**UKRI FUTURE LEADERS FELLOWSHIPS**

The [UKRI Future Leaders Fellowships](https://www.ukri.org/what-we-do/developing-people-and-skills/future-leaders-fellowships/) aim to support early career researchers and innovators with outstanding potential in universities, businesses and research institutes to make the transition to or establish independence.

The Future Leaders Fellowship scheme is for applicants of outstanding potential. Applicants will need to demonstrate the “added value” UKRI’s investment will have on their career and how the funding will enable them to become a leader within their field.

The scheme aims to:

* develop, retain, attract and sustain research and innovation talent in the UK
* foster new research and innovation career paths including those at the academic/business and interdisciplinary boundaries, and facilitate movement of people between sectors
* provide sustained funding and resources for the best early career researchers and innovators
* provide long-term, flexible funding to tackle difficult and novel challenges, and support adventurous, ambitious programmes.

These Fellowships support applicants from diverse career paths, including those returning from a career break or following time in other roles and UKRI also encourages applications from those wishing to work part-time in order to combine the fellowship with personal responsibilities. This scheme also supports those coming to the UK from abroad, with applicants eligible for a [**Global Talent visa**](https://www.ukri.org/what-we-offer/international-funding/get-funding-and-visas-to-do-research-in-the-uk/) under the ‘exceptional promise’ category.

Funding provided includes the fellow's salary and justified research, staff and training costs. The FLFs follow a 4(+3) model, funding is for four years with the option to apply to renew for up to three additional years during the last year of the fellowship. Salary support for the fellow has to be provided from year 3 of the project (as the UKRI contribution tapers down during the lifetime of the project) and the fellow has to be offered an open ended contract during or at the end of the fellowship (therefore School financial support will be required). The pre-announcement details for Round 9 can be found [here](https://www.ukri.org/opportunity/future-leaders-fellowships-round-9/).

**UKRI Community Engagement Events**

UKRI have previously held community engagement events to give an overview of the scheme and answer some of the most commonly asked questions. You can access the recording of a webinar for academic applicants [here](https://www.ukri.org/apply-for-funding/guidance-for-future-leaders-fellowships-applicants/).

**INTERNAL EOI PROCESS**

This is a highly competitive scheme. In order to administer the scheme in a timely manner, UKRI have introduced a cap to the number of applications each institution can submit. Under this cap, the **University of Reading can submit up to 4 applications**. Therefore in order to identify the strongest applications, there will be an internal selection process.

We would like to receive expressions of interest from areas across the University for this scheme and would like to encourage Schools to think about looking externally for suitable candidates. Applicants who are considering submitting an EoI are strongly encouraged to contact their [Research Development Manager](https://www.reading.ac.uk/research-services/research-and-enterprise-services-contacts) as soon as possible to discuss their proposal and any support that they will need in developing their EoI.

Potential candidates should provide a **CV** using the FLF CV and list of outputs template (attached) and an **EOI** (see proforma). Support for the application must be obtained from the Head of School. Completed applications should be sent to [fellowships@reading.ac.uk](mailto:fellowships@reading.ac.uk) by **noon on Friday 8th March 2024**.

**Resubmissions from previous FLF applicants**

UKRI does not permit the resubmission of an unchanged proposal. However, previously unsuccessful applicants can apply to subsequent FLF calls providing the proposal addresses feedback from reviewers and the interview panel (where applicable).

Anyone who wishes to resubmit an FLF application will be required to go through the University’s EoI process as described above. In addition, they should provide a summary (no more than one page) highlighting how their revised application will address feedback from reviewers.

The EOIs will be reviewed by an internal panel consisting of Research Deans and senior academics with experience of Fellowship funding panels. The EoIs will be assessed using the same [assessment criteria](https://www.ukri.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/UKRI-190722-Funding-Opp-FutureLeadersFellowshipsRound7-AssessmentCriteria.pdf) as those used by the FLF panels. The strongest candidates will be selected to proceed with a full application. Feedback will be provided to all candidates.

**TIMETABLE**

Announcement of Call expected 29th February 2024

Internal EOI deadline 8th March 2024

Successful candidates notified 27th March 2024

Internal full proposal deadline 4th June 2024

Proposal deadline 18th June 2024