Leverhulme Early Career Fellowships 2024/2025

The department of Political Science, UCL, is now welcoming applications for the [Leverhulme Early Career Fellowships 2024/25](https://www.leverhulme.ac.uk/early-career-fellowships). Funder’s deadline falls on 22nd February 2024 (to be confirmed in September 2023). As a department we can only submit three candidates to Faculty and their deadline is on Thurs 16 Nov 2023, 4pm, with assessment outcome expected by Thurs 14 Dec 2023, at the latest. To give everyone a chance to prepare properly, and to our Departmental Research Committee to manage assessment easily with the start of term 1, we have set **the departmental deadline on 11th September 2023, 9am**. Please see below for further details.

Some background information on the call: 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.

In response to the ongoing financial challenges resulting from the pandemic, the Trust will contribute 100% of each Fellow’s total salary costs in year one, up to a maximum of £50,000, and will then contribute 50% of the Fellow’s total salary costs, up to a maximum of £25,000, in years two and three, with the balance to be paid by the host institution.

**Annual research expenses of up to £6,000** will also be paid through this scheme. **Fellowships are expected to last for three years on a full-time basis and should commence between 1 September 2024 and 1 May 2025.**

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.
* All candidates must hold a doctorate 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 22 February 2024. 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.
* All candidates must have 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 22 February 2020 are not eligible unless they have since had a career break. 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.
* Due to the disruption caused by the COVID-19 pandemic the Trust will accept applications from candidates who submitted their doctoral thesis for examination up to five years prior to the closing date if they can make a case for their work having been impacted by the pandemic. Hence those who formally submitted their doctoral thesis for viva voce examination between 22 February 2019 and 22 February 2020 are eligible to apply if their work has been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and they should explain their case in their application.
* 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 2023 are not eligible.
* Candidates who have been, or are currently a Principal Investigator on a three-year post-doctoral research project, or have held or currently hold a comparable three-year post-doctoral 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 university) should nominate a new host university, or otherwise demonstrate clear evidence of the academic and/or personal reasons for remaining at the same university, 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 can reapply.

In terms of the process, Faculty usually requires 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](https://eur01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fgrants.leverhulme.ac.uk%2FLogin.aspx&data=04%7C01%7C%7Ccb33ac25aaf1432ef38808d9483b76bc%7C1faf88fea9984c5b93c9210a11d9a5c2%7C0%7C0%7C637620242500714153%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=NADw6abfMmqt9nZ5d2AVC6m0xSCvDwAcKEkIg23jWf8%3D&reserved=0) . However, **because the online application system will only open on 1st January 2024**, Faculty has provided an application template in word format (see in documents), which mirrors the online system. **Once completed, the word application template form should be sent to** **polsci.research@ucl.ac.uk****, copying in Nils Metternich (****n.metternich@ucl.ac.uk****) by 9am, on 11th September 2023**, to be considered by a Departmental Research Committee Sub-Panel. **Please note applications not on the template form will be deemed ineligible.**

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.** The Departmental Research Committee Sub-Panel will review the applications received and will communicate their decision by no later than 16th October 2023.

In addition to the mentor’s support letter, **the selected candidates mentors will need to draft the Departmental support section of the Leverhulme application and have it reviewed and signed by our Head of Department,** in time to submit to Faculty by 4pm on 16th November 2023. 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 and Sandy to include this in their applications before we submit to Faculty.

As mentioned above, Faculty will communicate the outcome of this selection process by 14th December 2023, at the latest, which will give us enough time to prepare our applications by the Leverhulme’s deadline on 22nd Feb 2024. Selected candidates will be working with polsci.research@ucl.ac.uk on finalizing the application’s budget and on obtaining approval by the research office before submitting to the funder.

Please let polsci.research@ucl.ac.uk  know if there are any questions.