

**Academy of Medical Sciences Springboard Award 2024 (Round 10)**

***Guidance for UCL internal selection process***

In March 2024, the Academy of Medical Sciences (AMS) opened its 10th call for the [Springboard Award](https://acmedsci.ac.uk/grants-and-schemes/grant-schemes/springboard). As per the previous call, UCL is allowed to submit only **four (4)** bids. In this regard, UCL is implementing an internal selection process of applications overseen by Prof Caswell Barry (Vice Dean for Research, FLS). Interested applicants are invited to submit their application as per timelines and instructions below. The internal selection panel will meet 3 weeks after the internal deadline.

**Important dates:**

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| **UCL internal deadline** | |
| UCL deadline for submitting internal application | **8 April 2023 – 16:00** |
| UCL Internal selection panel | **w/c 22 April 2023** |
| **Funder’s timeline** | |
| Call launch | **1 March 2023** |
| UCL notifies AMS of the 4 nominees | **26 April 2023** |
| AMS invites nominees by email to submit their application via the scheme’s online portal | **30 April 2023** |
| Call closes | **5 June 2023** |
| Results announced | **By February 2025** |

**Overview of the scheme**

**Scope:** Springboard supports biomedical researchers (non-clinical) at the start of their first independent post (and who are yet to receive substantial funding support) to help launch their research careers. This includes funding of up to **£125,000** over two years and access to the Academy’s acclaimed mentoring and career development programme.

**Remit**

* Proposals are accepted across thebreadth of biomedical research. For example, applicants from molecular, cellular and structural biology to anatomical, physiological, psychological, epidemiological, and public health research areas are eligible. This also encompasses maths, physics, or engineering approaches, as long as the research aims to ***improve human health***.
* You may use experimental or theoretical approaches and be undertaking basic laboratory research through clinical application to healthcare delivery but your work must reflect the Academy’s mission to ***improve health through research.***

**Eligible applicants must**

* Hold an academic post that incorporates research
* Be in their first independent (salaried) position (i.e. group-leader level, line managed ***not supervised***)
* Be within **five (5) years** full time equivalent (FTE) of appointment to this position
* Have sufficient time remaining in their current post to complete the proposed Springboard project i.e. have guaranteed salary support (which may come from the institution or a personal fellowship) that will cover the duration of a Springboard award (the earliest end date for the award is 28 February 2027)

and must **NOT**:

* Hold a clinical contract (including an honorary one)
* Be in receipt of substantial research funding as the Principal or Co- Investigator exceeding £150,000 for the two-year Springboard award (excluding your personal salary, overhead and indirect costs)

Further guidance on eligibility:

The scope of this award is to support biomedical researchers in their **first independent** post (line-managed ***not supervised***) who are **yet to receive substantial funding** (e.g. via a fellowship or grant or seed award). As such:

* Postdoctoral researchers who are employed on a grant awarded in the name of another PI are not eligible
* Research Associates are not eligible as they are still under someone’s supervision
* Fellows who have been awarded a fellowship to transition to independence (e.g. MRC CDA, Wellcome ECA, CDA or Sir Henry Dale, UKRI FLF, the Royal Society University Research Fellowship) are also not eligible
* Fellows who have been awarded a guided postdoctoral fellowship (e.g. Sir Henry Wellcome Postdoctoral fellowship) are also not eligible as they are not considered to be fully independent
* Applicants having already secured a promotion onto a second independent post are also not eligible. This does not include proleptic appointments or candidates who previously held a very short post, usually less than a year (i.e. maternity cover posts)

Interested applicants **are strongly advised** to carefully review the [guidance document,](https://acmedsci.ac.uk/file-download/51193459) which clarifies many aspects of the scheme’s eligibility criteria. Please note these are the guidance for last year’s round; please check the [AMS Springboard webpage](https://acmedsci.ac.uk/grants-and-schemes/grant-schemes/springboard) for updated guidance once available.

**Instructions for internal applications**

* Carefully review the [scheme’s online information](https://acmedsci.ac.uk/grants-and-schemes/grant-schemes/springboard) before applying.
* Submit your internal application to [lms.facilitators@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:lms.facilitators@ucl.ac.uk) with “**AMS Springboard 2024**” in the subject line followed by the **applicant’s name by 8 April 2024 at 16:00**. The application needs to include the following (please email as a **single document**):

1. Applicant’s CV (2 A4 pages max)
2. Applicant’s publication list (1 A4 page max). Please include only published papers and those in press. For 3 papers which you consider the most significant for this application, please explain why you have selected them and your role within the study.
3. Expression of Interest Form (EOI). It includes eligibility checks and the research proposal. *Please ensure that the description of your funding, in particular the specific funding scheme, is clear and accurate. This is essential, especially if you are funded by a fellowship: the description of fellowship type can be important in assessing candidates’ eligibility (in terms of independence).*
4. A **signed** Letter of Support (max 200 words) by the Divisional / Institute Director outlining

a) Why you have nominated the applicant

b) How you plan to support their career

c) Any financial support (e.g. how PhD student(s) will be supported past the 2 years of the award)

d) Any other support (e.g. teaching replacement)

5. If your appointment/contract end date is earlier than the earliest possible end date for the award (28 February 2027), please provide a signed letter from your Divisional/Institute Manager confirming that your contract will be extended and that there is a commitment to funding your salary beyond the expected end date of the award.

**Questions?** Please refer to the [scheme’s online information](https://acmedsci.ac.uk/grants-and-schemes/grant-schemes/springboard). If you can’t find the answer to your question, please contact [lms.facilitators@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:lms.facilitators@ucl.ac.uk)