

**Academy of Medical Sciences Springboard Award 2022 (Round 8)**

***Guidance for UCL internal selection process***

In March 2022, the Academy of Medical Sciences (AMS) opened its 8th call for the [Springboard Award](https://acmedsci.ac.uk/grants-and-schemes/grant-schemes/springboard). 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:**

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| **UCL internal deadline** | |
| UCL deadline for submitting internal application | **7 April 2022 – 16:00** |
| UCL Internal selection panel | **w/c 25 April 2022** |
| **Funder’s timeline** | |
| Call launch | **1 March 2022** |
| UCL notifies AMS of the 4 nominees | **4 May 2022** |
| AMS invites nominees to submit their application via the scheme’s online portal | **5 May 2022** |
| Call closes | **16 June 2022** |
| Results announced | **By February 2023** |

**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 thebreadth 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 human 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.***

**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 28 February 2025)

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, the Royal Society University Research Fellowship) 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 8](https://acmedsci.ac.uk/file-download/10704885) and the [guidance document](https://acmedsci.ac.uk/file-download/98091169), which clarify many aspects of the scheme’s eligibility criteria.

**Instructions for internal applications**

* Carefully review the [scheme’s online information](https://acmedsci.ac.uk/grants-and-schemes/grant-schemes/springboard) before applying.
* Submit your internal application to [lms.facilitators@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:lms.facilitators@ucl.ac.uk) with “**AMS Springboard 2022**” in the subject line followed by the **applicant’s name by7 April 2022 at 16:00**. The 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 (28 February 2025), please provide a signed letter from your 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](https://acmedsci.ac.uk/grants-and-schemes/grant-schemes/springboard). If you can’t find the answer to your question, please contact [lms.facilitators@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:lms.facilitators@ucl.ac.uk)