

University of Edinburgh UKRI FLF Round 8 internal selection

Future Leaders Fellowship Round 8: Case for support guidance

Maximum 4 pages A4, must be 11-point Arial typeface, 2cm margins. Use the template on page 3 and submit as a Word document, without this guidance section and template section guidance.

The full application for UKRI is 8 pages. You will not be able to get the full level of detail across in your 4 page outline version for internal selection, so bear that in mind when reading the following UKRI FLF guidance on what to include in the full Case for Support.

This document must summarise your plan for the full period of the fellowship, in detail for the first four years and more broadly 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.

Applicant and Development:

- How your 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 you and your team, in both the delivery of the project and broader professional/development opportunities. Consider identification of appropriate training, access to facilities and support.
- How you 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 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 you are applying for a fellowship that is not 100% of your 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:

You 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 you, maximising your development and the quality and impact of the research and/or innovation.
- Commitment from the Host Organisation to realising your potential and establishing you as a research professional.

You 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 your career and impact your short- and long-term career trajectory, as opposed to more standard project grant support.
- Justify that you are currently considered to be early career and describe how the fellowship will enable you to establish leadership and independence over the duration of the award.

Co-Investigators: For any/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.

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 not obliged to follow any external links or read any additional papers highlighted within the application. For the 4 page outline, we recommend that you use only very few, if any, key references to evidence your case.

Internal Outline Case for Support

As this Case for Support for internal selection is half the length of the full application, the reviewers are aware that you will not be able to provide full details: all applicants are in the same position. The template includes further guidance below giving hints as to the section in which you might best address the criteria and pointers above.

Vision and aim for the fellowship – *no more than half a page*

Present your high level vision which is short and can be digested by non-experts. Explain why the research will be competitive in its field and how it will be transformative both for the UK and for you. Then outline your aims for the fellowship, in terms of what you plan to do. Highlight plans which are particularly novel or unique, and feasibility. Novelty may include novel application of an existing technology or method for a new purpose or sector, beyond what is currently accepted as the state-of-the-art.

Methodology and impact – *around 1.5-2 pages*

Here give technical detail on your objectives, methodological approaches and their rigour and appropriateness. Explain how new techniques or particularly difficult/risky studies will be tackled, and outline alternative approaches should these fail, i.e. objectively consider the feasibility of the approaches proposed. Identify where access to facilities or resources will be required and the benefit to the project. If applicable, outline all human studies and animal experiments.

In most cases, objectives map onto ~3-5 discrete Work Packages which help to give structure and clarity to the fellowship. Each Work Package has its own deliverables and outcomes. In this section you should present your Work Packages or alternative methodological structure.

Explain the potential impact of your research.

Applicant, team and development – *around 1-1.5 page*

This is where you need to convince the panel that you have the profile and potential to be selected. Explain how your career trajectory aligns with the objectives of the FLF scheme. Justify that you are currently considered to be early career and describe how the fellowship will enable you to establish leadership and independence over the duration of the award. Provide evidence that you can communicate clearly and have the potential to inspire and lead others, develop new relationships and influence across multiple disciplines and sectors. Any planned activities to maximise collaboration, partnership and knowledge exchange within and beyond the length of the fellowship should also be included.

Set out a clear plan to support your development and that of your team, in both the delivery of the project and broader professional/development opportunities. Identify appropriate training, access to facilities and support. Describe how you will obtain external guidance, mentoring and support from appropriate independent advisors.

Describe how the added value of a UKRI FLF award (for example, the scale, flexibility and duration offered) will boost your career and impact your short- and long-term career trajectory, as opposed to more standard project grant support.

You should briefly mention how you 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. This is an area the research support team can advise successful candidates with following panel, but include any initial ideas you have here.

You can include a sentence or two about possible options for the additional +3 years if you choose to renew.

For any/each Co-Investigator included, clearly define and justify their limited role in the project. Outline any collaborations (for example, subcontractors), and their involvement in the project.

References – not mandatory for this stage of the process.

If you have key references you want to include then condense them for this outline.