Leverhulme Early Career Fellowships 2023/2024

The Department of Political Science/School of Public Policy at UCL is now welcoming applications for the 2023/2024 [Leverhulme Early Career Fellowships scheme](https://www.leverhulme.ac.uk/early-career-fellowships). Funder’s deadline will fall on 23rd February 2023. However, as a department we **can only submit three candidates to our Faculty and their deadline is on Thurs 17 Nov 2022, 4pm,** with assessment outcome expected by Thurs 15 Dec 2022, at the latest. To give everyone a chance to prepare properly and to our Departmental Research Committee the time to assess applications timely, we have set an **internal deadline on 19th September 2022, 9am**. Please see below for further details.

The Leverhulme Early Career Fellowships aim to provide career development opportunities for those who are at a relatively early stage of their academic careers, but who have a proven record of research. The expectation is that Fellows should undertake a significant piece of publishable work during their tenure, and that the Fellowships should lead to a more permanent academic position. **The scheme is based on a pattern of joint support whereby the Leverhulme Trust will contribute 50% of the Fellow’s total salary costs up to a maximum of £26,000 in each year of the award, and the balance is to be contributed by the host institution. The Fellow may request up to £6,000 per annum in research expenses to further his or her research activities.**

Fellowships are expected to last for three years on a full-time basis and should commence between 1 September 2023 and 1 May 2024. Once again, the Trust will exceptionally extend the window of eligibility from the normal four years (i.e. viva between 23 Feb 2019 and 23 Feb 2023) by an additional year (i.e. viva between 23 Feb 2018 and 23 Feb 2019) for applicants who can make a case that their work has been impacted by the pandemic. Such cases should be made within the application.

Therefore main eligibility points to keep in mind:

* **Applicants must not yet have held a full-time permanent academic post in a UK university** or comparable UK institution, nor may Fellows hold such a post concurrently with the Early Career Fellowship. The Trust will consider applications from candidates whose permanent post does not include any research. Those in receipt of a stipendiary Fellowship may not hold this at the same time as an Early Career Fellowship. Applicants who have existing funding in place for a duration equivalent to or greater than the duration of the Early Career Fellowship should not apply.
* **All candidates must hold a doctorate or have equivalent research experience by the time they take up the Fellowship**. Those who are or have been registered for a doctorate at any time may apply **only if they have submitted their doctoral thesis for viva voce examination by the closing date of 4pm on 23 February 2023**. Those who at the time of commencing the Fellowship are registered for or are intending to register for degrees, professional or vocational qualifications are not eligible.
* Applications are invited from those with a doctorate who submitted their doctoral thesis for viva voce examination not more than four years prior to the application closing date. Hence **those who formally submitted their doctoral thesis for viva voce examination before 23 February 2019 are not eligible** unless they have since had a career break or can prove they have been affected by the pandemic (see above). Those wishing to make a case for a career break should present the case for interruption by a period of maternity leave, family commitments, illness, or other exceptional circumstances. Please note that time spent working outside academia does not qualify as a career break.
* **Applicants must either hold a degree (any degree) from a UK higher education institution** at the time of taking up the Fellowship or at the time of the application deadline must hold an academic position in the UK (e.g. fixed-term lectureship, fellowship) which commenced no less than 4 months prior to the closing date. Hence, those who do not hold a UK degree and whose UK academic position commenced after October 2022 are not eligible. The Trust will consider candidates without a UK degree whose UK academic post commenced after October 2022 if they have been in continuous UK academic employment for more than 4 months prior to the deadline. The intention is to support the career development of those building an academic career within the UK.
* Candidates who have been, or are currently a Principal Investigator on a three-year postdoctoral research project, or have held or currently hold a comparable three-year postdoctoral position to pursue their own research are not eligible to apply.
* The Research Awards Advisory Committee believes that the development of an academic career is best served by gaining experience at different institutions. Applicants who have not already moved institutions in the course of their academic career (i.e. between their undergraduate university and proposed host institution) should nominate a new host institution, or otherwise demonstrate clear evidence of the academic and/or personal reasons for remaining at the same institution, such as access to highly specialist equipment or a highly specialised research team.
* **A candidate may submit only one application per year. Previously unsuccessful applicants may reapply**.

We usually require candidates to complete the online Leverhulme application form for this call, which means creating a profile via the Leverhulme [website](https://grants.leverhulme.ac.uk/Login.aspx). However, please note that **that the online system is not yet open**, therefore, in the meantime, candidates can use the application template in word format. **Once completed, the application form should be sent to Monica Burgess (****monica.burgess@ucl.ac.uk****), copying in Nils Metternich (****n.metternich@ucl.ac.uk****) by 9am, on 19thSeptember 2022**.

Please note that candidates **must have the support of a member of staff who will act as the mentor** and who has reviewed and commented on the proposal before it is submitted to the department for consideration. The department will rely on the mentors judgement with regards to eligibility of candidates and strength/competitiveness of the applications.

The selected candidates will need to request a formal letter of support from their mentors before we submit their applications to Faculty (template will be circulated). **Referee statements are not required at this stage, however, please note that Faculty is expecting a budget draft for the research costs (£6K/year). Therefore, candidates selected by the department, will work with Monica to include this in their applications before we submit to Faculty.**

Please let Monica Burgess know if there are any questions.