UKRI have pre-announced the call for [**Round 9** of the UKRI Future Leaders Fellowships (FLF)](https://www.ukri.org/opportunity/future-leaders-fellowships-round-9/). This document outlines the key initial points to consider for those interested in applying.

**Note**: *At time of publishing the internal process, UKRI are still referring to Round 8 guidance. We don’t expect there to be any great changes and want to give everyone more time. Applicants and Departments/Divisions/Institutes should refer to Round 8 guidance and we will update this when UKRI do, for Round 9.*

**FLF key scope and eligibility criteria**

* Applications can be from any research and innovation discipline, including clinical applicants, from across UKRI’s remit.
* This scheme is open to early career researchers who are transitioning to or establishing independence; senior academics are not eligible.
	+ Please **note**: UKRI have indicated that, in more recent rounds, candidates who appear to have already achieved, or are close to achieving, research independence have been less successful, indicating a shift in emphasis on funding less established researchers.
	+ UKRI indicate that applicants who have been Principal Investigators/ Project Leads on a grant where research/ career development and leadership is an integral part of the assessment may be deemed to already be independent, and hence less competitive for this call.
	+ Candidates cannot apply for other Research Council Fellowships at the same time as submitting an application for the FLF.
* Applicants who already hold permanent/ open-ended academic positions are eligible to apply, those on fixed-term contracts are also eligible to apply.
* Applicants, Department/Division/Institutes and Faculties should be aware of the [UKRI Future Leaders Fellowships Assessment Criteria](https://www.ukri.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/UKRI-17022023-UKRI-Future-Leaders-Fellowships-Assessment-Criteria-Round-8.pdf). Please note a subset of the criteria is used for the central selection process (please see details under internally managed calls webpage under [BEAMS](https://www.ucl.ac.uk/research/support-staff/beams-research-coordination-office/internally-managed-calls), [LMS](https://www.ucl.ac.uk/health/research-coordination-office-life-and-medical-sciences/funding-opportunities/internally-managed), [LASH and IOE Research Coordination Offices)](https://www.ucl.ac.uk/research/support-staff/lash-and-ioe-research-facilitation-and-coordination-team/internally-managed-calls) and is encouraged to be used for selection at devolved stages.
* Scope and eligibility criteria in practice: UKRI have indicated that the key element for candidates to be a strong fit for the scheme is to justify how the UKRI FLF award will have a significant impact on the fellow's career and development as a research leader in their chosen discipline.

**Key financial and employment commitments required**

* Fellows must be either guaranteed an open-ended independent research position by the end of the fellowship (the post is subject to the institution’s standard performance review processes) **OR** the Department/Division/Institute must identify positions to be available for the fellow to apply to over the Fellowship period. Further, the department/division/institute must demonstrate how they will encourage and support the fellow to apply for such position(s).
* For those already in permanent positions, the Department/Division/Institute must confirm the fellow will be relieved of all other duties to focus on and conduct the fellowship
* The host Department/Division/Institutes will also need to cover an increasing proportion of the fellow’s salary from Year 3 onwards please see [page 28](https://www.ukri.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/UKRI-17022023-Round-8-Guidance-for-Academic-hosted-Applicants.pdf) of the Round 8 UKRI guidance [here](https://www.ukri.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/UKRI-17022023-Round-8-Guidance-for-Academic-hosted-Applicants.pdf) for further details, a summary is given below.



**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.

Applicants are strongly encouraged to read the full UKRI guidance on their [webpages](https://www.ukri.org/what-we-do/developing-people-and-skills/future-leaders-fellowships/) and the call page [here](https://www.ukri.org/opportunity/future-leaders-fellowships-round-9/).