

Swansea University Future Leaders Fellowships Round 10

Webinar and Frequently Asked Questions

	Questions	Answers
Eligibility	Do I need to double check with your team before EOI submission about eligibility?	We have provided some advice on the most general circumstances in this section. However, we are unable to provide specific advice to individuals and they will need to review the UKRI criteria and confirm they meet this.
	Are those who have a PhD from an overseas institution eligible to apply...?	Yes, this would be eligible. Extract from UKRI guidance: " <i>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.</i> "
	Do you need to be within a certain number of years post-PhD completion to be eligible to apply?	There is no eligibility rules based on years since PhD or whether the applicant currently holds a permanent/open-ended academic position or job role.
	I'm a PhD student who is currently writing up. Would I need to have completed my viva or submitted my PhD by the time I apply?	Extract from UKRI guidance: <i>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.</i> The round 10 outcomes are likely to be around June 2026 with start dates within approximately 2-6 months. Exact dates will be confirmed on the UKRI website in early 2025.
	I'm an independent scholar, am I eligible?	Yes, you don't need to be affiliated to a UK organisation already. But you must secure the support of an eligible UK organisation before applying, who must agree to host you for the duration of the fellowship.
	I have been offered a Lecturer role in the UK, which I might join in July. Am I still eligible to apply?	Yes, this should not affect your eligibility to apply providing you haven't reached research or innovation independence.



Eligibility continued

<p>What is the definition of 'academic independence' for the scheme?</p>	<p>UKRI state: <i>"This scheme is for early career researchers and innovators who are either: - transitioning to or establishing independence - may be developing their own original and ambitious plans within a commercial setting</i> Who is not eligible to apply. <i>If you have already achieved research or innovation independence (for example, by securing funding aimed at this career stage, or by already managing your own significant programme of work within a business), you should not apply. Senior academics and innovators are not permitted to apply."</i></p>
<p>Can someone having a teaching focused job, apply for this fellowship because we want to do research.</p>	<p>Yes, you would be eligible. You would need to make the case for the added value a fellowship would offer over a standard research grant.</p>
<p>Is there a general cut-off/time-limit as to what constitutes 'early career'? (would people holding permanent positions still be eligible, if they can demonstrate the need to move to 'independence' in a different way?)</p>	<p>It is up to the individual to argue how they meet the criteria. This reflects UKRI's commitment to supporting applicants from diverse career paths. UKRI state: <i>"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."</i></p>
<p>Are mid-career academics eligible, given the scheme is advertised by UKRI for ECRs?</p>	<p>Yes, providing you haven't already reached research or innovation independence.</p>



International applicants	Are International applicants eligible?	Yes. Researchers and innovators are eligible for a Global Talent visa under the ‘exceptional promise’ category for future research leaders. They must have the support of their host organisation.
	Would Swansea University provide visa support for the successful applicant and what would happen if the visa issuing time is long (10 month - year), is there a time limit on application?	Our HR team at Swansea will be able to support this process. In terms of timing, it would be wise to allow as much time as possible between expected outcomes from UKRI and the planned start of your fellowship, for any Visa applications if applicable to you. UKRI usually allow up to 6 months between issuing their award letters and the latest possible start dates. We will help shortlisted applicants to plan appropriate start dates.
	I am part of the core team of the main applicant, will I be eligible for Global Talent visa if the main applicant gets the fellowship?	While incoming staff are typically eligible to be considered for the GT visa, it's unusual to see named postdoctoral researchers in an FLF proposal. If the main applicant already has a core team, it sounds like they have already reached research independence and are unlikely to be competitive. Further information on the GT visa is available on UKRI's webpages here
International applicants continued	Is there any support within the programme for Asylum seeker or refugees? Since this post is a training/discrete placement, they very much in need of support to get back to academia.	The UKRI guidance does not include any specific advice for Asylum seekers or refugees. It states: <i>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.</i> You may wish to contact UKRI at fellows@ukri.org with the specifics of your query.
Swansea's selection process	Where can I find the EOI template?	This can be found on our web pages here: https://www.swansea.ac.uk/media/FLF_Round10_EOI_SU_1_English-1.docx
	Can I use similar own template for CV or have to adapt the template attached to EOI document?	We are only accepting applications which have been submitted using our published EOI document, this includes CVs to ensure fairness in the review process. You can download the document from our webpages here :
	Is there a different selection process for internal/external applicants?	The EOI process is the same for internal and external applicants, details can be found here https://www.swansea.ac.uk/research/research-environment/ukri-future-leaders-fellowship/#bbq=on
	How likely is it that researchers outside of Swansea will be selected?	There is no preference for internal or external candidates. Swansea is keen to attract and retain talent. During rounds 7 to 9, Swansea supported a mixture of internal and external candidates to develop an application for UKRI.

<p>Is there a Swansea University or UKRI preferred proposal template?</p>	<p>The template for the internal Expression of Interest is available on Swansea's web page https://www.swansea.ac.uk/media/FLF_Round10_EOI_SU_1_English-1.docx</p> <p>For selected candidates, their proposals to UKRI will need to be submitted via their new Funding Service (TFS), details on the application form will be available here, when the call goes opens on 3rd February https://www.ukri.org/opportunity/future-leaders-fellowships-round-10/</p>	
<p>What are the criteria of internal selection process?</p>	<p>The assessment criteria of the internal selection process will mirror the UKRI criteria which is available here: https://www.ukri.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/UKRI-28102020-FLF-Assessment-Criteria.pdf</p>	
<p>Will be Swansea Pitch Panel in-person?</p>	<p>The Pitch to panel sessions will be virtual via Zoom, on Friday 31st January between 9am-1pm.</p>	
<p>Fellowship Advocate/ Sponsor/Mentor Sponsor</p>	<p>What is meant by a Fellowship Advocate?</p>	<p>You must identify a Faculty member of staff who can support your application and confirm that your research aligns with what we do here at Swansea. Your fellowship advocate will need to provide a statement within your EOI form to describe how your project aligns to Swansea University's institutional research strengths.</p>
	<p>How can I find a Fellowship Advocate /Sponsor?</p>	<p>You may already have heard of Swansea's reputation in your field and have existing links with academic colleagues here. If not, you will need to find someone before submitting your EOI and have their support confirmed. There are links to each of the faculties research webpages here, which will be a good starting point for you to look through our current strengths. https://www.swansea.ac.uk/research/explore-our-research/</p>
	<p>Do I need a fellowship advocate/sponsor before I submit my EOI?</p>	<p>Yes. When writing your EOI, your fellowship advocate will need provide a statement to show how your research aligns with Swansea Universities currents strengths</p>
	<p>Can I have 2 sponsors?</p>	<p>Yes. If your research is interdisciplinary, two sponsors (advocates) may be best way to demonstrate alignment across various parts of the research environment.</p>
	<p>Do we need to directly contact the potential mentor or should we contact the department first?</p>	<p>Please do reach out to your potential fellowship advocate directly to confirm their support.</p>

<p>I have contacted a potential supervisor/host at Swansea University but i did not receive a response yet, what should I do?</p>	<p>We can't match you to individual people but if you have already reached out to a Sponsor and haven't heard back yet please email us at fellowships@swansea.ac.uk with information and we'll try to help.</p>
<p>For interdisciplinary research, what is the best way to identify the right department for the research? In terms of regional focus, the university does not have relevant mentors for me, but if there is somebody working on similar themes, would they be appropriate?</p>	<p>For interdisciplinary projects, we recommend focusing on the thematic alignment of your research rather than limiting your search to a single discipline or regional focus. If Swansea University does not have mentors with expertise in your specific regional area, it is entirely appropriate—and often beneficial—to collaborate with academics who work on similar themes, even if their primary focus is in other contexts. Swansea University values interdisciplinary research and encourages collaborations across faculties. We have a number of Research and Innovation institutes that include a wide variety of disciplines, and it is common for fellows to draw on expertise from multiple disciplines to support their work.</p>
<p>Some expertise is very limited within the host faculties. For example, there is only one academic staff that potentially work in the area of xx from the faculty of xx. What if s/he is not available for mentoring?</p>	<p>Your fellowship advocate/sponsor does not have to be in the exact same area as your own. They will be able to explore the alignment of your research programme to Swansea University's research areas and the suitability of Swansea University to be a host institution for your fellowship. We would recommend reaching out to that member of staff as a priority. If they are not available, they may be able to signpost you to a member of staff in a complementary research area, for example if your research is multidisciplinary you may want to reflect this and chose more than one sponsor.</p>
<p>Would I be required to teach?</p>	<p>UKRI state: "<i>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).</i>"</p>
<p>Do candidates have on the job leadership training?</p>	<p>In short, yes. A big part of the FLF programme is allowing fellows the opportunity to develop their leadership skills and a thorough training and development plan is expected to be produced as part of your proposal. Some of this will be through attending training courses, some of this will be experiential learning.</p>

	Do proposals submitted to the UKRI FLF have to be for collaborative projects, i.e., for a research team, or can applicants propose individual research projects where the applicant would be the sole researcher?	Whilst applications do commonly include the establishment of a team this is not a prerequisite, and the scheme is intentionally flexible to accommodate different career paths, research ambitions and disciplines. The focus of the FLF is on the applicant's ability to lead and deliver a transformative research program. It is also worth noting that applicants should address how the fellowship will enable them to develop as a leader in their field.
Academic disciplines	What academic disciplines are supported?	UKRI state: " <i>Applications are encouraged from the entirety of the UKRI remit. We welcome and encourage applicants from remits including the arts, humanities and social sciences and the five critical technologies as set out in the Department for Science and Innovation's Science and Technology Framework.</i> " At Swansea we are keen to hear from people who map onto our existing strengths across any one of our three faculties.
FLF success UKRI rates	How many Swansea University applicants have been successful?	5 across all rounds.
	How many current FLFs do you have at Swansea?	2 current fellows. Dr Paul Albert (round 2) and Dr Helen Chadwick (round 7).
	Do we know how many projects UKRI funded last year for the whole of the UK?/ What is the success rate?	UKRI awarded 68 Fellows in round 8, you can find the full list on their webpages . Round 7 award rate was 18%
External collaborators	Regarding the collaborative team, do I need to clearly indicate them and their institutions in my proposal/application?	The strongest proposals typically have firm arrangements in place with their collaborators, with specific details of the nature their contributions. As your proposal develops, there is of course scope to add further collaborators.
	Is it possible to offer collaborators a financial incentive for their time within the fellowship?	Yes, in a UKRI Future Leaders Fellowship (FLF) application, Co-leads (full- or part-time) are permitted, but 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. Full details are provided in the UKRI guidance

	Can FLFs include industry collaborations? Are these encouraged? Discouraged? Banned?	Yes, if this is relevant to your research project and will add value to the project. There are rules around funding they can receive depending on the organisation - full details can be found in UKRI guidance.
Costings	Regarding costs, how specific do we need to be at the stage of Expression of Interest in that regard?	You are not required to provide costing information at the expression of interest stage. If shortlisted to develop a full application to UKRI you will be assigned a dedicated research development contact that support you with developing your costings.
	Can we include costs for equipment	Yes, equipment costs can be included.
	What is the Salary cost for the fellow?	The salary will be determined in accordance with the Higher Education single spine and will be commensurate with the career stage of the applicant. Given the diversity of this scheme, the applicant salary may vary. If selected to develop a full application support will be provided to determine the appropriate salary to include within the application.
Publications	Would you say there is a minimum number of publications that would make your application competitive? probably difficult to put a number on it?	No there is not a minimum number of publications for this scheme. For applicants with few/no publications it will generally be advantageous to be able to point to other means of demonstrating their track record, potential and trajectory. UKRI and other funders are striving to create a more inclusive and supportive research and innovation culture. The commitment to DORA and to responsible research assessment, means funders are placing less focus on lists and quantity of outputs, and increased focus on quality of outputs.



EDI	<p>What support is offered to candidates with disability or chronic health conditions? (Hybrid hours, flexible working, part-time contracts)</p>	<p>Swansea University is committed to supporting colleagues who may have health and/ or disability needs, and flexible or part-time working may form part of how we can support you.</p> <p>Fellowships can be held on a part-time basis (to a minimum of 0.5 FTE) to combine research and/or innovation with personal responsibilities. UKRI state: "<i>We are committed to achieving equality of opportunity for all funding applicants and support people to work in a way that suits their personal circumstances. This includes:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - career breaks - support for people with caring responsibilities - flexible working - alternative working patterns"
	<p>Would a career break cover currently being on maternity leave, in terms of eligibility to apply?</p>	<p>Yes, this would be fine</p>
	<p>Do we need to fill "Equal Opportunities Monitoring" form at the end of the FLF document now? Because it has sensitive info about disability and sexual orientation?</p>	<p>We encourage you to complete the equal opportunities monitoring form as the information provided by applicants will enable us to monitor the success rate of applicants in relation to each characteristic and help us to understand how well we as an organisation are doing to advance equality of opportunity.</p> <p>The disclosure or non-disclosure of any of characteristics will remain confidential and will not disadvantage applicants during the selection process and/or the duration of the application process. Equal opportunities monitoring information is captured in a separate form and will not be shared with the reviewer teams.</p> <p>For round 10 of the FLF scheme, UKRI requires host organisations to complete diversity monitoring forms to report anonymised information on the number of prospective applicants according to these characteristics.</p> <p>Completion of the form is voluntary. If applicants do not wish to disclose any information, we'd encourage you to complete the form and by indicating 'prefer not to say' to assist us in our reporting to UKRI.</p>



<p>Submitting other bids at the same time</p>	<p>Can FLF and NIA proposals be submitted at the same time? Will they affect with each other for the reviewing process?</p>	<p>Extract from the UKRI guidance: <i>Applicants may simultaneously seek grant support for other projects, from UKRI or other funders, while their application is under consideration, however:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><i>• 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.</i><i>• Any funding secured from UKRI or other funders must comply with the Future Leaders Fellowships terms and conditions if awarded, including the time commitments.</i> <p><i>Applicants must inform UKRI if other submissions are subsequently funded and withdraw their application from UKRI consideration if the project or parts of the project have already been funded elsewhere.</i></p>
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