UKRI have announced the call for Round 8 of the [UKRI Future Leaders Fellowships (FLF)](https://www.ukri.org/opportunity/future-leaders-fellowships-round-8/). UKRI are implementing an organisational cap, and UCL will be allowed to **submit 10 applications** for round 8. Below outlines the process in place to allow UCL to pick candidates across the university.

**Process**

The internal process will have three stages:

1. Faculties will be given an allocation quota – *details below*. We will ask each faculty to select their preferred candidates, based on their suitability to the FLF scheme and individual/project excellence
2. Nominations will go to one central panel, chaired by Geraint Rees VP for RIGE and the 11 Vice Deans for Research to decide the top 10 applications.
3. Selected applicants will work on their application and submit to UKRI’s deadline with support from the Research Coordination Offices.

**Faculties quota and selection**

Each faculty will be allocated a total number of candidates they may wish to put forward to the central panel. Faculties will be tasked to nominate candidates and can decide how they wish to select their candidates to give autonomy and flexibility around disciplines, interest, and size of faculty etc. However, a few points to flag;

* We request faculties use the **UCL Expression of Interest (EOI) form** and the **UKRI CV and publication list template (3 pages maximum using the UKRI template) we provide** to avoid candidates having to produce two internal applications.*Please see below for both forms.*
* The EOI form **must include a signed statement by the applicant’s Head of Department (for BEAMS, SLASH, or IoE) or Division/Institute Director (for LMS)** to confirm their support for the applicant and a statement on why they are a suitable candidate for the FLF. They must also confirm the required financial and employment commitments to the applicants, should they be successful.
* Faculties **must submit** EOI forms and CVs of their nominated candidates to [**lms.facilitators@ucl.ac.uk**](mailto:lms.facilitators@ucl.ac.uk) by **Wednesday 26 April by 12pm**. Regardless of where faculties are based, please submit to this email address, as the LMS team are kindly agreed to hold bids before being sent to the UCL wide central panel. Successful candidates nominated by the central panel, who will go forward to submit full applications to UKRI, will be notified of outcomes by RCOs by mid – late May.
* We request faculties consider how they might encourage applicants from underrepresented groups to apply to their selection process. For round 8 we will be asking faculties to collect EDI data on all applicants so we can monitor this and use to inform our design of processes for subsequent rounds – *Further details below for how EDI data will be collected.*

**Interested Candidates should speak to their Faculty Research Manager/Vice Dean for Research to confirm faculty quota, process and deadline. If you are unsure who you should contact, please contact us and we will put you in touch with the best person to speak to.**

**Key Deadlines**

Faculties can decide the timeline for their internal selection process for nominees to the central process, but they must ensure candidates are selected and nominations for the central panel are made by **26 April**. Key deadlines are:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **UCL Faculty nominations deadline:** | **26 April 2023 (12pm)** |
| **Central Process outcomes** | **Mid-May 2023** |
| **UKRI application deadline:** | **4 July 2023 4:00pm** |

**Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI)**

Applicants from underrepresented groups are encouraged to apply for this scheme. UKRI have stated that they encourage a diversity of applicants applying to the FLF programme and that host organisations play a critical role in ensuring that all potential applicants have a fair chance of being supported through a transparent selection process based on their ability and potential. We are also required to provide an inclusive selection statement to UKRI advising how our processes differ from round 7.

For these reasons, we have decided to collect EDI data from all applicants to Faculty internal selection processes on gender, ethnicity, age, and disabilities, to inform our decision making and design of our internal selection for future rounds. This data will be collected via an MS Forms questionnaire (with the option for candidates to opt out of data collection). For the initial stage of the selection process this data will not be anonymised to allow us to track the selected candidates from stage 1 (faculty selection) into stage 2 (central selection). Following the submission of applications, the data will then be anonymised and held by the RCOs to inform our thinking on the design of the internal processes for future rounds of the FLF. Please see the related Privacy Notice on your RCO website and the link to the Microsoft Form [here](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=_oivH5ipW0yTySEKEdmlwo6Yof221Y5AgzXG0FD7PRRUQk1FTjRGUEkxMjhYRUlRQklKUDlFSFZZNC4u). The data collected will not be used in any way to inform selection for Round 8 and there is an option to ‘opt-out’ of data collection within the form if you do not wish for your data to be collected.

**Key Documents available to download from the RCO website:**

* UCL Internal FLF EoI Form
* UKRI CV And Publication list template (3 pages maximum)
* Key eligibility and assessment criteria for the FLF
* Internal Assessment Criteria
* Privacy Notice regarding EDI data collection

Applicants are strongly encouraged to read the full UKRI guidance on their [webpages](https://www.ukri.org/funding/funding-opportunities/future-leaders-fellowships/) and the call page [here](https://www.ukri.org/opportunity/future-leaders-fellowships-round-8/) before applying.