Talent Programme: Chancellor's Fellow in Optical Frequency Metrology

Department	Physics (www.strath.ac.uk/science/physics/)		
Faculty	Faculty of Science (www.strath.ac.uk/science/)		
Staff Category	Academic	Reference No	667167
Reports To	Head of Department/Institute	Grade	7 or 8*
Salary Range	£41,421 - £56,921*	Contract Type	Open Contract
FTE	1 FTE (hours required to fulfil duties of post – Happy to Talk Flexible Working)	Closing Date	05/01/2025
Working Arrangements	Fully On-site. Due to the nature of this role, it is based fully on-site.		
Work Location	Glasgow		



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Job Advert

Who we are

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We are the University of Strathclyde. Our vision is innovative and ground breaking, placing us amongst the world's leading international technological universities. We are vibrant, dynamic and passionate about solving the challenges facing society and industry through our cutting-edge, multi-disciplinary research, education and knowledge-exchange with global partners.

We are seeking to appoint extraordinary early career academics who complement our strategic themes.

For more information visit the Strathclyde Global Talent Programme Website:

www.strath.ac.uk/workwithus/strathclydeglobaltalentprogramme or email globaltalent@strath.ac.uk

Our department

Applications are invited for a joint academic appointment as a Chancellor's Fellow between the National Physical Laboratory (NPL) and the University of Strathclyde to develop a leading research programme in optical frequency metrology. The aim of the post is to develop and grow the strategic research partnership between the two organisations exploiting existing strengths and leveraging a ca. £1m investment by NPL in laboratory space and state-of-the-art microwave and optical frequency metrology equipment based at Strathclyde. The aspirations of the post are closely aligned with the UK Government's strategic emphasis and investment in Quantum Technology in general and Timing in particular in support of Critical National Infrastructure.

The University of Strathclyde has established a position as a leading international centre for Quantum Technology research and innovation, covering activities from fundamental and applied research through to technology development and industrialisation. It is our stated aim to create and nurture a vibrant and internationally competitive cluster of research and innovation based on Quantum Physics. We are committed to creating the translational ecosystem required to develop, test, validate and demonstrate disruptive quantum technologies, and respond to current and future market demand. Together with a range of industrial and governmental organisations NPL is a core partner in this ecosystem.

NPL is a world-leading centre of excellence that provides cutting-edge measurement science, engineering and technology to underpin prosperity and quality of life in the UK. The National Timing Centre (NTC) programme,

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led by NPL, seeks to establish a resilient time and frequency network in support of national priority areas as well as the acceleration of innovation in new technologies.

The post will be based in NPL's timing innovation laboratory collocated with the Strathclyde Physics Department and closely linked with the activities of the Experimental Quantum Optics and Photonics Group. This laboratory is equipped with a microwave atomic clock linked to UTC(NPL), an optical frequency comb and an ultrastable laser, and has access to a commercial optical atomic clock. Of particular interest for the post is the establishment of an ambitious joint research programme in optical frequency metrology involving development and validation of optical frequency sources as well as their transfer through free-space links and as a basis for a technology pipeline necessary for responding to the needs of future timing infrastructure and applications.

The successful candidate is expected to have an internationally recognised track record in optical frequency metrology and applied Quantum Technology with demonstrated experience translating technology from the laboratory environment to real-world tests. They will be expected to lead a research programme of international standing, develop knowledge exchange opportunities, attract significant funding, publish in leading journals and contribute to teaching and management of the Department.

The opportunity

We would love to hear from you if you have a PhD and postdoctoral research experience; an emerging publication history in high quality academic journals; and research interests which align with this area of strategic priority – particularly if you already hold an external fellowship that can be transferred to us.

The University of Strathclyde is a socially progressive institution that strives to ensure equality of opportunity and celebrates the diversity of its student and staff community. Strathclyde is people-oriented and collaborative, offering a supportive and flexible working culture with a deep commitment to our equality, diversity and inclusion charters, initiatives, groups and networks.

We strongly encourage applications from Black, Asian and minority ethnicity, women, LGBT+, and disabled candidates and candidates from lower socio-economic groups and care-experienced backgrounds.

You'll be rewarded with:

- Growth of your research portfolio
- Reduced teaching load and limited administrative duties over the initial years of your Fellowship



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- Support through our academic career development framework to gain feedback on your performance, meet your training needs and enhance your effectiveness – allowing you to be ready for promotion within 5 years of your appointment.
- Mentoring, to help you establish a balance of research, teaching, knowledge exchange and citizenship responsibilities while enhancing your leadership qualities to support your long-term career.

** Your Fellowship will normally be at lecturer level (exceptionally, at senior lecturer (Grade 9) (£58,596 - £65,814) where you have a strong track record in research leadership) for 5 years, with the expectation that you'll meet our promotion criteria within that period and be transferred to senior lecturer (or, where you've been appointed as a senior lecturer, Reader) level.*

Job Description

Initially, your focus will be on establishing an impressive strategically aligned research portfolio, with appropriate attraction of external funding. Whilst a lower teaching load will initially be assigned to you, over the course of your Fellowship, additional teaching and citizenship will be assigned to you in line with the duties of a Lecturer.

Main Activities/Responsibilities:

	Research Leadership and Dissemination: Engage in individual and collaborative research, establishing a distinctive programme of research and disseminating results through regular publications in high impact journals, books and conference proceedings including:
1.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lead in collaboration with colleagues at NPL an ambitious research programme in optical frequency metrology involving development and validation of optical frequency sources as well as their transfer through free-space links. • Explore opportunities for translation of research through practical demonstrations and field trials and contribute to knowledge exchange by establishing and growing links with industry. • Supervise research students and staff as required, providing direction, support, and guidance.
2.	Funding: Apply, as Principal- or Co-Investigator, to appropriate external bodies for research funding and manage grants awarded.
3.	Knowledge exchange: Develop knowledge exchange activities by, for example, establishing research and/or educational links with industry and influencing public policy and the professions.



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4. **Additional activities over 5-year period:** Undertake additional activities relating to research, teaching, knowledge exchange and administration such that the criteria for Senior Lecturer are met by the end of the Fellowship.

Person Specification

Educational and/or Professional Qualifications

(E=Essential, i.e. a candidate must meet all essential criteria to be considered for selection, D=Desirable)

E1 Good honours degree and PhD (or equivalent) in relevant discipline/s.

E2 Research interests and experience consistent with the strategic direction of the NPL/Strathclyde research partnership in optical frequency metrology and quantum technologies.

E3 A body of published research in high quality publications demonstrating standards of excellence.

E4 Extensive experience with practical demonstrations of optical frequency metrology including e.g. field trials or other non-laboratory-based applications.

E5 Ability to formulate ambitious research plans aligned with the strategic research interests of the NPL/Strathclyde research partnership in optical frequency metrology.

E6 Ability to work within an academic team environment and lead teams where required, experience of managing research/teaching activities and teams.

E7 Track record of securing research funding including contributing to successful bids and/or potential to lead successful research bids. This particularly relates to research fellowships (e.g. UKRI Future Leaders Fellowship, Leverhulme, Royal Society, ERC)

E8 A passion for delivering research-integrated teaching and a commitment to providing an excellent learning and teaching experience for Strathclyde students.

E9 Excellent interpersonal and communication skills, with the ability to listen, engage and persuade, and to present complex information in an accessible way to a range of audiences;

D1 Relevant teaching experience at undergraduate and/or postgraduate levels;

D2 Track record in knowledge exchange related activities.

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Application Procedure

To apply, [click here](#) to visit Strathclyde's vacancies portal and provide:

- A fully completed application form;
- A cover letter;
- A CV; and
- A 5-year Strathclyde research plan which outlines your vision, aligned to our strategic plan and highlights any existing or future opportunities for collaborative initiatives (maximum 4 pages).

For more information, or to contact a Strathclyde colleague who would love to talk to you about this opportunity, visit our [Global Talent website](#).

University of Strathclyde encourages the recruitment of disabled and neurodivergent candidates. If you need any reasonable adjustments during the recruitment process, please let us know. You are welcome to submit a paper application or a CV instead of the online application form by contacting us at globaltalent@strath.ac.uk.

Interviews

Formal interviews for this post will commence from February 2025.

The University is a Disability Confident Employer and operates a guaranteed interview scheme for disabled candidates who meet all the essential criteria for the post that they are applying for.

Other Information

Further information on the application process and working at Strathclyde can be found on our website (<http://www.strath.ac.uk/hr/workforus>).

Informal enquiries about the post can be directed to Professor Stefan Kuhr, Head of Department (stefan.kuhr@strath.ac.uk), Professor Erling Riis (e.riis@strath.ac.uk) and Professor Paul Griffin (paul.griffin@strath.ac.uk).

Conditions of Employment

Conditions of employment relating to the Academic staff category can be found at: [Conditions of Employment](#).



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Rewards and Benefits

Our comprehensive benefits package, including generous annual leave, family-friendly benefits, flexible work options, and a commitment to continuous learning, reflects our appreciation for the valuable contributions of our colleagues.

We understand that each staff member has unique priorities and lifestyles, so our diverse benefits ensure there are benefits designed to suit everyone, details of which can be found [here](#).

- **Financial Rewards:** We provide attractive financial packages, including competitive salaries, relocation support for employees and a generous pension scheme, with university contributions of 14.5% for USS and 22.1% for LGPS.
- **Work-Life Balance:** We are dedicated to enhancing healthy work-life balance for our employees. We offer generous annual leave, an additional annual leave purchase option, flexible and agile work arrangements.
 - Annual Leaves: Generous entitlement of 27 days (Grade 5 and below) or 31 days (Grade 6 and above), in addition to 11 public holidays and University closure days.
 - Additional annual leave purchase: Option to request purchase of 2 working weeks' additional annual leave per year.
 - Flexible and agile working options: The University provides flexible work arrangements. You can request options that fits you and your role, such as hybrid, part-time, compressed hours, term-time, adjusted shifts, staggered hours. These requests can be made from the first day of your employment.
- **Family Friendly Benefits:** We offer a variety of enhanced family-friendly benefits to support our employees in balancing work and family responsibilities. These include Maternity Leave, Paternity/Maternity Support, Adoption Leave, Shared Parental Leave, Parental Leave, Carers Leave and support, Family Friendly Research & Scholarship Leave, and access to our on-campus nursery.
- **Career Development:** Our commitment to personal development is reflected in initiatives such as professional courses, subsidised educational programs, coaching and mentoring, leadership development, secondment opportunities, and access to our library.
- **Health & Wellbeing:** We place high importance on the safety, wellbeing, and health of all our staff and offer discounted Strathclyde Sport membership, an Employee Assistance Programme (EAP), Occupational Health Service, and Cycle to Work program.
- **Recognition Awards:** At Strathclyde, we place a strong emphasis on acknowledging and rewarding our staff's commitment and exceptional contributions. This is demonstrated through our Long-Service Awards and Strathclyde Medals, based on our values.

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Basic Disclosure

This role requires the satisfactory outcome of a Basic Disclosure Scotland Check. The successful applicant will be asked to carry out a Basic Disclosure Scotland Check. Whether an outcome is satisfactory will be determined by the University.

Pre-employment health screening

An offer of appointment will be subject to a medical assessment by Occupational Health. An individual who accepts an offer of employment must complete a confidential medical questionnaire and forward it to the Occupational Health Nurse within 5 days of receipt. If further information is required, the individual may be contacted by the OHN or a Medical Advisor and a personal appointment with the individual may be arranged. An unconditional contract of employment will not be issued until Human Resources receives confirmation that applicant is fit to undertake the duties of the post.

Probation

Where applicable, the successful applicant will be required to serve a 12-month probationary period.

Pension

The successful applicant will be eligible to join the Universities' Superannuation Scheme. Further information regarding this scheme is available from [Payroll and Pensions](#).

Relocation

Where applicable, the University offers a relocation package to support new employees who meet the eligibility criteria. The relocation package is offered as a contribution towards costs incurred, and is designed to be flexible, allowing staff to use the financial support available in the way that will be most helpful to them. Further details are outlined in the [Relocation Policy](#).

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Equality and Diversity

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We strongly encourage applications from Black, Asian and minority ethnicity, women, LGBT+, and disabled candidates and candidates from lower socio-economic groups and care-experienced backgrounds.

The University currently holds an Athena Swan **Silver award**, recognising our commitment to advancing women's careers in science, technology, engineering, maths, and medicine (STEMM) employment in academia.

University Values

The University's Values capture what we're all about: who we are, what we believe in and what we stand for. [Our Values](#) have been derived from how we act and how we expect to be treated as part of Strathclyde.

In delivering **our People Strategy**, we will contribute, act, and make decisions guided by these values.

- **People-oriented:** committed to our staff and students, providing opportunities, and investing in their development.
- **Bold:** confident and challenging in what we do, and supportive of embracing appropriate and managed risk in our decision-making.
- **Innovative:** focused on discovering and applying knowledge with impact and encouraging creative thinking and new ideas.
- **Collaborative:** working together, with our colleagues and external partners, with integrity and in an open, respectful way.
- **Ambitious:** for our institution, staff and students as well as supporting the ambitions of our partners.



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