



UCL Office of the Vice-Provost (Research, Innovation & Global Engagement)

UKRI Future Leaders Fellowships (FLF) Round 9 – UCL Internal Process Webinar

14th February 2024, 13:30 – 15:00

Eugenio Zapata-Solvas (BEAMS RCO),
Steve Morrison (LASH/IOE RCO), Tracy Dos Santos (LMS RCO)

- 13:30** Introduction
- 13:35** Key aspects of the UKRI FLF scheme and Funder's Process
- 13:45** UCL Internal Process and Narrative CVs
- 13:55** General Feedback from previous rounds
- 14:00** Q&A and break
- 14:15** Speaking from experience and Q&A
Successful applicants' perspective
- 14:55** Wrap up and final thoughts

Research Facilitation & Coordination Offices (RCO)

BEAMS

The Bartlett - Engineering - Mathematical & Physical Sciences (MAPS)
ovpr.beams@ucl.ac.uk

LMS

Faculties of Brain Sciences, Life Sciences, Medical Sciences and
Population Health Sciences
lms.facilitators@ucl.ac.uk

LASH / IOE

Laws - Arts & Humanities - Social & Historical Sciences - / Institute
of Education, UCL's Faculty of Education and Society
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- Support researchers with bid development for major grants, personal awards and fellowships:
 - advising applicants
 - reviewing drafts
 - supporting Project Lead reviewers' response
 - supporting mock interviews
 - processing institutional Letters of Support (LoS) required to be signed by the Deans / Vice-Provosts / Provost
- Organise grant writing workshops
- Manage internal selection processes for bids/applicants
- Manage relationships with funders
- Track bid submissions and awards, analyse funding data, prepare reports / inform strategy

UKRI FLF – Key aspects of the scheme



- **Career stage:** early career researcher/ innovator looking to establish or transition to independence
- **Suitability:** need to make clear how the fellowship will enable you to achieve independence; that it is the best way to support your long-term career goals and will have significant impact on your career progression to becoming a nationally/ internationally recognised leader in your field
- **Fellowship**
 - A personal award that will enable you to develop as an impactful and influential research and/ or innovation leader
 - consist of a programme of research and/or innovation
 - a bespoke training and development program
- **Scope:** within or across any area(s) of research and/ or innovation covered by UKRI, from basic through to applied research and innovation.
- **Duration:** up to 7 years (4+3 model) – provide details and costing for the first 4 years, and in the proposal make clear what are the long-term aims of the programme and why they matter
- **Budget:** from £300K to over £2 million (as relevant to your early career stage/ activities)

- **UKRI organisational cap:** UCL can submit a maximum of 10 applications
- Applications will be on the new UKRI Funding Service (changes include narrative CV and Vision & Approach)
- Review process consisting of **3 stages**:
 - written **peer review** by sector or discipline **experts**
 - **shortlisting** by Future Leaders Fellowships **sift panels** (broad expertise)
 - **interview** by Future Leaders Fellowships **interview panels** (broad expertise)
- Proposals assessed according to **four Assessment Criteria**:
 - Research & Innovation Excellence
 - Applicant & their Development
 - Impact & Strategic Relevance
 - Research and Innovation Environment & Costs

- **29 February** – Internal process deadline for all applicants to submit via MS Forms.
- **22 March** – Faculty to communicate their nominated candidates.
- **10 April** – Faculty nominated candidates submit their final application.
- **w/c 29 April** – Outcome of the UCL central panel to be communicated.
- **18 June** – UKRI submission deadline for the 10 UCL candidates.

*Please, note there is an [internal assessment criteria](#) for the scheme.

All UCL applicants have to submit the [Expression of Interest \(Eol\) form](#) via MS Forms. Eol form includes applicant details, sections below for the research proposal, Narrative CV (next slide) and a HoD statement of support;

1. Summary (200 words max)
2. Research Questions/Objectives (150 words max)
3. Vision: big picture, state of the art and novelties (350 words max)
4. Research approach and Methods (350 words max)
5. Leadership and Career Development (300 words max)
6. Outputs and Impact (350 words max)

Key aim – Focus on the significance of contributions and recognise the value of less traditional research outcomes that also contribute to the academic success/impact. See narrative CV sections below*:

1. Contributions to the generation of new ideas, tools, methodologies or knowledge
2. The development of others and maintenance of effective working relationships
3. Contributions to the wider research and innovation community
4. Contributions to broader research/innovation-users and audiences and towards wider societal benefit
5. Additions

*150 words max per section.

Tips for a competitive application



- Proposals not being accessible to a generalist audience in terms of conveying key concepts as well as the importance of the research.
- Projects feeling too small in scope, appearing like fellowships of shorter (e.g. 2-3 years) duration or like a project rather than a fellowship. Future Leaders Fellows should demonstrate a clear programme of research lasting 4 years, with an indication of potential future research directions in the last 3 years.
- It not being clear in applications why the FLF is the right scheme for the candidate and their proposed research, including in terms of having a significant impact on the candidate's career and development as a research leader in their chosen discipline.
- Department/ Division/ Institute statement of support being relatively generic, and not tailored in terms of support to the candidate regarding the research programme and their development.

Any questions? Please use sli.do link in chat

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- FLF Successful Awardees
 - Lucy Barnes
 - Jon Fisher
 - Emily Kostas

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Useful links and further reading

- Research Facilitation and Coordination Offices for BEAMS, LMS, LASH and IOE - UCL internal guidance and key supporting documents
- <https://www.ukri.org/opportunity/future-leaders-fellowships-round-9/> - UKRI FLF Round 9 Pre-announcement
- <https://www.ukri.org/what-we-do/developing-people-and-skills/mrc/skills-and-experience-needed-to-win-support/> - helpful for benchmarking by career stage
- <https://www.ukri.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/UKRI-150823-FutureLeadersFellowshipsReviewersGuidanceV11August2023.pdf> - FLF reviewers' guidance for Round 8
- <https://researchsupport.admin.ox.ac.uk/learn-more-about-developing-a-narrative-cv> - helpful guidance for Narrative CVs

Thank you!