

Swansea University Future Leaders Fellowships Round 9

Webinar Questions

	Questions	Answers
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.
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>You do not need to hold a PhD and there are no eligibility rules based on the number of years since your PhD. However, if you do not hold a PhD, you must be able to demonstrate equivalent research or innovation experience or training.</i> "
	Do you need to be within a certain number of years post-PhD completion to be eligible to apply?	You do not need to hold a PhD and there are no eligibility rules based on the number of years since your PhD. However, if you do not hold a PhD, you must be able to demonstrate equivalent research or innovation experience or training.
	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>



Swansea's selection process	Where can I find the EOI template?	https://www.swansea.ac.uk/media/FLF_Round9_EOI_SU_English.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 here: https://www.swansea.ac.uk/media/FLF_Round9_EOI_SU_English.docx
	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--round-9/
	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 round 7 and 8, Swansea supported a mixture of internal and external candidates to develop an application for UKRI.
	Is there a Swansea University or UKRI preferred proposal template?	The template for the internal Expression of Interest is available on Swansea's web page https://www.swansea.ac.uk/media/FLF_Round9_EOI_SU_English.docx 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 29th February https://www.ukri.org/opportunity/future-leaders-fellowships-round-9/
	Will be Swansea Pitch Panel in-person?	The Pitch to panel sessions will be virtual via Zoom, on the afternoon of 8th February.
Sponsor	What is meant by a sponsor, is this my line manager?	You must identify a Faculty member who can support your application and confirm that your research aligns with what we do here at Swansea. If you are current staff at Swansea, this may indeed be your line manager - but you need to explicitly state how you will distinguish yourself from their work to achieve independence during the fellowship.
	How can I find a Sponsor?	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/



Sponsor continued	Do I need a sponsor before I submit my EOI?	Yes. When writing your EOI, you will need to show how your research aligns with current strengths and having a sponsor from Swansea is essential to showing this.
	Can I have 2 Sponsors?	Yes. If your research is interdisciplinary, two sponsors may be the best way to demonstrate alignment across various parts of the research environment.
	I have contacted a potential supervisor/host at Swansea University but I did not receive a response yet, what should I do?	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.
Swansea's enhancement award	Regarding the University's Enhancement Award of £50k, are there any restrictions to what this can be spent on? Could it all be spent on one piece of equipment, for example?	The enhancement award can be used flexibly. Equipment is covered by the FLF grant scheme however, for equipment over £10k which requires 50% match funding, you can use the enhancement award to cover this contribution.
Building your team and delivering an FLF award	Will fellows be required to take on under or postgrads for dissertations as part of their lab?	As part of the enhancement award, Swansea is offering selected candidates funding to recruit a 3-year PhD student. As fellows grow their research team, this may include further research students or postdoctoral research assistants. There may also be a requirement to support undergraduate projects as part of a small teaching allocation, as permitted and encouraged by UKRI.
	Would I be required to teach?	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> "
	Do candidates have on the job leadership training?	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.



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.
	Will some disciplines be prioritised over others?	No. Swansea University are permitted to submit up to 3 applications during round 9. Each faculty will be offered the opportunity to support 1 candidate.
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?	They awarded 75 Fellows in round 7, you can find the full list on their webpages.
External collaborators	Do we need to get permission of external collaborators before placing them to EOI form? There is a short amount of time, and we may not get answer from them	A firm commitment from them is encouraged if you intend to name them in your EOI, it can be difficult to demonstrate their contribution to your fellowship without discussing and agreeing directly. As your proposal develops, there is of course scope to add further collaborators.
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. 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>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. The equal opportunities monitoring section of the form will be redacted from the EOI before onward circulation of the EOI to the reviewer teams.</p> <p>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>For round 9 of the FLF scheme, it is also a UKRI requirement that host organisations complete diversity monitoring forms to report anonymised information on the number of prospective applicants according to these characteristics.</p> <p>If applicants do not wish to disclose any information they can select 'prefer not to say'.</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>Full guidance on this will be issued when the call opens. But for round 8, UKRI stated: <i>"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.</i> <i>Applicants may apply simultaneously to other funders' fellowship schemes (those funders outside of UKRI).</i> <i>Applicants may simultaneously seek grant support for other projects, from UKRI or other funders, while their application is under consideration, however:</i> <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> <i>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"</i></p>
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