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/). This document outlines the key initial points to consider for those interested in applying.

**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 PI 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 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 and Faculties should be aware of the [UKRI FLF assessment criteria](https://www.ukri.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/UKRI-17022023-UKRI-Future-Leaders-Fellowships-Assessment-Criteria-Round-8.pdf).

**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 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) and 32 of the 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, but a summary 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/funding/funding-opportunities/future-leaders-fellowships/) and the call page [here](https://www.ukri.org/opportunity/future-leaders-fellowships-round-8/).