

# UKRI FUTURE LEADERS FELLOWSHIP SCHEME ROUND 7



**Research Services**

**June 2022**

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# WHAT IS THE FLF SCHEME?

- Flagship UKRI investment, launched Spring 2018
- Aims to develop the next generation of innovation and research leaders from the UK and across the world
- To date, UKRI have awarded almost 500 fellowships under 6 rounds of the scheme (2018-2021). Details can be found [here](#).
- This current call is the 7<sup>th</sup> round and an 8<sup>th</sup> round is anticipated (dates tbc)
- Call guidance and information can be found [here](#) and [here](#) (and links to documents within these pages)

# PURPOSE

- To support **early career** researchers and innovators with **outstanding potential** across the whole of UKRI remit
- Provides long-term support in order to enable fellows to tackle ambitious programmes or multidisciplinary questions and new or emerging research areas and partnerships.
- No barriers to multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary research and innovation

# WHAT DOES THE FLF OFFER?

- Up to 7 years support in a 4 + 3 model
  - Apply for 4 years with the option to extend for a further 3 years
- Tapering salary support for the Fellow from year 3
- All other costs associated with the project apart from the Fellow's salary will be supported by UKRI for the term of the award.
- Institutional commitment to an open-ended UK-based independent research position
- No limit on the amount of funding that can be requested but must be appropriate to the project.

# TAPERING SALARY SUPPORT

To demonstrate their support, academic Host Organisations are required to commit to funding an increasing percentage of the fellow's salary as shown in the table below:

	Total salary request from award	UKRI contribution	Academic Host Organisation's contribution
Year 1	100%	80%	20%
Year 2	100%	80%	20%
Year 3	75%	60%	40%
Year 4	75%	60%	40%
<b><i>Review point (Below figures <u>not</u> captured within application)</i></b>			
Year 5	50%	40%	60%
Year 6	50%	40%	60%
Year 7	25%	20%	80%

# WHO CAN APPLY?

- Early career academics and innovators who are transitioning to/ establishing independence.
- No eligibility rules based on years since PhD or current role
- As FLF aims to enable the fellow to transition to or establish their research/innovation independence, applicants who have already achieved research/innovation independence e.g. by securing funding aimed at this career stage will not be competitive.
- Can be held part-time but expected that Fellow's full working time is committed to the FLF for the duration of the award.
  - 6 hours per week on additional commitments or related activities provided they enhance career development
- Full person specification available on the website (p.43 of guidance)

# HOW IS A FELLOWSHIP DIFFERENT TO A PROJECT GRANT?

- Person
  - Track record and potential for leadership
    - Trajectory to become world-class
  - Relevant experience to deliver project
- Place
  - Is Reading the best place to do the research?
    - Facilities/ Infrastructure/Supportive Environment
    - Relevance to strategic priorities and institutional strengths
    - Networks/ collaborators in place
- Project
  - Is the project a personal vision?
  - Will it move the field forward and enable the fellow to become a Future Leader?

# REFLECTIONS FROM PREVIOUS ROUNDS

- Highly competitive funding scheme with an average 17% success rate across the previous 6 rounds
- Quality/excellence is vital but must be evident across **all** of the assessment criteria i.e.
  - Research & Innovation Excellence;
  - Applicant & their Development;
  - Impact & Strategic Relevance;
  - Research and Innovation, Environment & Costs.
- Applications that don't address all aspects will not be competitive



# REFLECTIONS FROM PREVIOUS ROUNDS

- Applicants need to be clear on what they will gain from a long-term, flexible, fellowship as opposed to other funding mechanisms such as a series of project grants. For example:
  - Why me? And why now?
  - Why could the programme of work not be supported via standard grants?
  - How will the fellowship enable a demonstrable step change in your career trajectory?
  - What will be the value added to your career by holding this fellowship
- This is a scheme for Early Career Researchers, not established academics
  - No time bound criteria, applicants need to be clear why they should be considered an early career researcher
  - Where they have previously received funding at this stage, for example a New Investigator award, they need to demonstrate why further investment would present a good investment –holding a New Investigator award does not automatically exclude applicants
  - Candidates who are further towards being established and independent have become less competitive as the scheme has progressed

# REFLECTIONS FROM PREVIOUS ROUNDS

- Strong applicants consider leadership and career development not only for themselves, but also for the staff they plan to employ on the award
- Professional development should be specific
- Host commitment is crucial
  - The proposed support should not just be generic but must demonstrate that they have considered the specific development needs of the applicant
- Candidates need to be able to articulate their research and the intended impact of such an award on their career to an interview panel from range of different backgrounds

# PREPARING AN APPLICATION

- Things to consider when developing your proposal:
  - Why you should be considered an early career researcher?
  - Why is this fellowship the most appropriate funding for you and your programme of research?
  - What would be the demonstrable benefits of you having an FLF award?
    - Why me? Why now?
  - How will you ensure that the award allows you to maximise your potential?
  - How will the award develop you and your research team?
  - Are you are working with the right stakeholders to ensure that you maximise the impact of your research?

# ASSESSMENT PROCESS OVERVIEW CAN BE FOUND [HERE](#)

## Peer review

- Proposals will usually have 3 usable reviews before progressing to a meeting:
- Applicants are encouraged to nominate reviewers on their application form. Speak to your nominated reviewers before submitting your application so they are aware
- Be constructive when responding to your reviewer comments

## Panel stages – short-listing and interviews

- Organised by themes rather than disciplines
- Peer reviewers provide the expert view, panels have broader representation
- Consider how to articulate your research to a non-specialist audience –the interview panel will include social scientists and members from other disciplines and user

# TIMELINES

Internal EoI deadline	30 <sup>th</sup> August
Successful candidates notified	w/c 12 <sup>th</sup> September
Outline proposal deadline	18 <sup>th</sup> October
Internal full proposal deadline	22 <sup>nd</sup> November
Full proposal deadline	6 <sup>th</sup> December

- Full application deadline to award announcements – approx. 10 months

# NEXT STEPS

- Read the [scheme guidance](#) and [information](#) in detail
- Get in touch with your [Research Development Manager](#) to discuss
- Book to attend one of the UKRI Community Engagement events to find out more about the scheme. Further details can be found [here](#)
- Look at examples of successful FLF applications on the [Successful Proposal Library](#)
- Discuss your intention to apply with your Head of Support to seek their support for your application
- Talk to your colleagues, networks and RDL about your ideas
  - Are they suitable for a Fellowship application?
  - Give yourself sufficient time to develop your ideas
- Broaden your networks to find the best people to be working with:
  - Academic and non-academic, in the UK and Overseas