



UK Research
and Innovation

Future Leaders Fellowships

Round 8 Guidance for Academic-hosted Applicants

March 2023

Version 2.1

Version History

Version	Section	Change
2.1	4.1.1	Updated use of hyperlinks
2.1	Annex A	Fixed typo

Key updates from Round 7

- The requirement to provide an outline proposal has been removed
- A letter of support from mentors is no longer required, their details should still be included in the case for support
- Charities and public bodies are now available to apply to the scheme (please see the guidance for non-academic hosted applicants)
- Annex E on subsidy control has been updated

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Please Note: Application guidance for the Future Leaders Fellowships scheme has previously been a single document for both academic-hosted and non-academic-hosted applicants. Since Round 7, this guidance has been separated out into two documents with information specific to each type of applicant.

Please ensure you are referring to the correct guidance when completing your application.

1 Planning your application

Please note that this guidance should be read in conjunction with details found on the UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) Future Leaders Fellowships (FLF) funding finder for the round you are applying for.

1.1 COVID-19

UKRI recognises that the COVID-19 pandemic has caused major interruptions and disruptions across our communities. We are committed to ensuring that individual applicants and their wider team, including partners and networks, are not penalised for any disruption to their career(s) such as breaks and delays, disruptive working patterns and conditions, the loss of on-going work, and role changes that may have been caused by the pandemic.

Reviewers and panel members will be advised to consider the unequal impacts of the impact that COVID-19 related disruption might have had on the track record and career development of those individuals included in the proposal. They will be asked to consider the capability of the applicant and their wider team to deliver the research they are proposing. Where disruptions have occurred applicants can highlight this within their application, if they wish, but there is no requirement to detail the specific circumstances that caused the disruption.

UKRI acknowledges that it is a challenge for applicants to determine the future impacts of COVID-19 while the pandemic continues to evolve. Applications should be based on the information available at the point of submission and, if applicable, the known application specific impacts of COVID-19 should be accounted for. Where known impacts have occurred, these should be highlighted in the application, including the assumptions/information at the point of submission. There is no need to include contingency plans for the potential impacts of COVID-19. Requests for travel both domestically and internationally can be included in accordance with the relevant scheme guidelines, noting the above advice.

Reviewers will receive instructions to assume that changes that arise from the COVID-19 pandemic, post-submission will be resolved, and complications related to COVID-19 should not affect their scores.

Where an application is successful, any changes in circumstances that affect the proposal will be managed Post-Award.

For data analysis purposes, we ask applicants to not include the words 'COV-19', 'COVID-19' or 'Coronavirus' in the summary or title sections unless the application relates to proposed research and/or innovation in this area.

1.2 Project eligibility

Fellowships allow an individual to develop their potential through a programme of research and/or innovation and a bespoke training and development program.

FLF applications can be submitted within or across any area(s) of research and/ or innovation covered by UKRI, from basic through to applied research and innovation.

We welcome and encourage applicants from remits including the arts, humanities and social sciences and the [seven technology families](#), as launched in the [UK's innovation strategy](#).

UKRI has not seen a difference in the award rates between applications from different disciplines.

The aim of the scheme is to develop a research or innovation capability and person, that is nationally or internationally leading edge, and goes beyond what other, smaller or project grants could support. The fellowship may be made up of a single programme of work, or through multiple consecutive/ concurrent interlinked projects led by the fellow (a 'Portfolio Fellowship'). Where multiple shorter projects are spread over the 4 or 4(+3) years, applicants should ensure the proposed research and/ or innovation is of sufficient scale and ambition to maximise the potential and career prospects of the fellow.

The FLF Scheme has funded fellowships from £300,000 to over £2m, and there is no preference for lower or higher costed proposals.

1.3 Length of fellowship

The FLF follows a 4(+3) model:

- Funding is for four years with the option to apply to renew for up to three additional years (or the equivalent pro-rata) during the last year of their fellowship.
- Applicants should provide details and costing for the first four years in the first instance, or the equivalent length of time extended pro rata for [part-time applicants](#).
- If applying for a 4(+3) model fellowship, the Case for Support should make clear the long-term aims of the programme and why they matter. However, you should only provide specific plans and costings for the first four years as this is what will be peer reviewed at this point. Costings for the additional three years will be sought at [the review stage in year 4](#).

1.4 Time commitment

FLF awards allow fellows protected time to concentrate fully on their research and/or innovation, training and development and establishing an independent position by the end of the award. In most cases a fellow is expected to spend 100% of their working time on their fellowship (which includes all activities associated with the fellowship).

- Academic-hosted applicants may spend **up to six hours a week during the initial phase of the award** (pro-rated for part-time applicants) on other commitments and related activities which will enhance their career development (for example, teaching, demonstrating, peer-review, other funded projects).

- Those with substantial ongoing research commitments as a result of participation in other grants must relinquish these in order to hold a UKRI FLF award.

Clinically active applicants (including veterinarians) can work up to 20% of their time (on average over the lifetime of the grant) on their clinical commitments. Exceptions are made for applicants undertaking patient-oriented research as part of their fellowship, who may undertake up to 40% of their time on these duties. This is not in addition to the six hours per week.

Awardees will have the flexibility to develop a breadth of experience and partnerships, and secure further research/innovation funding later in the award but should ensure that these other activities do not compromise their focus, or achievement of the aims of the fellowship.

1.5 Part-time working

Fellowships may be held on a part-time basis (to a minimum of 0.5 FTE) in order to combine research and/or innovation with personal responsibilities. Fellowships may not be held on a part-time basis to combine the research and/or innovation with another activity, for example, a part-time job.

In all cases, the value of a part-time award should be requested on a pro rata basis (not exceeding the full-time equivalent of the fellowship scheme period). For example, a four-year fellowship on a full-time basis would equate to an eight-year fellowship with the fellow working 0.5 FTE, but the value of the award would remain the same.

1.6 Host organisation eligibility

Organisations eligible to host a Future Leaders Fellowships include:

- Any UK-based organisation currently registered as eligible to apply for funding from the Research Councils. Details of eligibility and a list of recognised Institutes and Independent Research Organisations can be found on the [UKRI website](#).
- Any non-academic organisation eligible to receive Subsidies from the UK Government that will provide an innovation and/or research environment of international standing. More information on organisations eligible to receive funding can be found [here](#). Applicants applying with a non-academic organisation as their host, should refer to the Non-Academic-Hosted version of this guidance instead.
- Catapults which have successfully applied for IRO status, or expect to have that status at the point of their proposed project start date, should apply using this guidance. Catapults not applying for or holding IRO status should use the non-academic guidance document.

1.7 Responsibilities of the host organisation

Host Organisations should carefully consider whether an applicant's interests align with their organisational strategies and interests before submitting a proposal. Organisations will also be expected to demonstrate that they are providing an appropriate working environment for the fellow, including not only basic provision of office/laboratory space as applicable, but also

relevant training, mentoring, support and, for example, access to specialist facilities as dictated by the project.

The Host Organisation is expected to have an annual review process in place to assess the fellow's progression, which should be administered in accordance with its relevant policies. The outcome of the review may result in a fellow failing to progress at any point during the fellowship. Applicants who obtain a fellowship may apply to renew their fellowship in the final year. The renewal will assess the quality and significance of the fellow's work and achievements to date and will involve the host organisation and the fellow.

These fellowships require commitments from both UKRI and the Host Organisation of [a tapered salary commitment from year 3 based on the Full Economic Costing model](#) and to providing an open-ended UK based independent research and/ or innovation position, to be taken up during or upon the completion of the fellowship (in line with organisational employment policies and practices)

Host Organisations which do not provide the expected support, or where fellows are not progressing to open-ended positions (if remaining in academia) may not be awarded further fellowships, in the absence of an acceptable justification.

1.8 Host organisation prioritisation of applications

The Future Leaders Fellowships scheme is highly competitive, with increasing numbers of applications in previous rounds leading to the extension of timelines and an increased peer review burden on our research and innovation community. In order to be able to administrate this funding opportunity in a timely manner, the number of applications which can be submitted by each academic host organisation is capped – see [Annex A](#) for more information.

Host organisations must now provide a statement describing the inclusive process they have used to select their chosen candidates by completing an online survey before the submission of any proposals to UKRI. The information submitted will contribute to an external review being undertaken by UKRI which aims to identify and share good practice relating to applicant support and inclusive selection processes. The statement should describe the process used to identify potential candidates. It should not include personal details of potential candidates nor any details that may enable them to be identified. Proposals submitted by host organisations that have not provided this statement to report on this process will be office rejected. The survey link will be provided before the call opens.

As guidance, it is suggested that host organisations consider the following points in designing and describing their inclusive selection process:

- How was the opportunity to apply to the FLF scheme promoted, including within your organisation, across the UK and internationally?
- How were applicants supported through any internal selection processes?
- What processes were used to identify potential and final candidates?
- Do you have any insights into why potentially suitable applicants don't apply/continue their applications?

- Given the pan-UKRI nature of the FLF programme, were selection decisions made at a school/departmental level or at a university level? How did the level of decision making affect the selection process?
- How did these processes enable diversity and inclusion in the selection of potential and final candidates?
- What steps were taken to mitigate unconscious bias in the selection process?
- How diverse was the membership of any selection panels used in your process?
- How did you support and/or consider flexible working including part-time working, career breaks and caring responsibilities?
- How did you enable the inclusion of candidates with different career paths?
- How did the approach taken align with your organisations equality diversity and inclusion policies?
- Have you identified any barriers to implementing an inclusive selection process and/or tried things which haven't worked/have learnt lessons from which might be useful to share?

1.9 Responsibilities of the fellow

If successful in securing an FLF award, the [fEC Grant Terms and Conditions](#) will apply.

Scheme specific terms and conditions also apply, which will be included in the Offer Letter for successful applicants.

1.10 Multiple submissions

Applicants may only have one fellowship application under consideration by UKRI (which encompasses all fellowship schemes led by any of the Research Councils and/or Innovate UK) at any point, unless expressly permitted in the Research Council/Innovate UK call documentation.

Applicants may apply simultaneously to other funders' fellowship schemes (those funders outside of UKRI).

Applicants may simultaneously seek grant support for other projects, from UKRI or other funders, while their application is under consideration, however:

- A substantial part of the fellowship programme may not be under consideration as a proposal with any of the constituent parts of UKRI, while under consideration for a FLF award.
- Any funding secured from UKRI or other funders must comply with the Future Leaders Fellowships terms and conditions if awarded, including the [time commitments](#).

Any public funding applications under consideration at the time of application must be declared in the 'Other Support' section of the proposal form. Applicants detailing multiple submissions will not be penalised during the assessment process, but applicants must inform UKRI if these submissions are subsequently funded and must withdraw their application from UKRI consideration if the project or parts of the project have already been funded elsewhere.

Academic-hosted fellows can apply to be on a grant for a different project while simultaneously holding a UKRI fellowship, but they cannot request additional salary support whilst the fellowship is funded, and the award must be within the 6 hours a week permitted during the initial phase of the award.

1.11 Resubmission policy

Resubmission of an unchanged proposal to the FLF scheme is not permitted.

Previously unsuccessful applicants can apply to subsequent FLF calls provided the proposal address feedback from reviewers and the interview panel (where applicable) and will be assessed alongside all other applications to that call without bias. A summary of these amendments and how the feedback has been addressed must be detailed in a Cover Letter attached to the application. UKRI reserve the right to reject applications that are not deemed to have addressed feedback appropriately.

Applicants may not have more than one application into the scheme at the same time (in overlapping funding rounds) and must wait for the outcome of an application before applying again. If an application is withdrawn during or following peer review, applicants may not resubmit to the next funding round.

1.12 Post award amendments

The FLF is a flexible scheme designed to provide intellectual and financial freedom, therefore a fellow may change the direction of their fellowship or alter aspects of work packages once an award has been made. It is expected that fellows may choose to alter their planned programme of research and/ or innovation in response to new discoveries or techniques and to build on their own changing experience. or to reflect changing business requirements and market opportunities. However, it is not expected that substantive changes will be made immediately after an award has been accepted.

Fellows should contact UKRI in the first instance at FLFpostaward@ukri.org to detail why a change to the direction of their fellowship is required and the nature of the change. Changes to budget use must be within the announced grant cash limit and within the [Terms and Conditions](#) of the grant.

Where changes are minor, these may be approved by UKRI. If applicants propose to make significant changes, UKRI may require a revised proposal for its approval and additional peer review input maybe requested. UKRI reserves the right to make a new award in place of the existing award, or to revise, retain or terminate the existing award.

1.12.1 Fellowship portability

Changes to the Host Organisation are permitted where a fellow can clearly demonstrate personal or professional reasons for requiring this change. The grant may be transferred to another eligible organisation, providing that it can provide a suitable environment to enable the fellowship to be successfully completed; this will be subject to prior written approval of UKRI.

Written agreement is required from both the relinquishing and receiving organisations, and revised proposal information and additional peer review input will be required.

In exceptional circumstances, where a fellow is unable to or does not wish to continue a fellowship, UKRI reserve the right to maintain funding to complete the programme of research and/ or innovation in the original Host Organisation. This option is only available where all reasonable effort has been made by all parties to allow the portability of the fellowship. The final decision to allow this arrangement lies with UKRI. This will not affect any legally binding agreements or commitments the fellow has with the original Host Organisation (for example, IP arrangements or contractual notice periods).

Fellows should contact UKRI in the first instance at FLFpostaward@ukri.org.

2 Applicant information

Applicants must ensure that they have obtained the permission of any other person named on the proposal form (for example, any Co-Investigators or Project Partners) for the provision of their personal information to UKRI and the processing of their data by UKRI for the purpose of assessing the application and management of any funding awarded.

UKRI expects all the researchers and innovators it funds to adopt the highest standards in the conduct of their work and consider its potential ethical and societal implications. This means exhibiting impeccable integrity and following the principles of good research practice detailed in the [UKRI Research Integrity Guidance](#) considering the [principals of Responsible Innovation](#)

2.1 Applicant eligibility

These fellowships are for early career academics and innovators who are transitioning to or establishing independence. Applicants should use the Person Specification in [Annex B](#) to assess and justify their suitability for the scheme with reference to the objectives of the programme.

Applicants are expected to hold a doctorate by the start date of the fellowship OR to be able to demonstrate equivalent research/innovation experience and/or training.

There are no eligibility rules based on years since PhD or whether the applicant currently holds a permanent/open-ended academic position or job role, though individuals who currently hold a permanent position should:

- Show that their current position does not demonstrate that they have achieved research/innovation independence and thought leadership
- Provide a clear rationale why a Future Leaders Fellowship would be different to their current role.
- Clearly state that all their working time costed to the fellowship would be dedicated to that fellowship to focus on research/innovation, shielded from other professional commitments.
- Demonstrate that a Future Leaders Fellowship would be the best way to support their long-term career goals and chosen career route.

Applicants who have already achieved research/innovation independence (for example, by securing funding aimed at this career stage) will not be competitive. Senior academics and innovators are not permitted to apply.

The fellowships support applicants from diverse career backgrounds, including those returning from a career break or returning to research following time in other roles. There are no time limits in respect of time spent outside a research or innovation environment. We also encourage applications from those wishing to work part-time or in job shares in order to combine the fellowship with personal responsibilities. Assessors will take into account time spent outside an active research and innovation environment, whether through career breaks, flexible working or as a consequence of working in other roles.

Fellowships are not restricted to work that would be seen as formal research in their area but can also lead and develop innovation. Innovation is defined as the practical translation of disruptive ideas into novel, relevant and valued products, services, processes, systems or business models, making them readily available to markets, government and society. Innovation means creating economic and/or social value from ideas.

Fellowships can be used to move into a new research and/or innovation area and applicants should clearly articulate the benefits if doing so and how this will enhance their career trajectory. In addition, fellowships can be used to move between sectors. We welcome innovative approaches to intersectoral mobility to include secondments, placements, rotational appointments, reverse mentoring and mentors from a variety of backgrounds along with opportunities for professional experience that would complement more generic approaches to training and development.

The decision to submit an application rests with the applicant/host organisation. UKRI will not be able to provide advice to individual applicants on their eligibility for this scheme.

Further information can be found at:

- [Annex C](#) - Job-Share Guidance
- [Annex D](#) - Career breaks and flexible working

2.2 Overseas applicants

Applicants must comply with Home Office/UK Visa and Immigration requirements and hold a valid work permit where appropriate. Applicants who require a visa must ensure this is in place before the start date of the award. Host Organisations should advise and support applicants in securing the necessary visa.

Successful applicants who require a visa to work in the UK will be eligible to be considered under the fast-track [Global Talent Visa route](#). This visa route is designed for researchers/innovators and gives the holder flexibility to pursue their research and collaborations.

Visa costs and the immigration health surcharge (IHS) can be charged for the applicant and any DI staff directly employed on the grant for 100% of their contracted time, this is not extended to family members, or, under the TRAC methodology, some institutions provide visa cost support under estates and indirects.

UKRI will not support costs associated with gaining UK citizenship, Indefinite Leave to Remain or Permanent Residency.

The granting of any visa is always subject to the standard Home Office general grounds for refusal of a visa. UKRI can provide guidance on the evidence required for an application. Please contact fellowtier1info@funding.ukri.org for further details.

2.3 Co-Investigators

Co-Investigators (Co-Is) are only permitted where they clearly bring complementary and different skills to the project.

- Co-Is may be from any eligible non-academic organisation or academia.
- Co-Is (full- or part-time) must not be costed, or named, for the whole duration of the fellowship but for a limited period only, whilst the fellow learns the new skills/discipline.
- Co-Is must have a 'Research Proposal' type Je-S account and their account must be verified by their organisation.
- A Co-Is role in the project must be clearly defined and justified within the 'Case for Support' attachment. These roles must not overlap with the roles of Mentors or Collaborations. Where a Co-I is included on the proposal, the following should apply:
 - **Contractual eligibility:** A Co-I must hold a contract of employment for the duration of their time on the project at an eligible UK based Research Organisation, Business or Independent Research Organisation. International Co-Is are not eligible.
 - **Experience and position:** A Co-I must either hold a PhD or have equivalent or comparable research and/or innovation experience, commensurate to that required for their role in the project.

2.3.1 Non-academic-hosted Co-Is when the applicant is hosted in academia

Due to the nature of overheads paid to non-academic organisations, Co-Is should not be included for the purpose of calculating overheads. Therefore, costings for the Co-I, including all costs associated with their part of the project, should be submitted under the Other Directly Incurred costs section of the proposal form. They should still be referred to as Co-Is within the Case for Support. There may be considerations of Subsidy Control where a non-academic-hosted Co-I is heavily involved in the project, please see [Annex E](#) for more details

2.4 Visiting researchers

Support may be requested for visits by individuals of acknowledged standing (Visiting Researchers/Innovators) from the UK or abroad, limited to 12 months per individual over the lifetime of the award.

Visiting Researchers should receive the same salary and conditions as other staff of an equivalent status within the Research Organisation, and costs should be requested as Directly Incurred. Only salary costs for the time spent directly working on the project should be claimed, and requests should exclude contributions from other sources.

Reasonable expenses will be paid for travel to and from the UK by Visiting Researchers, but not for their families.

2.5 Collaborations

2.5.1 Project Partner

A Project Partner is defined as a third-party person or organisation who is not employed on the grant, but provides specific contributions either in cash or in kind, to the project. Entitlement to the outputs of the project and/or Intellectual Property will be determined between the parties involved; however, any access to project outputs and/or IP must be in line with any relevant Subsidy Control regulation. Please see [Annex E](#) for more information about Subsidy Control.

As a rule, Project Partners are expected to provide contributions to the delivery of the project and should not therefore be seeking to claim funds from UKRI. However, where there are specific circumstances where Project Partners do require funding for minor costs such as travel and subsistence, this will usually be paid at 80% FEC unless otherwise stated by us; note that any applicable Subsidy Control regulation and HMRC guidance will also be taken into account, which may affect the percentage of these costs that we will fund. These costs should be outlined and fully justified in the proposal and will be subject to peer review. The financial value of the contribution, whether actual or in kind, must be included on the Je-S form. Please note that this figure can be an estimate.

UKRI Head Office Staff acting in their capacity as a UKRI employee are not eligible to be Project Partners. Organisations that are applicants on the project, including any named applicants' organisations, cannot also be a Project Partner.

A Project Partner must submit a [Project Partner letter of support](#).

2.5.2 Subcontractor

A Subcontractor is defined as a third-party individual who is not employed as staff on the grant, or a third-party organisation, who is subcontracted by the Host Organisation to deliver a specific piece of work. This will be subject to the procurement rules of the Host Organisation.

All costs that support the delivery of the subcontract are eligible and will be paid at the relevant % for the award.

Costs should be outlined and fully justified in the proposal and will be subject to peer review. Entitlement to the outputs of the project and/or Intellectual Property will be determined between the parties involved, however any access to project outputs and/or IP must be in line with any relevant Subsidy Control regulation. Please see [Annex E](#) for more information about Subsidy Control.

Letters of support are not permitted for Subcontractors. Any unauthorised additional letters of support will be returned to be removed.

2.5.3 Collaborator

UKRI do not have an official role/descriptor of "Collaborator" as this is a word often generically used in relation to a project, therefore this could lead to confusion. Instead, the term "collaboration" should be used in the generic sense to explain that there is a project relationship or interaction, accompanied with an official project role descriptor of Project Partner, Sub-contractor, PI, Co-I etc to explain the nature of the collaboration.

Letters of support are only permitted from project partners supporting the application. Any additional letters of support will be returned to be removed.

2.5.4 Dual roles

An organisation or individual can act as both a **Project Partner** and **Subcontractor**, however this must be fully justified and will be subject to peer review.

This enables the organisation/individual to receive recognition as a Project Partner for the elements of their contribution to the project that is in an integral or meaningful capacity, which they wouldn't get if they were needing to be included only as a subcontractor. As a rule, we would expect - Project Partner related costs to be minor, where the project needs work to be undertaken that is more significant and includes costs other than travel and subsistence, then the organisation/individual to be contracted may need to be included as both a Project Partner and a Subcontractor. An example of where dual roles might be required is when an organisation or individual is giving to the project in kind but are also selected to deliver other work to the project involving non-minor costs to be covered via a subcontract.

A Project Partner must submit a [Project Partner letter of support](#).

2.5.5 Project Partner/subcontractor entitlement to project outputs and intellectual property

Entitlement to the outputs of a project and/or Intellectual Property will be determined between the parties involved, however any access to project outputs and/or Intellectual Property must be in line with any relevant Subsidy Control regulation. Please see [Annex E](#) for more information on Subsidy Control. Any entitlements should be set out in a formal collaboration agreement, as per fEC Grant condition RGC 12.1.

3 How to apply

3.1 Using the Je-S system

Full proposals for all applicants must be submitted via the [Joint Electronic Submission System \(Je-S\)](#). The Je-S system has not been updated to host UKRI applications and so the Medical Research Council (MRC) currently hosts the FLF scheme on behalf of all Research Councils and Innovate UK. Opening and closing dates for the FLF calls are available on the funding opportunity website for that round.

The contact information in the Je-S account will be used throughout the application process, and it is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure that all information that is included (for example, the email address and phone number) is accurate.

Please leave enough time for your proposal to pass through your organisation's Je-S submission route before the deadline date, along with any internal application processes your organisation may have in place. If you need to create yourself a Je-S account prior to submission, please allow at least five working days for this process. Applicants should ensure sufficient time to [create Je-S accounts](#) for any Co-Investigators, and for the Co-Investigators' accounts to be verified by the organisation.

Applicants who hold a current Je-S account do not need to update their contact details to their proposed organisation, if different to their existing organisation.

Information about navigating the Je-S system, including how to register organisations, and how to create Je-S accounts, can be found in the [Je-S handbook](#). If you experience difficulties using Je-S or have questions regarding its use, please contact the helpdesk at JeSHelp@je-s.ukri.org or telephone +44 (0) 1793 44 4164.

3.2 Equality and Diversity

The Je-S system collects personal data including, date of birth, ethnic origin, gender and disability.

We use the personal data you give us to:

- Inform analysis to investigate if applicants to the scheme who share a protected characteristic:
 - a. suffer a disadvantage linked to that characteristic
 - b. have different needs to other groups, or
 - c. have a disproportionately low level of participation

If this results in an evidenced need then UKRI may make appropriate and proportionate interventions, including in final funding decisions. This is in accordance with our duty to advance equality of opportunity between those who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.

We publish aggregated and anonymised data as part of our commitment to transparency and supporting access and inclusion.

3.3 Outline Proposal

The requirement for an outline proposal has been removed for Round 8. There is no need to submit an outline proposal, applicants just need to submit a full application.

3.4 Creating the proposal

Applications must be submitted to UKRI via the Je-S system by 4pm (16:00) on the deadline date. The Je-S system will close at 16:00 and **proposals cannot be submitted after the deadline.**

Creating the Je-S Proposal form:

- From the applicant's Je-S account home page, select 'Documents' from the left-hand menu list, then select 'New Document' from the functions section near the top of the page
- Select Council: MRC (MRC are hosting the FLF proposals on behalf of UKRI)
- Select Document Type: Fellowship Proposal
- Select Scheme: UKRI Future Leaders Fellowships
- Select Call: UKRI Future Leaders Fellowships Academics July 2023
- Select 'Create Document'

3.5 The proposal form

The proposal form is completed in Je-S. The main headings include the following:

Heading	Information required
Project details	Details of the Host Organisation, the project title, start date and duration must be entered in this section. The project title is limited to 150 characters (including spaces) and must reflect the aim of the project. The start date of the award should be realistic and would normally be between two and six months after the date of the interview meetings. The dates of planned interview panel meetings, and mandatory latest start dates are available on the funding page for that round.
Applicant details	Details of the applicant and any Co-Is.
Objectives	The objectives section should summarise the project's main aims and objectives over the total expected period of the award i.e. the four or seven years, or as detailed in the Case for Support . The Objectives section is limited to 4000 characters (including spaces).
Summary	Provide a 'plain English' summary of the research and/or innovation proposed, in language that could be understood by a non-specialist audience. It should explain the context of the research and/or innovation, its aims and objectives, and its potential applications and benefits. This section is limited to 4000 characters (including spaces). This summary will be published publicly on Gateway to Research. Please ensure that confidential or commercially sensitive information is not included.

Beneficiaries	Summarise how the proposed fellowship’s research and/or innovation outcomes will contribute to knowledge, both within the UK and globally. This should include how the research and/or innovation will benefit others in the field and/or sector, identify beneficiaries in other disciplines and outline how the results of the proposed research and/or innovation will be disseminated to these beneficiaries. Beneficiaries from business, public sector, academia, third sector and beyond should be included as appropriate. The section is limited to 4000 characters (including spaces).
UKRI / Innovate UK Relevance	Applicants should enter a brief description of their research topic, including the themes and strategic areas which describe the areas of proposed research/innovation that will be explored. Applicants should detail which funding organisation(s) they believe the remit of their proposal best aligns with: AHRC, BBSRC, EPSRC, ESRC, MRC, NERC, STFC and/or Innovate UK. This will assist UKRI to identify reviewers for the proposal. For individual council and Innovate UK information please see: https://www.ukri.org/councils/
Other Support	Any public grant funding received in the last three years, or which will overlap with the lifetime of the fellowship award
Related Proposals	Applicants who have previously submitted an application to the FLF scheme should provide details of the previous submission in this section, selecting ‘Resubmission’ from the drop-down list. In these cases, a brief (<100 characters, including spaces) reason for submitting a further proposal to the scheme should be included. A more detailed description of the amendments made to the previous submission must be included in the Cover Letter. Refer to the Resubmission policy for eligibility considerations.
Staff	Please enter all Directly Incurred staff posts.
Resources	Applicants should refer to the Overview of costings to complete this section
Classifications	<p>The classification sub-sections must be completed to indicate whether the project will involve:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Human biological samples • Stem cells • Beneficiary countries <p>Keywords - Applicants are required to detail below the keywords that best describe the areas of proposed research/ innovation that will be explored. For example, Ecology; Architecture; Physical Chemistry; Marketing; Hydrology; Nanotechnology; Public Health; Astronomical Sciences</p>

Ethical information	<p>Provide details of any ethical considerations required to undertake the research. This includes human participation, animal research, animal species, genetic and biological risk, implications and ethical committee approvals required.</p> <p>If applicable, within the 'Animal Research' section, applicants must detail any procedures categorised as moderate or severe (in accordance with the maximum prospective severity rating in the Home Office licence under which the work will be carried out) in order that the assessment of the proposal can balance the importance of the potential scientific advancement to the welfare of the animals.</p> <p>If applicable, within the 'Animal Species' section, scientific reasons for the use of animals and an explanation of why there are no realistic alternatives must be given, with an explanation of how the choice of species complies with the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 (ASPA), amended 2012 and any further embodiments (see Annex F in this document).</p>
Nominated Reviewers	<p>Nominated reviewers assist UKRI greatly in our peer review processes. All applicants should nominate up to three reviewers.</p> <p>When selecting reviewers to nominate, please note that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nominated reviewers must be experts in the research and/ or innovation field and/or be able to provide an expert view on the value and benefits of the proposal. • Applicants must not provide reviewers from their own organisation, or from current or proposed Project Partners or Collaborations, or where any possible conflict of interest may arise. • International reviewers can be included. • Please note we may decide not to approach any of the nominated reviewers. • Nominated reviewers are added by searching on the appropriate screen in Je-S and then selecting the correct result. If a nominated reviewer cannot be found, then applicants should select 'Add New Person'. <p>Please note: UKRI will consider possible conflicts of interest when selecting experts to review a proposal. All reviewers sign up to the Je-S Reviewer Protocols before being given access to any grant proposals in Je-S. Reviewers are also asked to identify any possible conflicts of interest before they begin reviewing a proposal and to decline to review a proposal if they feel that they are unable to provide an unbiased and evidence-based review. UKRI will treat any such disclosures appropriately and fairly. For more information on what would be considered a conflict of interest, please refer to Annex B of the FLF Reviewers Guidance.</p>

Further guidance on how to complete the Je-S proposal form is available within the [Je-S help text](#).

4 Attachments

In addition to the Je-S proposal form, attachments are required. All attachments must follow the below requirements:

- All attachments to be completed in 11-point Arial typeface and must adhere to the page-length limits detailed below.
- Attachments should be uploaded as PDFs to avoid conversion issues from other file formats.
- Attachments should be clearly named to describe their contents for example, Letter of Support – Human Tissue, Project Partner Letter of Support – (*Project Partner name*)

Applications will not be accepted where smaller typefaces or narrow versions of the typeface have been used, or where page limits have been exceeded. **UKRI reserve the right to reject or return for amendment applications that do not follow this guidance, that are submitted incomplete, or with significant omissions.**

All templates can be found on the funding page for the round you are applying for.

Mandatory attachments	Je-S attachment type	Template provided?	Page limit
Case for Support	Case for Support	No	Eight sides A4
CV and Outputs List	CV	Yes	Three sides A4
Data Management Plan	Data Management Plan	Yes	Three sides A4
Head of Department Supporting statement	Letter of Support	No	N/A
Justification of Resources	Justification of Resources	No	Two sides A4
Workplan	Work Plan	No	One side A4

In addition, each application may require additional mandatory attachments dependant on certain conditions. Please check conditions column below before submitting to ensure required attachments are not missing where relevant to your application.

Conditional mandatory attachments	Conditions in which required	Je-S attachment type	Template provided?	Page limit
Cover Letter	If the application is a resubmission, includes a request for instrument development or a job-share based fellowship.	Cover letter	No	Two sides A4
Project Partner letter of support	If Project Partners are included	Letter of Support	No	Two

				sides A4
Support for NHS Costs (SoECAT)	<p>If:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The proposed study is intended for the NIHR CRN portfolio, the route through which support and Excess Treatment Costs (ETCs) are provided in England. The research requires HRA and HCRW Approval in England and/or Wales, and/or studies requiring NHS/HSC Management Permission in Northern Ireland and/or Scotland. The research will use NHS resources. <p>A SoECAT must be completed even if applicants believe that their clinical research will not involve excess treatment costs.</p>	Letter of Support – Please upload the ‘entire workbook’	Yes	N/A
Signed Animal Usage Declaration	If application involves use of animals overseas	Letter of Support	Yes	Two sides A4
Use of Rodents Overseas Form	If application involves use of rodents overseas	Letter of Support	Yes	Two sides A4
Facility ‘Form’	If proposing to use national Research Council facilities.	Facility Form	No – though individual facilities may have specific forms	Two sides A4
Technical Assessment or equivalent form	If proposing to use some national Research Council facilities, for example, HPC.	Technical assessment	No – though individual facilities may have specific forms.	N/A
British Antarctic Survey Logistic Support	If proposing to use British Antarctic Survey Logistic Support. See Annex G	Technical assessment	Online application	N/A
NERC ship time and aircraft requests	If proposing to use NERC ship time and aircraft. See Annex G	Technical assessment	Online application	N/A

4.1 Mandatory attachments

The following attachments are required from all applicants, regardless of Host Organisation type.

All templates can be found on the funding page for the round you are applying for.

4.1.1 Case for support

Applicants must describe their plans for the full period of their fellowship, providing detailed plans for the first four years and broader plans for the second period, if applicable. Applicants should note the assessment criteria, and the points below.

Research and Innovation Excellence:

- The aims and objectives, methodological approaches and appropriateness and rigour of the approach to be used.
- Why the research and/ or innovation will be competitive in its field.
- Highlight plans which are particularly novel or unique, and feasibility. 'Novelty' may include novel application of an existing technology or a methodology for a new purpose or sector, beyond what is currently accepted as the state-of-the-art.
- How new techniques or particularly difficult or risky studies will be tackled, and outline alternative approaches should these fail, i.e. consider objectively the feasibility of the approaches proposed.
- Identify where access to facilities or resources will be required and their benefit to the project.
- Where multiple projects are proposed, demonstrate how they are linked and can deliver research and/ or innovation excellence as a portfolio of projects.
- If applicable, describe all human studies and animal experiments. See [Annex F](#) for further guidance of the information that must be provided if the proposal involves animal use.

Applicant and Development:

- How their career trajectory aligns with the objectives of the FLF scheme and provide evidence that they can communicate clearly with the potential to inspire and lead others, develop new relationships and influence across multiple disciplines and sectors.
- A clear plan to support the development of the applicant and their team, in both the delivery of the project and broader professional/development opportunities. Consider identification of appropriate training, access to facilities and support.
- How the applicant will identify and implement good practice in matters relating to the modern research environment such as Research Integrity, Responsible Research and Innovation, and Equality, Diversity and Inclusion.
- A clear plan for obtaining external guidance, mentoring and support for the applicant from appropriate independent advisors must be described.
- Any planned activities to maximise collaboration, partnership and knowledge exchange within and beyond the length of the fellowship should also be included.
- If the applicant is applying for a fellowship that is not 100% of their working time the application must detail how the outputs of the fellowship will align with the scale, ambition and leadership development expected of an FLF award.

Impact and Strategic Relevance:

Applicants should explain the potential impact of the research and/ or innovation, for example:

- Contributions to addressing key UK societal challenges
- Contributions to current/future UK economic success
- Enabling the development of key emerging businesses
- Establishment or maintenance of a unique, world-leading research activity
- Relevance to national, UKRI, Innovate UK and Council led strategy

Research and Innovation Environment:

- The choice of Host Organisation and why this is the best place to undertake the fellowship
- Suitability of the proposed environment for supporting the applicant, maximising their development and the quality and impact of the research and/ or innovation.
- Commitment from the Host Organisation to realising the potential of the applicant and establishing them as a research and/ or innovation leader.

Applicants should also include information on:

Career Intentions:

- Describe how the added value of a UKRI FLF award (for example, the scale, flexibility and duration offered) will boost the career of the applicant and impact their short- and long-term career trajectory, as opposed to more standard project grant support.
- Justify that the applicant is currently considered to be early career and describe how the fellowship will enable them to establish leadership and independence over the duration of the award.

Co-Investigators: For each Co-Investigator included, clearly define and justify their limited role in the project.

Collaborations: Use the case for support to outline any collaborations (for example, subcontractors), and their involvement in the project. Please note collaboration letters of support are not permitted.

Mentors: Please include the names and organisations of any mentors that will be supporting you during the fellowship, outlining the support that they will offer.

Intellectual property: All participants in the scheme and their Host Organisations are required to give due regard to the appropriate protection of any IP arising from the project and to describe effective routes to exploitation which have the potential to achieve maximum benefit for the UK economy and wider society.

Key references: Key references must be included within the Case for Support page limit. Reviewers and panel members at any stage of the process are asked not to follow any external links or read any additional papers highlighted within the application. Please do not include hyperlinks in any of the submitted documents.

4.1.2 CV and outputs List

CV using the available FLF CV and outputs list template required from:

- Applicant
- Any Co-Investigators
- Any named researchers/innovators
- Any visiting researchers/innovators

The outputs list should include sector relevant outputs. UKRI welcomes the inclusion of preprints in the Outputs list.

4.1.3 Data management plan

The DMP must demonstrate how the applicant will or already meets their responsibilities for research data quality, sharing and security. It must refer to any institutional and study data policies, systems and procedures and be regularly reviewed throughout the research cycle. If any section is not relevant to the proposal 'not applicable' should be entered.

We recognise publicly-funded research data as valuable, long-term resources that, where practical, must be made available for secondary research. Applicants must ensure that research data arising from UKRI-funded research is to be made available to the research community in a timely and responsible manner, unless there are exceptional reasons why this cannot happen.

Applicants must consider and discuss their specific requirements with their Host Organisation and, where applicable, relevant Data Service or Centre(s).

Level of risk

Where the research and/ or innovation involves human participants, their data or tissues, or where the team holds identifiable data about these participants, the level of risk regarding data management is much higher. In these instances, the DMP should be more detailed and must include information on how these risks will be managed.

Cost of data sharing and preparing data for archiving

Where applicable, applicants must include the costs related to data sharing and preparation for data archiving in the resources section of the proposal form. This may include people, equipment, infrastructure and tools to manage, store, analyse and provide access to data.

Where the costs of managing legacy data and sharing are substantial, the proposal must differentiate the resources and funding for the following activities:

- Collecting, processing and 'cleaning' new data
- Own research on newly-acquired and legacy data
- Ongoing data curation and preservation
- Providing access and data sharing

4.1.4 Head of department supporting statement

This statement must be from the Pro Vice-Chancellor and Head of the Department, or a Senior Representative from the organisation that will host the applicant.

The statement must be dated, signed and on headed paper.

The statement must summarise:

- The applicant's suitability for a FLF
- The suitability of the project for the training and career development of the applicant
- Why the department is appropriate for the work proposed, including the long-term commitments the department will make to mentor and support the applicant
- The effective and transparent arrangements that led to the applicant being selected for the FLF
- Confirmation of the commitment to the salary of the applicant and should highlight the commitment to providing an open-ended UK based independent research and/ or innovation position, to be taken up during or upon the completion of the fellowship (in line with organisational employment policies and practices)
- Confirmation of the commitment to 50% of any Equipment costs requested in the application

4.1.5 Justification of resources

The Justification of Resources (JoR) is to aid reviewers when assessing proposals so that they can make an informed judgement on whether the resources requested are appropriate for the research proposed and demonstrates value for money. All items requested in the proposal need to be justified in the JoR. Items not appropriately justified may not be funded and will be removed by UKRI prior to awards being made.

UKRI guidance on writing a Justification of Resources is available in the [Je-S helptext](#).

We recommend that applicants match the costs to the proposal headings.

4.1.6 Work plan

Simple, stand alone, diagrammatic workplan, (for example, PERT or Gantt chart) illustrating the project but not extending the Case for Support. The full duration of the project (for example, 4 or 7 year if 4(+3) model, pro rata for part-time applicants), project-specific timelines and milestones should be clearly and accurately shown.

4.2 Additional attachments

The following attachments may be required under certain conditions.

4.2.1 Proposal cover letter

A Cover Letter must be included if:

- The applicant is resubmitting a previous application. Please see section [Resubmission policy](#) for more information.
- An academic-hosted application is requesting funding for instrument development, with appropriate justification for this request described
- The proposal is intended to be held on a job-share basis

- The Cover Letter may also be used to name conflicted experts or organisations that applicants request we do not approach for a review. UKRI reserve the right not to honour the request. This decision will be dependent on the justification submitted. The following information must be provided in the covering letter:
- The name of the person(s)
- The organisation(s) they are based at
- A clear reason why the person would not be able to provide an unbiased and evidence-based review

The Cover Letter must not be used to submit any additional information that should otherwise be included elsewhere in the application. Cover Letters are made available to the panel but are not seen by peer reviewers.

4.2.2 Project partner letter of support

Each Project Partner must provide a Letter of Support on headed paper, dated (within the previous six months) and signed by an authorised representative of the organisation and must:

- Confirm the organisation's commitment to the proposed project
- Detail the nature of the collaboration and identify the relevance and benefits to the Project Partner
- Confirm the value of the Project Partner's contribution, if it is an in-kind contribution the value must be quantified (this may be an estimate). Every effort should be made to provide accurate estimates.
- Clearly demonstrate that applicant time spent at an overseas business (if applicable) is acceptable to the Host Organisation and will not enhance the overseas business's ability to compete with equivalent UK businesses either during or after completion of the fellowship.

All project partners must be listed in Je-S.

Additional information requirements where human tissue/participants are being provided by a Project Partner

Where the Project Partner (whether an individual or organisation) is responsible for recruitment of people as research participants and/or providing human tissue, list them as a Project Partner on the proposal form and enter a nominal sum of £1 for the value of the contribution. Details should be included in the case for support. A letter of support must be attached to the application and include the following information:

- Agreement that the Project Partner will recruit the participants/provide tissue
- That what is being supplied is suitable for the research being undertaken
- That the quantity of tissue (where relevant) being supplied is suitable, but not excessive for achieving meaningful results

Letters of support must not be submitted in any other circumstance.

5 Support for NHS costs (SoECAT)

Researchers applying for research grants involving human participants will need to complete a Schedule of Events Cost Attribution Template (SoECAT) to be eligible for the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) portfolio and the support it provides.

Who needs to complete a SoECAT?

A SoECAT must be completed if any of the following apply:

- The proposed study is intended for the NIHR CRN portfolio, the route through which support and Excess Treatment Costs are provided in England. This may include studies that will take place in a social care or public health setting.
- The research requires HRA and HCRW Approval in England and/or Wales, and/or studies requiring NHS/HSC Management Permission in Northern Ireland and/or Scotland.
- The research will use NHS resources.

A SoECAT MUST be completed even if you don't think your clinical research will involve excess treatment costs (ETCs).

Completing a SoECAT form

When applying for UKRI funding, the following steps need to be completed:

- Complete a new form called a 'Schedule of Events Cost Attribution Template (SoECAT)', which can be download from the [NIHR website](#).
- Once completed, this form needs to be reviewed and signed off by a Local Clinical Research Network (LCRN) AcoRD specialist. A list of LCRN specialists can be found on the [NIHR website](#). Early engagement with the LCRN AcoRD specialist in the application process is recommended.
- Append the 'study information' and 'summary' pages of the signed off SoECAT form with your completed grant application.

Please note that Je-S does not allow the upload of MS Excel files, therefore please convert the relevant pages to a PDF. Please detail the file's description as 'Schedule of Events Cost Attribution Tool'. UKRI reserve the right to request a copy of the complete original signed MS Excel form.

5.1.1 Signed animal usage declaration

If your project involves the use of animals overseas you must submit a signed statement that:

- They will adhere to all relevant national and local regulatory systems in the UK and overseas
- They will follow the guidelines laid out in the NC3Rs '[Responsibility in the use of animals in bioscience research](#)' document and ensure that work is carried out to UK standards
- Details on where the animal research will take place (UK or overseas) and through which funder the resources are being sought.
- Before initiation of the proposed research work, appropriate approvals from Institutional and/or central animal ethics committees will be obtained for experimental protocols to be adopted in their projects. Successful proposals may be expected to provide copies of these permissions before funding is released.

5.1.2 Additional questions on the use of animals form

If the research involves the use of animals (rodents, rabbits, sheep, goats, pigs, cattle or xenopus) overseas, rather than in the UK, please also complete the 'Additional questions on the use of [species] overseas' form - [Use of animals overseas | NC3Rs](#)

If the research involves the use of pigs, please complete the [Standardised questions on the use of pigs form](#).

5.1.3 Facility form

Due to system restrictions, we are not able to display all of the national Research Council Facilities in Je-S and so applicants intending to use any national Research Council Facilities need to highlight this in a Facility Form. Applicants should list the national Research Council facilities they intend to use and describe how they will be utilised as part of the proposal.

Applicants must list the national Research Council facilities they intend to use and describe how they will be utilised as part of the proposal in a document of no more than two sides of A4. This document should be uploaded as the attachment type 'Facility Form' (please note that this is not a form but is a free-text document and a template is not available). It is strongly recommended that applicants contact the relevant facility at least one month prior to the closing date to ensure that the facility can provide the service(s) required and can provide any additional information in time to be submitted with the application.

See [Annex H](#) for more information about available facilities and resources.

5.1.4 Technical assessment

Some facilities require a Technical Assessment (typically obtained from or in consultation with the service provider) in addition to the Facility Form. Applicants are required to contact the facility before submitting their application to check if the proposed research and/ or innovation is feasible and to obtain the Technical Assessment. A full list of facilities that require a Technical Assessment can be found on the [Je-S website](#).

The Technical Assessment will detail the outline discussions that have taken place with the research facility, to ensure the facility will be available at the required time. Applicants should also confirm the start and end date of use of the facility, support requirements and a brief summary of the facility use and importance of its use for the project.

Please see [Annex H](#) for links to individual UKRI councils' websites for information on the relevant contact details for different facilities.

6 Resources

Once the grant has been awarded, no additional requests can be made for supplementary salary costs.

6.1 Overview of costings

FLF applications from applicants in an academic organisation are costed on the basis of Full Economic Costs (fEC), consistent with the dual support system in Research Council eligible organisations and Subsidy Control legislation. Please see [Annex E](#) for more information on Subsidy Control. Host Organisations must agree to fund the balance of the fEC for the project from other resources.

Indexation must not be included as this is calculated once the fellowship has been awarded and accepted.

To demonstrate their support, academic Host Organisations are required to commit to funding an increasing percentage of the fellow's salary, which is not to be derived from the full Economic Cost (fEC) of the award. Tapering of the UKRI contribution to salary for the fellow does not mean tapering of the time spent on the research/innovation related to the fellowship.

To assist applicants and organisations with the calculation, please see the salary tapering templates for full-time and part-time applicants available on the [FLF Funding Opportunity](#) page.

	Total salary request from award	UKRI contribution	Academic Host Organisation's contribution
Year 1	100%	80%	20%
Year 2	100%	80%	20%
Year 3	75%	60%	40%
Year 4	75%	60%	40%
Review point (Below figures are <i>not</i> captured within application)			
Year 5	50%	40%	60%
Year 6	50%	40%	60%
Year 7	25%	20%	80%

Years 3 and 4: The applicant can request 75% of the full economic cost of their salary from the award. This will be awarded at 80% fEC so the UKRI contribution will be 60% overall (80% of 75%).

Directly Incurred costs arise from the conduct of the research and are verifiable through an audit record. Directly allocated costs are based on estimates or apportioned costs rather than actual costs. These costs arise from resources used by the project that are shared by other activities. All costs requested should be justified within the Justification of Resources document.

Further guidance on UKRI fEC costing can be found in the [UKRI Terms and Conditions 'Costings information'](#).

6.2 Directly incurred costs

6.2.1 Staff

The payroll costs of all staff, full or part-time, who work on the project, and whose time can be supported by a full audit trail may be included.

Salary increments over the period of the project should be taken into account but should not anticipate future pay awards. Once the grant has been awarded no additional requests can be made for supplementary salary costs.

6.2.2 Travel and subsistence

Funds for travel and subsistence for the applicant and any staff working on the project, including any overseas costs, must be entered in this section. The cost and destination of each travel item must be entered in the form and justified in the Justification of Resources

During the fellowship, the fellow will be encouraged, wherever possible, to attend annual two-day FLF cohort events. Where necessary accommodation will be provided, but costs associated with attendance at these events should be met from within the fellowship award. Applicants should therefore factor in any associated travel, subsistence, and childcare costs into their proposal. It is expected that annual events will take place at a variety of UK locations, such as London and Edinburgh.

All travel must occur between the start and end date of the award and must be costed by the most suitable and economical means, at current prices and with no allowance for inflation. Subsistence rates, both UK and overseas, must be those applicable within the Host Organisation.

Non-EEA nationals holding a UK work visa should be aware that extensive time overseas may invalidate an application for Indefinite Leave to Remain in the UK.

6.2.3 Equipment

For academic-hosted applications any item costing over £10,000 (including VAT) must be detailed in this section. Any item less than £10,000 (including VAT) is classed as a consumable and must be listed under the 'Other Directly Incurred' cost heading.

UKRI will meet the costs of new equipment, the costs of equipment repair and major spares, the costs of external maintenance agreements and the cost of equipment relocation and installation, where required by the proposed research. If applicable the Host Organisation should make its own arrangements for applying for exemption from import duty.

Single items of equipment costing between £10k (inclusive of VAT) and £138k (inclusive of VAT)

- Must be included under the 'Equipment' fund type heading. Please note the £10k includes all component parts of the equipment requested, either purchased or leased.
- The academic Host Organisation should contribute towards the cost of any capital items or equipment over £10k (inclusive of VAT) at a minimum of 50%

Single items of equipment costing over £138k (inclusive of VAT)

- Must be included under the 'Equipment' fund type heading and a two-page business case outlining the strategic need for the equipment and three quotations for each individual item must be uploaded.
- Where it is not possible to provide three quotes, for example, due to the specialist nature of the item concerned, the Host Organisation must upload dummy quotes in addition to the actual quote(s) to enable the application to validate and be submitted.

Equipment for instrument development

- A request will be classed as instrument development where it is wholly or mainly focused on creating a novel instrument that will either enable research capability not available using any existing instrument, or if it will substantially improve research capability beyond what currently exists, in a way that opens significant new research and/or innovation opportunities.
- Instrument development can occur in a variety of ways. It might involve the construction of a wholly new instrument from its basic components, or it might involve the substantial modification of an existing instrument. Finally, it might involve the integration of two or more existing instruments into a new combined one. In this latter case the proposed integration would need to be technically non-trivial and lead to a capability significantly beyond that of using the component instruments independently.
- Equipment for instrument development only will be funded at 100% fEC, although UKRI reserves the right to request organisational contributions in exceptional circumstances.
- Applicants should note that the instrument development funding applies to the individual pieces of equipment that are being developed. Other equipment requested on the proposal not related to the instrument development will be subject to UKRI's standard rules for equipment.

Completing equipment details

The equipment section in costings should be completed as outlined below. All fields must be completed for each entry when making an application and costings must be at current prices with no allowance for inflation.

Heading	Description
Description	A brief description of the equipment so that what is being requested can be identified
Country of manufacture	The country where the item was manufactured
Delivery date	Please estimate this if not known
Basic price	Not including VAT
Import duty	Mark as 0 if none has been incurred
VAT	Mark as 0 when it can be reclaimed by the Host RO
Total	Total cost (excluding any VAT etc that can be reclaimed)
Amount sought	Total amount requested (this will normally be 50% of total cost)

6.2.4 Other directly incurred costs

Other costs directly attributable to the project may include:

- Consumables
- Sub-contractor fees
- Consultancy fees
- NHS costs
- Individual items of equipment below £10,000
- Additional childcare, beyond that required to meet the normal contracted requirements of the job, and that are directly related to the project, may be requested if the institutional policy is to reimburse them. However, childcare costs associated with normal working patterns may not be sought
- Training needs
- Mentors - funds can be requested to support justified costs (such as travel and subsistence) associated with any external mentors and applicant may have arranged as part of their fellowship application. Mentors cannot receive a salary.
- Minor Project Partner costs, such as travel and subsistence
- Research and workshop facilities/existing equipment/capital. For most facilities the notional cost of using the facility should be included in Other Directly Incurred Costs. In some cases, the costs will be removed from the grant and awarded notionally. If facility costs have not been included in the application, they cannot be added later.

Please note, applicants are not permitted to request funds for publication costs. It is expected that the Host Organisation will provide computers and laptops for the applicant and Co-Is and other research staff on continuing contracts. Costs for these may be claimed for new staff who are recruited specifically for the project, or where a higher specification is required for the completion of specific grant related activities such as data modelling, enhanced graphics etc. No costs associated with PhD students may be requested in the application

6.3 Directly allocated costs

6.3.1 Investigators

This section should include costs for Co-investigators working directly on a project, if their time charged to the grant will be based on estimates rather than actual costs.

6.3.2 Other directly allocated

These costs should include all other direct costs calculated on the basis of estimates. Items can include:

- Staff, such as infrastructure technicians or pool staff, whose time is shared across several projects and where their time on the project is not supported by an audit trail.
- Charge out to institutional research facilities
- Charge out costs for use of existing equipment.

6.3.3 Estates and indirect costs

- Should be calculated by the Host Organisation. The agreed rates can be obtained from the finance department or research office or default rates (which can be found on the [UKRI website](#)) can be used if the Host has not developed their own rates.
- Should be entered as a single figure covering the costed duration of the project.
- Do not need to be justified in the Justification of Resources document.
- Must not be included for technicians, research support staff, or staff employed at Research Council funded units/institutes.

Estate costs

- May include building and premises costs, basic services and utilities, lease/rent rates, insurance
- Cleaning/porters/security/safety costs, staff facilities, and any clerical staff and equipment maintenance not already included as either a Directly Incurred or Directly Allocated cost.

Indirect costs

- Non-specific costs (that are not otherwise included as Directly Allocated costs) charged across all projects based on estimates.
- May include general office and basic laboratory consumables, library services/learning resources, typing/secretarial support, finance, personnel, public relations and departmental services, central and distributed computing and the cost of capital employed (including redundancy).
- Costs of ethics reviews and infrastructure technicians can be included under this heading.
- Staff costs that fall under this category do not need to be tapered and should be calculated on the FTE basis and not based on the % contribution to salary.

Estate and Indirect costs at additional organisations:

Estates and Indirect costs will continue to be payable to the lead organisation if the applicant plans to spend 6 months or less (per absence) at another organisation.

If the applicant spends more than six months, for a single period, away from the lead organisation:

- Indirect costs will continue to be paid to the lead organisation.
- Estates costs will not be payable to the lead organisation for the period of the applicant's placement, however a contribution to the second organisation's estate costs may be requested, and the total figure for Estates costs requested must be adjusted accordingly.
- UKRI will not make direct payments to the second organisation, either in the UK or overseas; this must be arranged and managed through the lead organisation.
- If the organisation at which the applicant will spend the six+ months is in a DAC list developing country, Estates and Indirect costs for the organisation maybe requested at 100% as Exceptions in the Directly Incurred-Other cost category. The Estates and Indirect costs associated with overseas locally employed research staff in developing countries may also be requested as Directly Incurred – Other costs at 100%.

- Estates and Indirects must not be requested for projects that are not taking place in a developing country

6.4 Exceptions (funded at 100% fEC)

- Overseas costs may be included as an exception, for further information, please see [Overseas costs](#)
- Costs to meet externally commissioned surveys (those commissioned through a procurement process and contract with a professional provider) may also be included, provided that the survey is not undertaken by the applicant.

6.5 Animal costs

- May be shown as either DI or DA.
- Applications must include a breakdown of animal costs, including weekly maintenance charges, in the Je-S application form in the section 'Resources – Animal costs'.
- A more detailed justification of the costs incurred should be given in the 'Justification of Resources' attachment. This should detail the total number of animals requested, and justify the resources requested for purchasing, breeding, maintaining and using the chosen number of animals. Further details can be found in [Annex F](#).

6.6 Research and workshop facilities/existing equipment/capital

- Should include any costs that will be charged to the project to access shared research facilities and equipment. Items entered under this heading will require their use, but not the associated cost, to be justified in the Justification of Resources.
- If using NERC HPC facilities, it is not necessary to provide a cost for usage. For use of ARCHER and NEXCS please provide an estimate of resource need and a brief justification for the use in the Justification of Resources section.

6.7 Overseas costs

Applicants planning to spend time at an additional research organisation overseas may request exceptional support for 100% fEC of:

- The cost associated with any overseas staff salaries
- Other costs incurred as a direct result of the research (for example, T&S, meetings)
- See [Estates and Indirect costs](#) for more information

In projects where time spent overseas by the applicant totals six months or more over the duration of the fellowship costs may be included for:

- Fares, baggage, medical insurance and rent of reasonable accommodation.
- Overseas living allowance, provided this is fully justified. In general, a request of up to 11% of the applicant's salary is considered a reasonable contribution towards the cost of living overseas.
- Travel costs for a spouse and/or for children if the family will accompany them for the whole period.

The below table summarises the eligible overseas costs, and the fEC rate at which UKRI will pay these costs:

Description	UKRI fEC contribution
Costs for overseas support staff for the applicant, including salary, travel and subsistence.	100%
Costs charged by the overseas organisation and associate with the research (consumables, field work, etc.)	100%
A contribution towards indirect and estates costs at the overseas organisation, where the research is being undertaken in a DAC list country .	100%
The costs of any service or product procured (for use in the UK) from an overseas supplier (mouse, antibody strains, cells lines, assays etc.)	80%
Travel and subsistence (including bench fees) for UK based researchers going abroad to undertake work.	80%

6.8 NHS costs

Applications may be made for research costs associated with NHS studies. Costs included in these applications comprise of:

- Research costs
- NHS support costs
- NHS treatment costs

Research costs of a study: UKRI will only fund costs which fall under this heading.

- Funded at the appropriate FEC rate (usually 80%).
- Does not include NHS support and/or treatment costs, although UKRI will take NHS support and treatment costs into account when considering the value for money of the research.
- Where a research study takes place in, or involves the NHS, Department of Health guidance on the responsibilities for meeting patient care costs associated with research and development in the NHS applies.

NHS support costs:

- Additional patient care costs associated with the research, which would end once the research and development activity in question has stopped, even if the patient care service involved continues to be provided.
- May cover items such as extra patient tests, extra in-patient days and extra nursing attention.
- Researchers should contact their local NHS research and development department initially. If they are unable to help directly or if there is no local NHS research and development department, contact the local Comprehensive Local Research Network (CLRN) Senior Manager.

NHS treatment costs:

- Patient care costs that would continue to be incurred if the patient care service in question continued to be provided after the research and development activity has stopped.
- Applicant must assume that the patient care service being assessed will continue even though there may be no plans for it to do so.
- Where patient care is being provided which differs from the normal, standard treatment for that condition (either an experimental treatment or a service in a different location from where it would normally be given), the difference between the total treatment costs and the costs of the 'usual standard care' (if any) constitutes excess treatment cost/saving, but is nonetheless part of the treatment cost, not an NHS support or research cost. These costs should be determined in conjunction with your NHS trust partner(s) and their commissioners.

Annex A – Application caps for academic host organisations

In order to ensure funding decisions can be delivered in a reasonable timescale without overloading our research and innovation community with peer review, academic institutions are asked to prioritise the number of applications they submit to this funding opportunity, with the maximum number of applications permitted per organisation outlined in the table below.

These figures have been calculated based on submissions to the 2021 Research Excellence Framework (REF) with the number of FLF applications permitted related to the FTE staff numbers included within each institutions REF submission as follows:

Grouping	Number of FTE Staff submitted to the REF 2021	Number of ROs	Number of applications permitted for R8
1	>2000	5	10
2	1400-1999	8	8
3	1000 - 1399	9	6
4	600-999	19	4
5	400-599	21	3
6	<400	95	2

Academic organisations who did not submit to the REF and are therefore not listed in the table below are permitted to submit a maximum of 2 applications to this funding opportunity with the exception of [eligible research institutes](#) who are not subject to this application cap.

Higher Education Institution (HEI)	Maximum number of applications to R8
Abertay University	2
Aberystwyth University / Prifysgol Aberystwyth	2
AECC University College	2
Anglia Ruskin University Higher Education Corporation	2
Arts University Bournemouth, the	2
Aston University	3
Bangor University / Prifysgol Bangor	2
Bath Spa University	2
Birkbeck College	3
Birmingham City University	2
Bishop Grosseteste University	2
Bournemouth University	3
Brunel University London	4

Buckinghamshire New University	2
Canterbury Christ Church University	2
Cardiff Metropolitan University / Prifysgol Metropolitan Caerdydd	2
Cardiff University / Prifysgol Caerdydd	8
City, University of London	3
Courtauld Institute of Art	2
Coventry University	3
Cranfield University	2
De Montfort University	3
Edge Hill University	2
Edinburgh Napier University	2
Falmouth University	2
Glasgow Caledonian University	2
Glasgow School of Art	2
Goldsmiths' College	3
Guildhall School of Music & Drama	2
Harper Adams University	2
Hartpury University	2
Heriot-Watt University	3
Imperial College of Science, Technology and Medicine	8
Institute of Cancer Research: Royal Cancer Hospital (The)	2
Institute of Zoology	2
King's College London	8
Kingston University	2
Leeds Arts University	2
Leeds Beckett University	2
Leeds Trinity University	2
Liverpool Hope University	2
Liverpool John Moores University	3
Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine	2
London Business School	2
London Metropolitan University	2
London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine	3
London South Bank University	2
Loughborough University	4
Manchester Metropolitan University	4
Middlesex University	3
Newman University	2
Norwich University of the Arts	2
Nottingham Trent University	2
Oxford Brookes University	2

Queen Margaret University, Edinburgh	2
Queen Mary University of London	6
Queen's University of Belfast	4
Ravensbourne University London	2
Robert Gordon University	2
Roehampton University	2
Rose Bruford College of Theatre and Performance	2
Royal College of Art(The)	2
Royal College of Music	2
Royal Conservatoire of Scotland	2
Royal Holloway and Bedford New College	3
Royal Northern College of Music	2
School of Oriental and African Studies	2
Sheffield Hallam University	3
Solent University, Southampton	2
SRUC	2
St Mary's University, Twickenham	2
St. George's Hospital Medical School	2
Staffordshire University	2
Stranmillis University College	2
Swansea University / Prifysgol Abertawe	3
Teesside University	2
The London School of Economics and Political Science	4
The Metanoia Institute	2
The Open University	4
The Royal Academy of Music	2
The Royal Agricultural University	2
The Royal Central School of Speech and Drama	2
The Royal Veterinary College	2
The University of Bath	4
The University of Birmingham	8
The University of Bolton	2
The University of Bradford	2
The University of Chichester	2
The University of Cumbria	2
The University of East Anglia	4
The University of Essex	4
The University of Huddersfield	3
The University of Hull	2
The University of Kent	4
The University of Lancaster	4

The University of Leeds	8
The University of Leicester	4
The University of Liverpool	6
The University of Manchester	10
The University of Reading	4
The University of Sheffield	8
The University of Surrey	4
The University of Warwick	6
The University of West London	2
The University of Westminster	2
Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance	2
University College London	10
University College of Osteopathy (The)	2
University for the Creative Arts	2
University of Aberdeen	4
University of Bedfordshire	2
University of Brighton	2
University of Bristol	8
University of Cambridge	10
University of Central Lancashire	3
University of Chester	2
University of Derby	2
University of Dundee	3
University of Durham	6
University of East London	2
University of Edinburgh	10
University of Exeter	6
University of Glasgow	6
University of Gloucestershire	2
University of Greenwich	2
University of Hertfordshire	2
University of Keele	2
University of Lincoln	2
University of Newcastle upon Tyne	6
University of Northampton, The	2
University of Northumbria at Newcastle	6
University of Nottingham, The	8
University of Oxford	10
University of Plymouth	3
University of Portsmouth	3
University of Salford, The	2

University of South Wales / Prifysgol De Cymru	2
University of Southampton	6
University of St Andrews	4
University of St Mark & St John	2
University of Stirling	3
University of Strathclyde	4
University of Suffolk	2
University of Sunderland	2
University of Sussex	4
University of the Arts, London	2
University of the Highlands and Islands	2
University of the West of England, Bristol	2
University of the West of Scotland	2
University of Ulster	3
University of Wales Trinity Saint David / Prifysgol Cymru Y Drindod Dewi Sant	2
University of Winchester	2
University of Wolverhampton	2
University of Worcester	2
University of York	4
Wrexham Glyndŵr University / Prifysgol Glyndŵr Wrecsam	2
York St John University	2

Annex B – Person specification

FLF applicants should:

- Demonstrate broad knowledge of the area of interest and offer a compelling vision for the excellence and importance of the proposed research or innovation.
- Take advantage of the long-term and flexible support offered, justify how the proposal would have wider influence in the field.
- Have their own original and ambitious plans / ideas, which do not significantly overlap with their proposed collaborations, or former supervisors.
- Demonstrate the suitability of the proposed environment(s) for their research or innovation and its impact.
- Provide an approach to maximising the impact and influence of the proposed work, in the short and/or long-term. This may involve co-production of knowledge and implementation of this knowledge with the business sector, public sector, civil society sector or the wider community.
- Be capable of leading and developing a team or taking a leading role in their field; and show an ability to identify and maximise potential in others.
- For non-academic-hosted applicants, have secured the backing of the organisation that employs them. For academic-hosted applicants, have secured the backing of an institution that is prepared to host them, and which offers, in line with organisational employment policies and practices, a commitment to an open-ended position for the individual at the end of the fellowship.
- Demonstrate the ability to choose and develop appropriate collaborations and networks nationally, internationally or across disciplines.
- Demonstrate how the outcomes of the fellowship will be communicated and used within and outside their immediate community.

Experience and potential:

- Applicants must have the necessary level of skills, knowledge and experience to take forward the proposed project / programme.
- Have a track record of producing challenging, original and productive research and/or innovation outputs that stand out in their field.
- Demonstrate flexibility to adapt to opportunity and embrace new directions.

Personal development:

- Have identified and proposed opportunities for their own development as impactful and influential research or innovation leaders. This could include time for work in other environments, developing international links, development of new skills (for example, in policy impact or commercialisation, etc.).
- Have identified opportunities to access career development support, for example, mentoring and professional training and development, and relevant training courses that will underpin their future career ambitions and learning. A clear programme of skills development is an essential component of this training fellowship.
- Have or work towards strong communication and interpersonal skills and aim to develop these through engagement with different audiences.

Annex C – Applying for a fellowship on job-share basis

Applications from those wishing to hold a Future Leaders Fellowship on a job-share basis are encouraged as one of the mechanisms through which UKRI supports applications from those wishing to combine the fellowship with personal responsibilities.

There may be times when an application for a fellowship as a job-share might be right for potential candidates.

Reasons include, but are not limited to:

- Timeliness i.e. where a full-time equivalent fellow is required to ensure that time-critical research and innovation can be completed within a shorter timescale than a part-time fellowship would allow.
- An existing job-share i.e. where researchers and/or innovators are already working within a job-share that they wish to maintain.

Applicants must be able to demonstrate why they and the proposed programme of research and/or innovation would not be better served by two part-time fellowships.

A job-share fellowship should not be considered because a PI does not currently have the full skill set to undertake the fellowship. In these instances, a Co-Investigator who brings complementary and different skills to the project can be included as part of the fellowship award for a time limited period while the fellow develops their skills in the areas covered.

Is the expectation that the two individuals job sharing a fellowship have very similar skills and experiences, or is the expectation that their experience and skills should be complementary?

Most job-shares are between individuals with similar skills and experience. Job-shares should not be used to upskill an applicant who requires complementary and different skills in order to complete the project. Such upskilling should be achieved through the fellowship and is supported through the ability to include a time-limited Co-Investigator.

The applicants should make clear in their application the skills and experience of both applicants, and why they are applying via a job-share arrangement and not two separate part-time applications. It must also be stated in the application Cover Letter that the fellowship is being applied for as a job-share.

Please note that the Je-S form will list job-share fellowship applicants as Principal and Co-Investigator. This is entirely due to the limitations of our systems and your status as Co-PIs will be highlighted to reviewers and Panel members. The Co-PIs should have equal responsibility for the overall fellowship and programme of research and/or innovation. In addition, the joint applicants should be able to demonstrate a clear plan to support their own (and if applicable, their team) training and development needs. A plan should be in place for each of the joint applicants as part of the proposal.

This does not mean that the Co-PIs both have to have involvement in every aspect of the programme of research and/or innovation. For example, in terms of publications or other outcomes that result from the fellowship it may be that one Co-PI has more involvement in particular aspects than the other so we would not mandate that both Co-PIs have to have identical credit for these.

How do we apply as a job-share fellowship?

We recommend that you contact the FLF team before applying on a job-share basis.

Only one application is required. Due to the limitations of Je-S it is not possible to have joint Principal Investigators (PIs) on the application so the joint applicants (Co-PIs) will be a notional PI (the 'Fellow') and a Co-I. Throughout the review and assessment process it will be made clear that the joint applicants should be treated as Co-PIs and as such the applicants will be considered on equal terms with neither candidate considered the 'lead' or 'primary' PI apart from for system administrative purposes.

What guidance do reviewers get when considering job-share proposals?

Noting that job-share fellowships are non-standard and that members of the research and innovation community may not have reviewed such proposals before, additional feedback is provided to those carrying out the external peer review of proposals and for those sitting on the Sift and Interview Assessment Panels. Additional guidance for reviewers on job-share applications can be found within the [Future Leaders Fellowships Reviewers' Guidance](#). With regards to the FLF assessment criteria, this guidance also:

- a. Makes it clear that applicants are joint Principal Investigators
- b. States that the:
 - i. consideration of the *Research & Innovation Excellence* and the *Impact & Strategic Relevance* assessment criteria need to include assessment of how the proposed project forms a single coherent programme rather than separate activities
 - ii. consideration of the *Applicant and their Development* assessment criteria needs to consider both applicants jointly
 - iii. consideration of the *Research and Innovation Environment & Costs* assessment criteria needs to consider the commitment of the host organisation to the development and establishment of both applicants, and how the host will support the proposed programme of work as a whole

Additional guidance for those sitting on Interview Panels will also be available. This will make clear that both applicants will be attending the interview and that questions should be addressed to both applicants. Furthermore, it will be stated that that the applicant's joint Full Time Equivalent (FTE) spent on the Fellowship will be between the 0.5 and 1 required of a standard Fellowship.

Annex D – Career breaks and flexible working

The assessment of fellowship applications frequently involves appraisal of the applicant's track record. In making this appraisal, review panels take into account time spent outside the active research / innovation environment, whether through career breaks or flexible working.

Definitions

Career breaks are defined as a substantive period of time spent outside research / innovation. Reasons may include* the following:

- Personal reasons
- Trying out a new career
- Parental leave
- Ill health, injury or disability
- Caring/domestic responsibilities
- Study/training/further education

Flexible working describes any working arrangement where the number of hours worked, or the time that work is undertaken, vary from standard practice and could include* the following:

- Reduction in full time hours
- Long-term partial return to work
- Job sharing
- Compressed working hours
- Term-time only working
- Annualised hours

Guidance for review panels

In assessing the effects of career breaks or flexible working, panels will note the applicant's career trajectory and potential at the beginning of a break, relative to the stage of the applicant's career. In assessing applicants, panels will recognise that the effects on productivity of a career break, or a period of flexible working, may continue beyond the return to work.

The following areas may be affected ¹

- Presentation and publication record
- Patents filed
- Track record of securing funding, including time to obtain preliminary data

¹ Lists are not exhaustive

- Maintaining networks of research / innovation contacts and collaborations
- Recruitment of staff
- Time required for training
- The ability to take up opportunities in different geographical locations
- The ability to take up courses, sabbaticals, 'visits,' placements and secondments

Guidance for applicants

Applicants should make clear any substantive periods of absence from research / innovation within their application. Further details on the nature of the absence and how it has affected track record, productivity and career progression may be provided if desired.² Information provided will be used only to make appropriate adjustments when assessing an individual's track record, productivity and career progression.

² The information provided in response to this question helps UKRI in assessing how effective our policies and procedures are in promoting equal opportunities. This information may be used anonymously for statistical purposes and any publication would be on aggregate level. The information is treated in confidence and in line with the UKRI's data protection procedures

Annex E - Subsidy Control & State Aid – funding for non-academic organisations

Subsidy Control Framework guidance: For applications hosted by, or collaborating with, a non-academic organisation.

What is the Subsidy Control Regime?

The UK subsidy control regime began on 4 January 2023. It enables public authorities, including devolved administrations and local authorities, to give subsidies that are tailored to their local needs, and that drive economic growth while minimising distortion to UK competition and protecting our international obligations. UKRI makes subsidies under the legal basis of the Higher Education and Research Act 2017 which mandates it to make financial awards, in the case of the Future Leaders Fellowship Programme (FLF) grants, for research and innovation.

Round 8 of the FLF programme will fund most of its awards to non-academic organisations under the UK Research, Development and Innovation Streamlined Route (RDISR) which is enabled by the Subsidy Control Act of 2022.

The exception will be awards which have the potential to affect trade in goods between NI and the EU (including the production of and trade in agricultural products) and the production of wholesale electricity in NI (measures impacting on the Single Electricity Market). Where this is the case Article 10 of the Northern Ireland Protocol provides that the EC State aid rules will continue to apply.

- The support we provide is consistent with the UK's international obligations and commitments to Subsidy Control. These include:
 - The [Subsidy Control Act of 2022](#).
 - The [UK Research, development and innovation streamlined route guidance](#).
 - The [World Trade Organisation \(WTO\) rules](#).
 - The EU-UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement (TCA) (see [The EU-UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement \(europa.eu\)](#)).
 - The [Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy \(BEIS\) guidance](#).
 - Where applicable, EU State aid regulations may also be applied (for example under the [Northern Ireland Protocol](#) (GOV.UK)).
 - Other bilateral [UK Free Trade Agreements \(FTAs\)](#) where relevant.

What does it mean in terms of funding?

Under most circumstances where our funding would constitute a subsidy the UKRI FLF scheme will fund in accordance with the rules laid down by RDISR. The level of subsidy received will be calculated against rates based on the proposed total project cost. The rates will be dependent on the type of research and/ or innovation undertaken and the size of business or commercial entity involved in the application (see below).

Where an award would have the potential to affect trade between the European Union and Northern Ireland (as specified by the Northern Ireland Protocol) fellowships must be funded

under State Aid conditions, specifically the General Block Exemption Regulation (GBER), see section 5 of this annex.

When will UK Subsidy Control and/or State Aid rules apply?

The UK Subsidy Control regime or EU State aid legislation (where applicable) will be assumed to apply where a fellowship is hosted by a non-academic organisation and the funding is awarded to a non-academic organisation. In this instance the funding levels below and any additional reporting and governance associated with your grant will apply.

Non-academic organisations include any organisation undertaking commercial activities, which can include charities or not-for-profit entities, eligible for Innovate UK funding and not eligible to apply to UKRI at a full economic cost (fEC) level (including Research Council Institutes).

Where the fellowship is hosted by an academic, research or other organisation which is usually funded at fEC rates, Subsidy Control and/or State Aid rules may apply if they are collaborating with a non-academic organisation.

In general, Subsidy Control and/or State Aid rules will not be deemed to be a concern where:

- The non-academic partner does not seek a pre-negotiated right to any academically generated foreground project Intellectual Property (IP)
- Where a non-academic partner is being paid full market rate for their services (for example, a subcontractor) and Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) are not deemed a concern and are wholly owned by the academic partner.
- Any IPR generated by the academic partner are fully allocated to the academic partner.
- The data or other outputs generated from the research can be placed in the public domain within a reasonable timeframe.

Under these circumstances, the non-academic partner may have a right to negotiate for access (at a fair market price) to the academic party's IPR but terms cannot be agreed until the project is completed.

UKRI does not deal with IP rights arising from research funded by grants for extramural research. Ownership and responsibility for the exploitation of intellectual property generated through the activities of the funded activity rests with the host and their collaborators, who have a responsibility to ensure that value for money is sought.

UK Subsidy Control or State Aid rules (where applicable) are likely to apply where:

- The non-academic partner wishes to pre-negotiate access to or own academically generated foreground project IP.
- The non-academic partner is the only party with a plausible path to exploit academically generated foreground project IP (for example, development of a software tool based on a commercial platform for).

In the case of a potential subsidy or aid being awarded, UKRI can only provide a set proportion of the total project cost, with the remaining funding to be met by the partner(s). This contribution should make up an appropriate proportion of the total project cost (industry plus academic costs) calculated using the table in section 3 of this annex.

Applicants, Host Organisations and any organisations with which they hold a collaboration for the FLF project should assess whether they believe Subsidy Control and/or State Aid will be a factor before application and seek to agree draft terms prior to submission of the proposal. Host Organisations should highlight in their Cover Letter if they believe Subsidy Control and/or State Aid will apply and details of Partner contribution should be included in the Letters of Support attached to the application.

Fellows should ensure that collaboration agreements are in place with all other parties involved in the grant. This should address (but is not limited to) relative responsibilities, governance, regulatory approvals, indemnity, intellectual property rights, reporting, and access to data and samples and should be in place before the project starts.

RDISR: Subsidy ratios and additional considerations

When reading this section and calculating your subsidy ratios and the overall funding rate for your project please note that decisions on funding levels will be made on a case-by-case basis, and where there is doubt, individual applications will be assessed independently to determine where UK Subsidy Control and/or State Aid rules should apply. UKRI's decision on levels of funding are final.

Subsidy rates

Where a subsidy is being awarded, funds will be provided at a level based on the size of non-academic organisation(s) involved, the nature of the research development and innovation within the programme and the overall cost of the programme. Host Organisations will be provided funding at the following ratios which apply in the case of both RDISR and GBER:

Enterprise size	Fundamental Research	Feasibility Studies	Industrial Research	Experimental Development
Micro/Small	100%	70%	70%	45%
Medium	100%	60%	60%	35%
Large	100%	50%	50%	25%

An enterprise is defined as a person, persons or an organisation engaged in activity which entails offering goods or services on a market. An activity is not regarded as economic if it is carried out for a purpose that is not economic.

The definitions of micro/small, medium (SME) enterprises used by the FLF programme are set out as defined by:

- [UK Streamlined Subsidy Guide](#) SME definition, to be used for RDISR applications.
- [EU SME definition](#) where the Northern Ireland Protocol applies.

A large business in the context of both the RDISR and GBER means any enterprise which is not an SME under the relevant definition above.

Upper limits for subsidies under RDISR

The maximum permissible per subsidy is £3 million. This limit is imposed on a per organisation per fellowship basis rather than the fellowship as a whole.

The classifications of research, development and innovation

The definitions of types of activity under RDISR and GBER are broadly similar, here we reproduce the definitions from the UK Streamlined Subsidy Guidance.

Fundamental research means experimental or theoretical work undertaken primarily to acquire new knowledge of the underlying foundation of phenomena and observable facts, without any particular application or use in view.

Feasibility studies means the evaluation and analysis of the potential of a project, which aims at supporting the process of decision-making by objectively and rationally uncovering its strengths and weaknesses, opportunities and threats, as well as identifying the resources required to carry it through and ultimately its prospects for success. will define their own requirements for feasibility studies in terms of project size and length.

Industrial research means the planned research or critical investigation that is aimed at the acquisition of new knowledge and skills for developing new products, processes or services; or that is aimed at bringing about a significant improvement in existing products, processes or services. This would include digital products, processes or services, in any technology, industry or sector (including, but not limited to, digital industries and technologies, such as super-computing, quantum technologies, block chain technologies, artificial intelligence, cyber security, big data and cloud technologies). Industrial research comprises the creation of component parts of complex systems and may include the construction of prototypes in a laboratory environment or in an environment with simulated interfaces to existing systems as well as of pilot lines, where necessary for the industrial research and notably for generic technology validation.

Experimental development means acquiring, combining, shaping and using existing scientific, technological, business and other relevant knowledge and skills with the aim of developing new or improved products, processes or services. This includes digital products, processes or services, in any technology, industry or sector (including, but not limited to, digital industries and technologies, such as for example super-computing, quantum technologies, block chain technologies, artificial intelligence, cyber security, big data and cloud or edge technologies). This may also encompass, for example, activities aimed at the conceptual definition, planning and documentation of new products, processes or services. Experimental development may comprise prototyping, demonstrating, piloting, testing and validation of new or improved products, processes or services in environments representative of real-life operating conditions where the primary objective is to make further technical improvements on products, processes or services that are not substantially set. This may include the development of a commercially usable prototype or pilot which is necessary for the final commercial product and which is too expensive to produce for it to be used only for demonstration and validation purposes. Experimental development does not include routine or periodic changes made to existing

products, production lines, manufacturing processes, services and other operations in progress, even if those changes may represent improvements.

Special considerations for fundamental research

The RDISR recognises that financial assistance for research termed as fundamental or basic research (that meets the definition above) may not constitute a subsidy, even if it is given to an enterprise if there is no application in view.

Where a project has a mixture of fundamental and other forms of activity it should be costed accordingly.

Special considerations for feasibility studies

Under RDISR a feasibility study must be calculated as a separate subsidy, even if it forms a part of a larger project or programme of work, such as an FLF award. If you will undertake a feasibility study as part of your fellowship, you must cost this separately and submit a separate finance form with *-feasibility* added to the end of the file name. This form should contain all elements and proportions of funding that are relevant to the feasibility study, including overheads.

If successful, you will receive all elements of your requested funding, but it is a requirement that the feasibility study be separately reported by UKRI.

Projects that span more than one category of activity

Sometimes projects include work packages with more than one category of research. For example, a project may include elements of industrial research and experimental development. In this case, you would need to identify:

- the main research category (this will be where more than 50% of the eligible costs will be incurred)
- which other categories the other work packages fit into
- the overall subsidy rate will be calculated proportionally from the percentage of each activity type and its subsidy ratio.

You should apply for grant funding equivalent to the aggregated work packages.

UKRI cannot advise on appropriate funding categories and therefore levels prior to application. Applicants should seek legal advice regarding compliance with UK Subsidy Control legislation and RDISR guidance when preparing their application.

Co-Is from different organisation(s)

Where a Co-I is employed by another non-academic institution which may benefit from the work undertaken during the FLF programme of work the financial award to this organisation may represent a subsidy in its own right. If this is the case then a separate finance form, with *-coi* added to the end of the file name, would be required. This form should contain all elements and proportions of funding that are relevant to CoI and their organisation, including overheads.

Equipment

To help ensure that subsidies given under RDISR are the appropriate and meet the requirements of the legislation, the costs of equipment and instruments shall be fully eligible only if they are used for their full life for the project.

Where equipment and instruments are not used for their full life for the project the residual value should be calculated and deducted when calculating the eligible costs. The supplied finance form will calculate the appropriate rate for your equipment for a given usage time and duration.

Under the rules of RDISR UKRI may allow equipment provided to SMEs under specific circumstances as a fully eligible cost. This will only be done when:

- The equipment acquired for the FLF is newly acquired by the host. Existing equipment and instruments may not be subsidised in this way.
- The equipment and instruments to be used solely for RD&I activities no other uses are permitted for the lifetime of the equipment (for example any commercial purpose including hire or provision of a commercial service).
- UKRI must be satisfied on balance of probabilities that this is the case; in practice this may mean that provision of the full subsidy is reserved until the renewal stage (+3 part of the fellowship).

UKRI and its agents reserve the right to monitor and assess equipment usage to ensure that it complies with the proposed use, if proposed circumstances and usage change over the period of the project it is your responsibility to inform us of changes, failure to do so may constitute a breach of our grant conditions and/or the Subsidy Control Act of 2022 requiring us to recover funds. The Northern Ireland Protocol and State Aid

Article 10 of the Northern Ireland Protocol to the Withdrawal Agreement (the Protocol), provides that EU State aid rules will continue to apply to the UK in respect of subsidies that affect trade in goods and electricity between Northern Ireland and the EU. Article 10 does not apply to services. While most UK subsidies will be unaffected by the Protocol there will be instances where Article 10 applies. For example, subsidies for goods in Northern Ireland and, in certain limited circumstances, subsidies for goods given in the rest of the UK. Where subsidies engage the Protocol, they are not in scope of the domestic subsidy control regime and cannot be given under the UK Research, Development and Innovation Streamlined Route (RDISR). They must instead be awarded under the EU State Aid rules, specifically the General Block Exemption Regulation (GBER).

As the subsidy rates and other conditions of RDISR are compatible with GBER all awards of FLF which constitute subsidies will be funded against the rules and rates of RDISR detailed in this annex. However, subsidies (awards) made subject to Article 10 of the Protocol will be registered as subsidies under GBER.

Annex F – Proposals involving animal use

Use of animals

The elaboration of a compelling research and/or innovation case is an essential prerequisite for justifying the use of animals. Over the past few years there have been a number of important initiatives aimed at raising the sometimes-inadequate standard of reporting of animal experiments in the scientific literature. The NC3Rs' ARRIVE guidelines, for example, lay out criteria that should be met in reporting animal studies in order that their results and conclusions can be appropriately evaluated by readers. These criteria address a range of issues relating to transparency and validity of experimental design, the avoidance or minimisation of bias and the adequacy of statistical aspects of the study, including statistical power and appropriate statistical analysis.

In light of these initiatives UKRI has revised and updated its guidelines on what information needs to be provided to allow appropriate and thorough evaluation of the scientific strengths and weaknesses of proposals for funding involving animal use. In some cases, adherence to the principles defined in this section will require additional resources, for example, for animal identification such as 'microchipping', increased maintenance charges resulting from the randomisation procedure, or salary costs associated with obtaining statistical support. We recognise this and will support such costs where fully justified in the appropriate sections.

The NC3Rs has developed guidance for applicants when selecting contractors for animal research and the expectations of UK public funders. A presentation detailing the information that applicants should provide can be found on the [NC3Rs website](#).

Applicants should be aware that all applications involving the use of non-human primates, cats, dogs, pigs and equines will be referred to the NC3Rs via their Peer Review Service. In some circumstances, applications involving the use of other species may also be referred, at the discretion of UKRI.

Experiments using animals must comply with the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 (ASPAs), amended 2012 and any further embodiments. Institutions and grant holders are responsible for ensuring that all appropriate establishment, personal and project licences required under the Act have been granted by the Home Office, including gaining approval via their institution's local ethical review process. All awards are made on the absolute condition that no work that is controlled by the Act will begin until the necessary licences have been obtained.

In addition, applicants must ensure that they are following best practice in relation to animal husbandry and welfare. Where proposed work is not covered under an existing ASPA project license, applicants should make certain that their proposals are received by their local Animal Welfare and Ethical Review Body (AWERB), prior to submission and ensure that any ethical or welfare implications raised are addressed.

Replacement, reduction and refinement of animal experiments

Applicants are expected to have developed their applications in accordance with the cross-funder guidance for the use of animals in research: [Responsibility in the Use of Animals in Bioscience Research](#) and [NC3Rs Guidelines: Non-human Primate Accommodation, Care and Use](#).

Experiments using animals funded by UKRI must comply with the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 (ASPA), amended 2012 and any further embodiments in:

- Using the simplest possible, or least sentient, species of animal appropriate
- Ensuring that distress and pain are avoided wherever possible
- Employing an appropriate design and using the minimum number of animals consistent with ensuring that objectives of the proposal will be met.

Advice on opportunities and techniques for implementing these principles can be found on the [NC3Rs website](#). This includes the [Experimental Design Assistant \(EDA\)](#), a free online tool from the NC3Rs to help optimise experimental design and ensure that the number of animals used is consistent with the objectives of the proposal.

Proposals involving animal use

Researchers/innovators are strongly advised to read the following section carefully before preparing a proposal to ensure all the relevant information required is included in the appropriate sections of their application. Applicants must ensure their proposal clearly sets out and justifies the following:

- The research objectives and how the knowledge generated will advance the field
- The need to use animals and lack of realistic alternatives
- Choice of species of animals to be used
- Type of animal(s), for example, strain, pathogen free, genetically modified or mutant
- Planned experimental design and its justification
- Numbers of animals and frequency of measurements/interventions to be used
- Primary outcomes to be assessed
- Planned statistical analyses

All applicants carrying out research involving the use of pigs are required to address the NC3Rs [standardised pig questions](#) within the body of the application.

Applicants proposing to use animals must complete the following section of the Je-S form:

Animal Costs	Detailing the costs associated with the purchase, breeding and maintenance of each species of animal
Animal Research	Detailing any procedures categorised as moderate or severe (in accordance with the maximum prospective severity rating in the Home Office licence under which the work will be carried out) in order that the assessment of the proposal can balance the importance of the potential scientific advancement to the welfare of the animals.
Animal Species	Detailing scientific reasons for the use of animals and an explanation of why there are no realistic alternatives must be given, with an explanation of how the choice of species complies with ASPA.

Annex G – NERC British Antarctic Survey ship time and aircraft requests

British Antarctic Survey Logistic Support

Applicants requiring NERC British Antarctic Survey Antarctic Logistic Support must complete a Pre-award Operational Planning Support Questionnaire (OSPQ). This is an online form. Applicants must email the Antarctic Access Office at BAS (afibas@bas.ac.uk) stating their name, institution and proposal title. The Antarctic Access Office will set up a new, numbered Pre-award OSPQ and send the link to the applicant along with instructions for completion. The Pre-award OSPQ **must be completed three months before** the proposal submission deadline and should be included as an attachment with the application.

Any funding applications that request Antarctic Logistic Support without having received prior logistic approval will be rejected.

For further information, please refer to the [Antarctic Logistic Support – UKRI](#)

NERC ship time and aircraft requests

Ship time and aircraft requests must be fully costed and entered as a Directly Incurred - Other cost in the Je-S submission. Please be aware that the costing process can take over 2 months, so any requests will need to be submitted as early as possible. If awarded, these will be notional costs which will be removed prior to award and paid directly to the facilities by NERC.

Please note that permissions can be challenging for some geographical areas, and feasibility forms part of the costing process in consultation with the facilities. Applicants intending to request access to NERC ships or aircraft must contact NERC Head Office at least two months before submitting an application. All applicants for NERC marine facilities must submit an online Ship-time & Marine Equipment (SME) application form by creating a cruise profile through the Marine Facilities Planning website. For further information, including details of timings, please refer to the NERC website.

Queries about ship time and aircraft requests should be directed to: fellowships@nerc.ukri.org.

For further information, including details on timings, please refer to [How to apply for marine facilities – UKRI](#)

Annex H – Council facilities and resources

As the FLF is hosted by the MRC and due to system restrictions, we are not able to display the Research Council Facilities in Je-S. Applicants intending to use a Research Council Facility need to record their planned usage in a Facility Form, which should be added to the application as an attachment.

Some facilities also require a Technical Assessment, which should be obtained by contacting the relevant facility prior to submitting an application to discuss usage. A list of these facilities can be found on the [Je-S website](#).

Links to available facilities and resources by research council:

[BBSRC](#)

[EPSRC](#)

[ESRC](#)

[NERC](#)

[MRC](#)

[STFC](#)

[Innovate UK](#)