UKRI FUTURE LEADERS FELLOWSHIP SCHEME
ROUND 6

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Research and Enterprise Services
10th August 2020
WHAT IS THE FLF SCHEME?

• Flagship UKRI investment, launched Spring 2018
• Aims to develop the next generation of innovation and research leaders from the UK and across the world
• £900m to support circa 550 early career researchers through 6 funding calls with 2 per annum for three years
PURPOSE

• To support early career researchers and innovators with outstanding potential across the whole of UKRI remit

• Provides long-term support in order to enable Fellows to tackle ambitious programmes or multidisciplinary questions and new or emerging research areas and partnerships.

• No barriers to multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary research and innovation
WHAT DOES THE FLF OFFER?

• Up to 7 years support in a 4 + 3 model
  • Review during year 4 to determine whether further 3 years is offered
• Tapering salary support for the Fellow from year 3
• All other costs associated with the project apart from the Fellow’s salary will be supported by UKRI for the term of the award.
• Institutional commitment to an open-ended UK-based independent research position
• All other research costs in line with UKRI rules
• Up to £1.2 million over 4 years
# Tapering Salary Support

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total salary request from award</th>
<th>UKRI contribution</th>
<th>Academic Host Organisation’s contribution</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Year 1</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>80%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 2</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>80%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 3</td>
<td>75%</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 4</td>
<td>75%</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Review point (Below figures not captured within application)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year 5</th>
<th>50%</th>
<th>40%</th>
<th>60%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Year 6</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 7</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>80%</td>
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WHO CAN APPLY?

• Early career academics and innovators who are transitioning to/ establishing independence.
• No eligibility rules based on years since PhD or current role
• As FLF aims to enable the fellow to transition to or establish their research/innovation independence, applicants who have already achieved research/innovation independence e.g. by securing funding aimed at this career stage will not be competitive.
• Can be held part-time but expected that Fellow’s full working time is committed to the FLF
  • 6 hours per week on additional commitments
• Full person specification available on the website
HOW IS A FELLOWSHIP DIFFERENT TO A PROJECT GRANT?

• Person
  • Track record and potential for leadership
    • Trajectory to become world-class
  • Relevant experience to deliver project

• Place
  • Is Reading the best place to do the research?
    • Facilities/Infrastructure/Supportive Environment
    • Relevance to strategic priorities and institutional strengths
    • Networks/collaborators in place

• Project
  • Is the project a personal vision?
  • Will it move the field forward and enable the Fellow to become a Future Leader?
# ROUND 1 & 2 OUTCOMES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Call</th>
<th>Proposals</th>
<th>Invited to Interview</th>
<th>Awarded</th>
<th>Success Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FLF Round 1 - Jul 2018</td>
<td>369</td>
<td>113 (30.6%)</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>11.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FLF Round 2 - Oct 2018</td>
<td>403</td>
<td>142 (35.2%)</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>19.4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
REFLECTIONS FROM ROUND 1 & 2

• Quality/excellence is vital but must be evident across all of the assessment criteria i.e.
  • Research & Innovation Excellence;
  • Applicant & their Development;
  • Impact & Strategic Relevance;
  • Research and Innovation, Environment & Costs.

• Applications that don’t address all aspects will not be competitive
REFLECTIONS FROM ROUND 1 & 2

• Applicants need to be clearer on why they will gain from a long-term, flexible, fellowship as opposed to other mechanisms. For example:
  • Why me? And why now?
  • Why could the programme of work not be supported via standard grants?
  • How will the fellowship enable a demonstrable step change in your career trajectory?
  • What will be the value added to your career by holding this fellowship

• This is a scheme for Early Career Researchers, not established academics
  • No time bound criteria, applicants need to be clear why they should be considered an early career researcher
  • Where they have previously received funding at this stage, for example a New Investigator award, they need to demonstrate why further investment would present a good investment – holding a New Investigator award does not automatically exclude applicants
REFLECTIONS FROM ROUND 1 & 2

• Strong applicants consider leadership and career development not only for themselves, but also for the staff they plan to employ on the award
• Professional development should be specific
• Host commitment is crucial
  • The proposed support should not just be generic but must demonstrate that they have considered the specific development needs of the applicant
• Candidates need to be able to articulate their research and the intended impact of such an award on their career to an interview panel from range of different backgrounds
PREPARING AN APPLICATION

• Consider how to demonstrate the following:
  • Why you should be considered an early career researcher?
  • Why is this fellowship the most appropriate funding for you and your programme of research?
  • What would be the demonstrable impact of you having an FLF award?
  • Why me? Why now?
  • What is the evidence base?
  • Leadership and development skills for you and any staff
  • Addressing the assessment criteria
  • Supporting documentation
THE ASSESSMENT PROCESS

Peer review
• Proposals will usually have 3 usable reviews before progressing to a meeting
• Speak to your nominated reviewers before submitting your application
• Be constructive when responding to your reviewer comments

Panel stages
• Short-listing and interview panels
  • Organised by themes rather than disciplines
• Peer reviewers provide the expert view, panels have broader representation
• Consider how to articulate your research to a non-specialist audience – the interview panel will include social scientists and members from other disciplines
TIMELINES

• Round 6 deadline – end of January 2021 – date tbc
  • Internal EOI deadline Monday 21\textsuperscript{st} September – needs to be approved by HoS
    • Internal EOI to ensure the best candidates are being put forward and that this is supported by HoS

• Full application deadline to award announcements – approx. 10 months
  • Round 6 applications latest start date likely Summer 2022
NEXT STEPS

• UKRI FLF website: https://www.ukri.org/funding/funding-opportunities/future-leaders-fellowships/
  • Details of FLF from Rounds 1 and 2
  • Examples of interview questions, peer review documents etc.
• FLF award on the Successful Proposal Library
• Follow Director, Kirsty Grainger @kirstygrainger on Twitter
• Talk to your colleagues, networks and RDM about your ideas
  • Suitable for a Fellowship application?
  • Give yourself sufficient time to develop your ideas
• Broaden your networks to find the best people to be working with:
  • Academic and non-academic
  • UK/Overseas
Any questions?