The Ramsay Memorial Fellowship Trust was constituted in 1920 for the purpose of administering the award of Ramsay Memorial Fellowships for Chemical Science. The Ramsay Fellowships are awarded to early career chemists of the requisite standard, who are nominated by an Advisory Council consisting of Professors of Chemistry at UK universities.

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The Trust would be very pleased to hear from any readers who would be interested in joining the Ramsay Trustees and/or the Ramsay Advisory Council. Interested parties should, in the first instance, contact awards@soci.org.
ABOUT

The Ramsay Trust
Memorial Fellowship

As a memorial to Sir William Ramsay, the Ramsay Memorial Fellowships were instituted in 1920, with the aim to promote and develop chemical research through empowering and encouraging postdoctoral researchers to undertake original and independent research through the award of a Fellowship. For one hundred years, the Trust has played a vital role in supporting scientists at the start of their careers, with preference given to candidates in their early careers. Like Sir William, the Ramsay Fellows have made many important discoveries that have changed our world. The prestigious Ramsay Fellowship is more than a simple grant, giving recipients a high international reputation and an invitation to the annual dinner: allowing fellows to share and discuss information with esteemed peers. SCI is delighted to have partnered with the Ramsay Trust Foundation to help deliver this amazing Fellowship program.

The Society of Chemical Industry

The Society of Chemical Industry (SCI) was established in 1881 by prominent scientists, inventors and entrepreneurs interested in creating new products and processes from the emerging technologies and innovations of the day. Early members included founders of notable businesses of the last industrial revolution, such as Unilever, P&G, ICI, Tate and Lyle and Johnson Matthey. Other notable members invented products such as perspex, bakelite and penicillin. Today SCI is a unique multi-science, multi-disciplinary, international community specifically designed to create collaborations across non-traditional boundaries.

Sir William Ramsay

Sir William was Britain's very first recipient of the Nobel Prize in Chemistry, in 1904, for his discovery of the noble gases. The Ramsay Memorial Fellowships were set up to celebrate the many achievements of Sir William Ramsay, Professor of Inorganic General Chemistry at UCL from 1887-1913 and SCI President from 1903-1904. Ramsay was created K.C.B. (Knight Commander of the Order of Bath) in 1902, and was also a Knight of the Prussian order “Pour le mérite”, Commander of the Crown of Italy, and Officer of the Legion d'Honneur of France.
After four years gathering postdoctoral experience at Imperial College, the Technical University Munich and the University of St. Andrews, I felt I was ready to become an independent researcher. I also needed the opportunity to demonstrate my ability to come up with my own research ideas in order to secure a permanent academic position.

The Ramsay Fellowship provided just the start I needed to develop my own research ideas. My colleagues in the Chemistry Department at UCL were very supportive and also helped introduce me to new areas. Above all, the freedom I was afforded there to conduct research and publish independently was what kick-started my career. After holding the Ramsay Fellowship, I moved to a Fitzjames Research Fellowship at Merton College, Oxford, allowing me to develop my research in new areas, such as surface functionalised nanoparticles. This was followed by my appointment as Lecturer at Imperial College, where I am now a Reader in Inorganic Chemistry and lead a group of 16 researchers. Our research interests have expanded to include (bio)sensing, medical imaging and catalysis using recovered metals. However, we still routinely employ dithiocarbamate ligands – a ligand class introduced to me by Graeme Hogarth while I was a Ramsay Fellow over 15 years ago.

The Ramsay fellowship is the only fellowship I’m aware of that is just for chemists at the post-doctoral stage of their career which can be held anywhere in the UK. After contacting lots of potential host Universities, I was fortunate to secure support from the University of Sheffield.

Even for relatively fundamental research such as my own - supramolecular chemistry - it’s essential to be able to demonstrate how your work is relevant to industry and society more generally is essential. I now have several industrially funded projects in my group and am keen to build my network of business contacts. Having attended several SCI events, I’ve been very impressed by the quality of the student training and networking events I’ve been involved in and encourage my own students to attend.

I now have small but growing research group with 6 PhD students and my first PDRA about to start. I’m in the final year of my Vice Chancellors fellowship which converts to a lectureship at Sheffield from October 2019. Looking back at the application for my Ramsay fellowship my group are still working on many of the ideas I set-out but have also taken the work in lots of other directions that I never anticipated. I’m incredibly grateful for all the opportunity the fellowship has given me and would recommend it to anyone.
I knew I wanted to do science for the rest of my life but I felt limited by being a post doc working on other peoples’ ideas! I remember thinking I was looking after lots of Masters students as a post doc but at the time it felt like an extension of what my boss wanted. I had my own ideas and it was time to branch out and be independent. One of my friends was a Ramsay Fellow so I had heard of the Ramsay Fellowship. When I looked into the application process, it felt more accessible than others I had applied for. Even my boss encouraged me to apply; he said ‘go for it’ so I did and I got it! The Ramsay Fellowship gave me the opportunity to be seen as an academic. I became a Lecturer at UCL as soon as I finished my Fellowship in 2017. I got to teach and be part of the academic and research teams at UCL. I also got to cover a sabbatical which meant I could lecture, branch out and do my own science. I specialise in Inorganic Chemistry and my current research encompasses synthesis of precursors for the inkjet printing of electronics. Loving what you do is wonderful. I still get excited when I see what my students are doing. I think the Ramsay Fellowships are brilliant! Being a Ramsay Fellow made my career.

As I completed my PhD studies at the University of Melbourne with Ken Ghiggino, I wondered where I should go next and the Ramsay Fellowship came to my attention. I still recall opening the letter with the good news about my Ramsay Fellowship - the opportunity that started my career. This award gave me the opportunity to choose a lab and advisor (Professor David Phillips, Imperial College) for my postdoctoral studies. At Imperial College and Rutherford Appleton Laboratory I learned new spectroscopic methods - time-resolved Raman and femtosecond pump-probe - and had substantive interactions with other researchers in the department that shaped the way I think. The independence of the position enabled me to spend time thinking deeply about electron transfer reactions and inspired me to pursue out-of-the-box ideas and really set a foundation for my career, where I combine experimental work in the field of ultrafast spectroscopy with theory.

After my Ramsay Fellowship I took a postdoc with Graham Fleming at University of California, Berkeley where I learnt about photosynthesis and nonlinear spectroscopy - a technique central to my current research. Subsequently I began my independent career at the University of Toronto, where I was eventually the D.J. LeRoy Distinguished Professor. I am now the William S. Tod Professor of Chemistry at Princeton University and serve as the Deputy Editor for the *Journal of Physical Chemistry Letters*, Adjunct Professor at the Beijing Institute of Technology, and Director of the Energy Frontier Research Center BioLEC (Bio-inspired Light-Escalated Chemistry). I have been elected a Fellow of the Royal Society (2019) and Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada (2009) and I have been honoured with awards that include the NSERC John C. Polanyi Award (2013) and the Royal Society of Chemistry Bourke Award (2012).
SCI EARLY CAREERS ACTIVITIES

SCI provides a wide range of activities to support Scientists and Engineers. We run a number of programmes in support of Early Career STEM, with a particular focus on supporting STEM students to interface with industry.

Key activities include:

✓ SCI Ambassadors Programme
✓ SCI College of Scholars
✓ Early Career Events
✓ SCI Days of Science and Careers
✓ SCI Mentoring Programme

To find out more contact us on
+44 (0) 20 7598 1500
awards@soci.org
www.soci.org
HOW TO APPLY?

Nominated by: Self-nomination

Eligibility:
Postdoctoral chemists who have already had some postdoctoral experience of research but who are in the early stages of their career, so that they may initiate a programme of original and independent research. Fellowships are usually tenable at a university or other place of academic research within the United Kingdom. All candidates must have submitted their PhD thesis by 31st December following the 15th November deadline for receipt of application.

Application:
To submit your application you must complete the online application form by visiting http://bit.ly/SCI Ramsay

Description of Award:
Bursaries are awarded on a personal basis, and applications are normally co-funded by a university department or other body, with the Ramsay Memorial Fellowship contributing 50% (up to £17,500 per annum) & free 1-year SCI membership. The co-funding institution must be stated on the application form. An additional £1,000 grant is available on request for research expenses.

Ramsay Fellowships continue to hold a high international reputation. The title of Ramsay Fellow is one which Fellows should feel proud to hold, not only during the tenure of their Fellowship, but throughout their career. The interest of the Trust in its Fellows continues after their Fellowships expire. Ramsay Fellows have the opportunity of meeting each other annually at a dinner given in their honour by the Ramsay Trust. Thus, Ramsay Fellows remain members of a fellowship in the wider sense.


Ramsay Trust
Memorial Fellowship