



Academy of Medical Sciences Springboard Award 2021 (Round 7)

Guidance for UCL internal selection process

In March 2021, the Academy of Medical Sciences (AMS) will open its 7th call for the [Springboard Award](#). As per the previous call, UCL is allowed to submit only **four (4)** bids. In this regard, UCL is implementing an internal selection process of applications overseen by Prof Steve Wilson (Vice Dean for Research, FLS). Interested applicants are invited to submit their application as per timelines and instructions below. The internal selection panel will review eligible applications 3 weeks after the internal deadline.

Important dates:

UCL internal deadline	
UCL deadline for submitting internal application	23rd March 2021 – 16:00
UCL Internal selection panel	w/c 12th April 2021
Funder's timeline	
Call opens	1st March 2021
UCL notifies AMS of the 4 nominees	3rd May 2021
AMS invites nominees to submit their application via the scheme's online portal	7th May 2021
Call closes	15th June 2021
Results announced	By February 2022

Overview of the scheme

Scope: Springboard supports biomedical researchers (non-clinical) at the start of their first independent post (and who are yet to receive substantial funding support) to help launch their research careers. This includes funding of up to £100,000 over two years and access to the Academy's acclaimed mentoring and career development programme.

Remit

- Proposals are accepted across the breadth of biomedical research. For example, applicants from molecular, cellular and structural biology to anatomical, physiological, psychological, epidemiological, and public health research areas are eligible. This also encompasses maths, physics, or engineering approaches, as long as the research aims **at improving health**.
- You may use experimental or theoretical approaches and be undertaking basic laboratory research through clinical application to healthcare delivery but your work must reflect the Academy's mission to **improve health through research**.
- Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF): funding is available for research that will directly address global challenges relevant to developing countries (see [DAC list for ODA recipients 2021](#)). All applications will need to specify whether they are eligible for GCRF support.

Eligible applicants must

- Hold an academic post that incorporates research
- Be in their first independent (salaried) position (i.e. group-leader level, line managed **not supervised**)
- Be within **five (5) years** (FTE) of appointment to this position
- Have sufficient time remaining in their current post to complete the proposed Springboard project i.e. have guaranteed salary support (which may come from the institution or a personal fellowship) that will cover the duration of a Springboard award (the earliest end date for the award is 29 Feb 2024)

and must NOT:

- Hold a clinical contract (including an honorary one)
- Be in receipt of substantial research funding as the Principal or Co- Investigator exceeding £150,000 for the two year Springboard award (excluding your personal salary, overhead and indirect costs)

Further guidance on eligibility:

The scope of this award is to support biomedical researchers in their **first independent** post (line-managed *not supervised*) who are **yet to receive substantial funding** (e.g. via a fellowship or grant or seed award). As such:

- Postdoctoral researchers who are employed on a grant awarded in the name of another PI are not eligible
- Research Associates are not eligible as they are still under someone's supervision
- Fellows who have been awarded a fellowship to transition to independent (e.g. MRC CDA, Wellcome Sir Henry Dale, UKRI FLF) are also not eligible
- Fellows who have been awarded a guided postdoctoral fellowship (e.g. Sir Henry Wellcome Postdoctoral fellowship) are also not eligible as they are not considered to be fully independent
- Applicants having already secured a promotion onto a second independent post are also not eligible. This does not include proleptic appointments or candidates who previously held a very short post, usually less than a year (i.e. maternity cover posts)

Interested applicants **are strongly advised** to carefully review [AMS Springboard FAQs document for Round 7](#) and the [guidance document](#), which clarify many aspects of the scheme's eligibility criteria.

Instructions for internal applications

- Carefully review the [scheme's online information](#) before applying.
- Submit your internal application to slms.facilitators@ucl.ac.uk with "AMS Springboard 2021" in the subject line followed by the **applicant's name by 23rd March 2021 at 16:00**. Application needs to include (please email a **single document**):

1. Applicant's CV (2 A4 pages max)
2. Applicant's publication list (1 A4 page max). Please include only published papers and those in press. For 3 papers which you consider the most significant for this application, please explain why you have selected them and your role within the study.
3. Expression of Interest Form (EOI). It includes eligibility checks and the research proposal. *Please ensure that the description of your funding, in particular the specific funding scheme, is clear and accurate. This is essential, especially if you are funded by a fellowship: the description of fellowship type can be important in assessing candidates' eligibility (in terms of independence).*
4. A **signed** Letter of Support (max 200 words) by the Divisional / Institute Director outlining
 - a) Why you have nominated the applicant
 - b) How you plan to support their career
 - c) Any financial support (e.g. how PhD student(s) will be supported past the 2 years of the award)
 - d) Any other support (e.g. teaching replacement)
5. If your appointment/ contract end date is earlier than the earliest possible end date for the award (29 Feb 2024), please provide a signed letter from your faculty (Divisional /Institute Manager) confirming that your contract will be extended and that there is a commitment to funding your salary beyond the expected end date of the award.

Questions? Please refer to the [scheme's online information](#). If you can't find the answer to your question, please contact slms.facilitators@ucl.ac.uk