

**UKRI Future Leaders Fellowship (FLF) call – Round 7**

**UCL internal review process**

<https://www.ukri.org/funding/funding-opportunities/future-leaders-fellowships/>

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Divisions/Institutes/Departments to inform RCO of candidate names | 31st August 2022, 12pm (noon) |
| UCL Expression of Interest deadline | 5th September 2022, 5pm |
| UKRI Outline deadline (obligatory for submitting a full application) | 18th October 2022 |
| UKRI Full application deadline | 6th December 2022 |

UKRI will shortly be opening its seventh call for the Future Leaders Fellowships scheme, which aims to grow the strong supply of talented individuals needed to ensure that UK research and innovation continues to be world class. This call will fund ~100 fellowships. UKRI have also [announced](https://www.ukri.org/news/84-new-future-leaders-fellows-and-100m-for-next-round-announced/) that there will be a Round 8 of the Future Leaders Fellowships scheme.

UCL may submit a maximum of 10 applications in this round and therefore a cross-UCL review and selection process will be implemented for this call, coordinated by the LMS, BEAMS and SLASH/IoE Research Coordination Offices. Departments, Divisions and Institutes are asked to nominate candidates for this scheme, performing their own review process and noting that only excellent candidates will be selected to go forward to submit to UKRI. Since the level of competition will be extremely high, the expectation is that Departments/Divisions/Institutes will only put forward their very strongest candidates. We do not expect that Departments/Divisions/Institutes will nominate more than one candidate each. Please also note that the scheme requires a long-term financial commitment to all applicants (see below).

All UCL applicants must submit the relevant information to the internal review process (details below) and only applicants who are selected through this process will be able to submit to the funder.

**UCL oversight and EOI submission process**

Departments/Divisions/Institutes are asked to carry out their own review before submitting applicants to the UCL review board and to inform [ovpr.beams@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:ovpr.beams@ucl.ac.uk) of candidate names by **12pm (noon) on 31st August**.

For each nominated candidate, the host Head of Department/Division/Institute must submit a completed **UCL EOI form** along with a **research proposal (2 pages, no less than Arial pt 11), CV (2 pages + 1 page publications, no less than Arial pt 11) and statement of support (1 page, no less than Arial pt 11).** All documents should be combined into a single pdf and sent to [ovpr.beams@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:ovpr.beams@ucl.ac.uk) by 5pm on **Monday 5th September,** with “UKRI FLF + [candidate name]” in the email subject. The EOI form is available on the [LMS Research Facilitation webpages](https://www.ucl.ac.uk/slms/ovph/rco/research-facilitation/funding/internally-managed).

The EOI form must be signed by the applicant’s Head of Department/Division/Institute to confirm that the required financial and employment commitments will be made to the applicant, should they be successful. A statement of support (completed by the Head of Department/Division/Institute) should provide details on why the applicant is a strong candidate for the FLF scheme, taking into account their career stage (maximum 1 page).

UCL Vice-Deans (Research) will review all internal applications, using assessment criteria based on those used by UKRI for the FLF scheme. Applicants will be informed about whether they have been selected to proceed to submit to UKRI by early October.

Please send any questions, which are not answered by the UKRI guidance on the official webpages, to the LMS Research Coordination Office at [lms.facilitators@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:lms.facilitators@ucl.ac.uk).

**FLF scope and eligibility criteria**

The below points summarise some of the main aspects of the call’s scope and eligibility. Applicants are strongly encouraged to read the full guidance on the [UKRI FLF webpages](https://www.ukri.org/opportunity/future-leaders-fellowships-round-7/) before applying or sending enquiries.

* Applications can be from any research and innovation discipline across UKRI 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 – especially in more recent rounds – candidates who appear to have already achieved or are close to achieving research independence will unlikely be successful.
  + Current holders of intermediate-level fellowships such as MRC Career Development Awards, are not suitable to apply for the FLF scheme as they are aimed at equivalent career stages, and holders will likely be considered to already be on the path to independence.
* Candidates cannot apply in parallel for a Research Council intermediate fellowship and a UKRI FLF.
* Applicants must assess their career stage against the FLF Person Specification (Annex B in the [UKRI FLF guidance document](https://www.ukri.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/UKRI-140622-Funding-Opp-FutureLeadersFellowshipsRound7-GuidanceAcademicHostedApplicants.pdf)) to decide whether they are suitable for the scheme.
* Clinical and non-clinical applicants are eligible.
* There are no eligibility criteria in relation to whether an applicant holds a permanent/open-ended academic position.
  + The scheme may be suited to newly-appointed academic staff (as well as those on fixed term contracts)
* Fellowships will be for up to 7 years, with a review at year 4.
* There is no funding cap, but applicants should include justification for costs over £1.5 million total UKRI contribution within a cover letter attached to the full proposal.

***Key financial and employment commitments***

* The Department/Institute/Division must provide assurance that an open-ended independent research or innovation position would be available for the fellow to apply to during or at the end of the Fellowship, where they would be in a strong position to be employed.
* Departments/Divisions/Institutes will also need to cover an increasing proportion of the fellow’s salary from year 3 onwards. See details on page 26 of the [UKRI FLF guidance document](https://www.ukri.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/UKRI-140622-Funding-Opp-FutureLeadersFellowshipsRound7-GuidanceAcademicHostedApplicants.pdf).

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Salary contribution by year** | **Yr 1** | **2** | **3** | **4** | **5** | **6** | **7** |
| % of salary that can be requested on award | 100 | 100 | 75 | 75 | 50 | 50 | 25 |
| % salary contribution from UKRI (i.e. 80% FEC) | 80 | 80 | 60  (80% of 75) | 60 | 40  (80% of 50) | 40 | 20 |
| **% salary contribution from UCL** | **20** | **20** | **40** | **40** | **60** | **60** | **80** |