

Faraday Discovery Fellowships 2025 Stage 2 Application Form Guidance

The Stage 2 application questions are listed with guidance for completion. Please read this document in conjunction with the [scheme notes](#) for further context. Applications to this stage are by invitation, applicants will receive a link to access the application form.

Applications can only be submitted online using the Royal Society's Grants management system (Flexi-Grant®) via <https://grants.royalsociety.org>. Further information about the Grants management system can be found via <https://royalsociety.org/grants-schemes-awards/grants/flexi-grant/>. If you have not previously used Flexi-Grant®, please follow the registration process from the Flexi-Grant® homepage. ***Paper-based applications will not be accepted.***

All applications must be approved by the Host Organisation and the applicant's departmental support must be completed before you can submit via Flexi-Grant®. Late applications will not be accepted.

The Stage 2 application can be completed by using the navigation tabs on the application summary page, with each page categorised as follows:

Summary

Contact Details

Applicant Career Summary

Research Proposal

Data Management and Data Sharing

Use of Animals in Research

Use of Human Patients, Participants or Tissue

Financial Details

Applicant Declaration

Institutional Support

Please note that questions with * are mandatory fields, which is typically the majority of questions. You will only be able to submit your application for approval by the Host Organisation once all sections of the application form have been marked as complete, and your participants have marked their work as complete (please check the status of participants under the participants tab on the application form summary page).

Summary	
Summary Page	<p>The summary page of the application form provides instructions for submission of your application for approval from the UK host organisation. In addition, you are provided with an overview for each section of your application form, including the approximate length of time it will take to complete each section.</p> <p>The summary page also allows applicants to manage and invite participants (e.g. Head of Department) who are required to contribute to the application form.</p>

	<p>Instructions for inviting participants can be found under the 'participants' tab on the application summary page.</p> <p>Note: you will only be able to submit your application for approval by the Host Organisation once all sections of the form have been completed by all participants.</p>
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Contact Details	
Title, Names, address, organisation and country *	<p>Review and complete your personal details accurately. Errors in this section can cause difficulties in processing your application. Errors will not be corrected after submission.</p> <p>Under this section, you should edit the contact type of the participants who will partake in your application form. The system default contact type is set as 'collaborator'. To amend the contact type of your Head of Department, click 'edit', and under the contact type field, select the 'Head of Department'.</p> <p>Organisation: this table will automatically display details of the intended Host Organisation (marked by a tick) which you selected previously and your current organisation, if different from the organisation where the award will be held and administered.</p>
Email address *	<p>This field defaults to the account in which the application has commenced and is where all correspondence pertaining to the application throughout the application process will be sent. The applicant must therefore commence the application using the login email address used to register a user account on Flexi-Grant®.</p>

Applicant Career Summary	
Title of Current Position *	Please state the title of your current position.
Current Employer *	Please enter the official organisation name of your current employer (e.g. University of Bath).
Current Department *	Please enter details of your current department (e.g. Department of Astrophysics).
Country/Territory *	Please select the country/territory where your current employer (or last employer if currently unemployed or on leave) is based.
Current Position Start Date *	Please enter the date when your current position started.
Current Position End Date *	Please enter the date when your current position is expected to finish. If you are on an open-ended contract, please enter 31 December 2050.
Field of Specialisation *	Enter details of your field(s) of specialisation. (Maximum 20 words)
Summary of Your Current Research *	Provide an outline summary of your current research. Please also include a brief comment on the strength of your organisation. (Maximum 200 words)
Applicant Career History *	Please provide a full list of your appointments since your PhD in reverse chronological order, stating if part-time (and percentage part-time) when necessary.

	<p>Please provide full details of any periods of part-time working, career breaks, extended sick leave or maternity/paternity/adoptive leave as your eligibility may depend on the accuracy of this information.</p> <p>Note: You can retrieve your career history information from your profile to complete this section of the application form using your ORCID identifier.</p>
Personal Statement *	<p>Personal statement (1 side of A4): Please provide a statement to highlight your major achievements (including prizes) and the difference securing this award would make to you, the host department and University as well as the research community in the UK.</p> <p>Please confirm your current teaching and admin duties and clearly explain how the Faraday Discovery Fellowship (and relocation to the UK if applicable) will make a difference in terms of your research and specifically what it will enable you to do which is currently not possible.</p> <p>PDF upload only. This should be no longer than 1 side of A4, portrait orientation, with margins of at least 2cm. Please do not use a text size smaller than Arial 11 and make sure the document is titled.</p>
Impact of Covid -19	<p>The Society appreciates that the impact of the coronavirus pandemic on researchers and their work will be varied. Please provide a summary of how the pandemic has affected your research activities. This can include but is not limited to: delays in publishing/submitting a key paper(s) (please note preprints can be included in your publications list), pause on experiments/research plans, reduced ability to work due to additional caring responsibilities. (Maximum 500 words)</p>
CV *	<p>Please upload a copy of your CV as a PDF. This should be no longer than 3 sides of A4, portrait orientation, with margins of at least 2cm. Please do not use a text size smaller than Arial 11 and make sure the document is titled.</p> <p>The format and content of the CV is at the applicant's discretion, however it should include details of the applicant's track record, wider contributions to research, research impact and research culture as well as details of research appointments. These contributions might include public engagement, schools' engagement, knowledge exchange, mentoring, industry collaboration, team leadership, patents, commercialisation or broader business activity, peer review and committee membership.</p>
Applicant Qualifications *	<p>Please list all your qualifications in reverse chronological order.</p> <p>The depth of information you provide is up to you, but this will represent you under assessment and so it is worth including as much good evidence of your academic merit as possible and as appropriate for the funding for which you are applying. Note: You can retrieve your qualification information from your profile to complete this section of the application form using your ORCID identifier</p>
Full Publications list *	<p>Please provide details of authors, titles and references of your preprints and publications in refereed journals, in reverse chronological order. Please note that publications will be reviewed on the basis of scientific content, rather than publication metrics or the identity of the journal.</p>

	<p>Your list can be divided into three sections: (i) refereed papers in primary journals, (ii) contributions to symposia and compiled volumes (refereed only); and (iii) preprints.</p> <p>For publications arising from large collaborative programmes clearly specify the exact role and contribution made towards large collaborative research programmes that have resulted in multi-authored publications.</p> <p>If your field of research differs in any way from normal conventions, e.g. lead author, first author, and publications in journals being the main gauge of success, please provide a brief explanation at the top of your publication list.</p> <p>If appropriate, give the publisher or where each publication may be obtained, providing a URL if available. Citations for preprints must state "Preprint", the repository name and the articles persistent identifier (e.g. DOI).</p> <p>Note: You can retrieve your publications to complete this section of the application form using your ORCID identifier.</p>
Most Significant Publications *	Please highlight your ten most significant publications in order of importance. For each publication, please provide a short statement describing their significance and your contribution (up to 50 words per output)
Applicant Research Funding *	<p>Please list your current and previous research funding in reverse chronological order.</p> <p>The depth of information you provide is up to you, but this will represent you under assessment and so it is worth including as much good evidence for your academic merit as possible and as appropriate for the funding for which you are applying.</p> <p>Note: You can retrieve your information from your profile to complete this section of the application form using your ORCID identifier.</p>

Research Proposal	
Project Title *	Please give the full title of your proposed project. Maximum 20 words.
Keywords *	Provide up to 5-10 keywords that could be used to describe your research, which will aid with identifying the most appropriate peer reviewers.
Subject Group *	Please select the subject group that most closely reflects the research area of the research proposal from the drop-down menu.
Subject Area *	Please select one or more subject areas that most clearly defines the research area of the research proposal from the subject sub-category list.
Abstract *	<p>Please provide a scientific summary of your proposed project. This should be a summary of your research proposal, briefly outlining the background and summarising the aims of your project.</p> <p>Plain text only maximum of 400 words.</p>
Lay Summary *	<p>Please provide a lay summary of your proposed project. This should be understandable by a lay person. Explain why you have chosen to work in this subject area and what it is about your proposed research that you find particularly exciting, interesting or important. If applicable please also explain the potential impact or wider benefits to society of your research.</p> <p>Plain text only maximum of 250 words.</p>

Research Proposal (Years 1-5) *	<p>Please use this section to make your case for support, focussing on the first five years of the research. You should outline the nature of your research and explain the potential impact or wider benefits of your research. Your statement should also provide justification for the award and detail the difference securing this award would make to you and your long-term research vision.</p> <p>PDF upload only, maximum 4 sides of A4. Portrait orientation, with margins of at least 2cm. Please do not use a text size smaller than Arial 11 and make sure the document is titled.</p>
Research Proposal (post 5 years) *	<p>Please use this section to make your case for support, focussing on the latter part of your project (after the first 5 years). You should outline the nature of your research and explain the potential impact or wider benefits of your research.</p> <p>PDF upload only, maximum 2 sides of A4.</p> <p>You may also include 1 additional page (so 3 sides total) for references relating to the full 10-year research proposal, if required.</p> <p>Portrait orientation, with margins of at least 2cm. Please do not use a text size smaller than Arial 11 and make sure the document is titled.</p>
Supporting Technical Information *	<p>Please use this section to provide additional information to support your proposal. This may include additional supporting data, further technical methodological detail, further discussion of risks and potential mitigations, a detailed project plan (for the first 5 years of the research programme), key milestones, and staffing priorities. This information will be particularly useful for the independent peer reviewers who are technical experts in the application subject area, and this section can be used by the applicant to pre-empt reviewer queries. There will be an opportunity for applicants to provide a written rebuttal to any remaining independent reviewer queries in advance of the final Selection Committee meeting.</p> <p>PDF upload only. This should be between 4-6 sides of A4, portrait orientation, with margins of at least 2cm. Please do not use a text size smaller than Arial 11 and make sure the document is titled.</p>
Host Organisation *	Please select the organisation where the award will be held from the drop-down list.
Host Organisation Type *	Please select the Host Organisation type from the drop-down menu
Host Department *	Please provide the name of the proposed department at your host organisation. Please enter the official name (e.g. <i>School of Chemistry</i> rather than <i>Chemistry</i>).
Justification for Choice of Host Organisation *	Please provide a short statement justifying your choice of host organisation (i.e. why is it best suited for your research and career?).
Named Collaborators Letters of Support	Optional upload
Full/Part-time working *	If you intend to hold the Fellowship part-time, please select the appropriate FTE from the drop-down list. If you will work full time, please select '1.0 FTE'.
Part-time resourcing details	If you have selected to hold the Fellowship part-time, please specify how the funds released by the PI working part-time would be used to support the delivery of the proposed research programme e.g. using unspent salary funds from their part-time working to resource their group more fully by hiring a lab manager
Suggested Independent Reviewers	Please suggest independent reviewers with relevant expertise to review your proposal without a conflict of interest. If your application is selected for independent peer review, The Royal Society will consider your recommendations and decide whether or not to include them in the list of experts invited to review your proposal. You will not be informed of this decision.

Data Management and Data Sharing

The Royal Society supports science as an open enterprise and is committed to ensuring that data outputs from research supported by the Society are made publicly available in a managed and responsible manner, with as few restrictions as possible. Data outputs should be deposited in an appropriate, recognised, publicly available repository, so that others can verify and build upon the data, which is of public interest. To fully realise the benefits of publicly available data they should be made intelligently open by fulfilling the requirements of being discoverable, accessible, intelligible, assessable, and reusable.

The Royal Society does not dictate a set format for data management and sharing plans. Where they are required, applicants should structure their plan in a manner most appropriate to the proposed research. The information submitted in plans should focus specifically on how the data outputs will be managed and shared, detailing the repositories where data will be deposited. In considering your approach for data management and sharing, applicants should consider the following:

- What data outputs will be generated by the research that are of value to the public?
- Where and when will you make the data available?
- How will others be able to access the data?
- If the data is of high public interest, how will it be made accessible not only for those in the same or linked field, but also to a wider public audience?
- Specify whether any limits will be placed on the data to be shared, for example, for the purposes of safeguarding commercial interests, personal information, safety or security of the data.
- How will datasets be preserved to ensure they are of long-term benefit?

Outline of data management and data sharing plan *	If the proposed research will generate data that is of significant value to the research community, then please provide details of your data management and sharing plan. (Maximum 200 words) .
Fieldwork *	Will you be conducting fieldwork as part of your research? Yes/No *
Fieldwork	Please provide all details of any proposed fieldwork to be carried out. Please ensure you provide details of location, duration and justification for the fieldwork.
Fieldwork (Upload only)	<p>Please upload documents related to the following (if applicable):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <u>Permission</u> Any mandatory documents that show local support has been assured by way of permission from the government concerned to travel to and work in the country. 2. <u>Collection of specimens</u> Any mandatory documents that show: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specific permission has been obtained from the host country to collect and to export specimens and material. • The director of the museum or other decision makers where these specimens will be deposited has indicated his/her desire or willingness to have such specimens and material.

Use of Animals in Research *	
<p>The Royal Society is committed to supporting the development of alternative methods to reduce and/or replace the use of animals in research. Applicants proposing to use animals in their research must ensure that the use of animals falls within the regulations stipulated in the Animals (Scientific Procedures Act) 1986 and subsequent amendments. Additionally, applicants should continually be aware of developments in best practice, and adopt the principles of the 3Rs when designing and conducting experiments on animals.</p> <p>As a funder of research, the Society takes its responsibilities towards the UK Animals (Scientific Procedures Act) 1986 seriously and requires applicants to consider the questions below when preparing grant applications that include the use of animals.</p>	
Does your proposal involve the use of animals or animal tissue? *	Select 'Yes' or 'No'. If you have selected 'Yes' it is mandatory to complete all of the relevant questions on the Use of Animals in Research page.
<p>Experimental Design Assistant</p> <p>The Royal Society recommends that applicants use the Experimental Design Assistant (EDA), which is a free resource from the NC3Rs to support researchers in the planning of animal experiments. This will help to facilitate robust study design and reliable and reproducible findings.</p> <p>The EDA helps applicants build a machine-readable diagram representing their experimental plan, following capture of their methodology, and allows the applicant to then generate a PDF report which provides a transparent description of the experimental design in a standardised format, which can be uploaded to the application form.</p> <p>Please note: Applicants who choose to use the EDA, and subsequently uploads the EDA report to the application form, are advised to enter see report or n/a into any question fields within this section of the application form that have already been captured in the EDA report, to avoid any duplication.</p>	

Use of Human Participants and Tissue	
<p>Any application for a research proposal involving human participants, patients or tissue and therefore requiring local ethical committee approval will be considered only when accompanied by the necessary permission certificate or proof that ethical permission will be sought, which must be provided in English.</p>	
Does your proposal involve the use of human participants, patients or tissue? *	Select 'Yes' or 'No'. If you have selected 'Yes' it is mandatory to provide either a certificate or letter, as proof that ethical permission has been, or will be, obtained. Please upload the file as a PDF in portrait orientation.

Financial Details	
General information	<p>When completing the budget table in Flexi-Grant® please ensure to provide values at the appropriate FEC level (80% or 100%), as indicated in the Royal Society Grant Funding Guidance.</p> <p>If you have collaborators, please break down the costs for collaborating organisations within each justification category.</p>
Summary Budget Table *	Please enter the values applied for under the budget table headings. This should match the summary table in tab 3 of the Excel finance form.

	<p>Application finances should be done in collaboration with your Host Organisation's Research/Finance Office. The maximum value of the award is £8 million, applicants may apply for less if they wish. Within this maximum value, a reasonable level of inflation to all grant costings should be applied, except for PhD studentships and fees.</p> <p>The full duration of the award is 10 years, with years 6-10 subject to a mid-Fellowship review. The total grant cap may be exceeded in order to cover visa costs if this is well justified in the application. Please refer to the Royal Society Grant Funding Guidance.</p> <p>In the event of the award-holder leaving the host organisation, the PhD student(s) will be permitted to decide whether to remain at the host organisation or move with the supervisor (with advice from the supervisor and other academic staff as appropriate). The host organisation will provide a deputy supervisor who will become lead supervisor in the event that the award holder leaves the host organisation.</p>
Excel budget form upload *	Please upload the completed Excel file detailing award finances.
Justification for Salary *	Please include grade and salary point as per the host organisation salary structure. A justification of annual increment should be included.
Justification for Other Research Staff *	Please confirm the total value requested and provide a full justification for this amount.
Justification for Research Expenses *	Please fully justify all requested costs (Other Directly Incurred Costs) by referring to each budget heading. Funding will not be awarded without justification. If you are requesting funds to support a PhD Studentship please use the yearly rates for stipend and fees listed in the Royal Society Grant Funding Guidance .
Justification for Equipment *	Please provide costing details for any individual items of equipment with a value over £25,000. Items of equipment with a value of less than £25,000 should be detailed in the 'Justification for Research Expenses' section above.
Justification for Relocation and Visa Expenses *	Please include the number of dependents (partner and children only allowed), which visa type you are applying for, its cost, and an estimation of other relocation expenses.
Justification for Other Costs *	Please justify any other costs included in the application.
Justification for Inflation rate applied *	Please include the percentage inflation rate applied across all budget categories and the reasoning behind the percentage used.

<p>Applicant Declaration *</p> <p>Please declare that: You have read the Terms and Conditions of Award under which Royal Society grants are awarded and, if a grant offer is made, you agree to abide by them. The Terms and Conditions for Royal Society applications can be found here.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> You have access to the necessary facilities to enable you to deliver the research proposed and will continue to have access to the facilities for the duration of the project. You have agreed with your Head(s) of Department that you will be afforded sufficient time and resources to deliver the research project as described in this application.

Institutional and Departmental Support *

You should invite the pro-Vice Chancellor for Research at your host organisation to provide a statement of support by following the instructions under the **participants tab** on the application form summary page. Please check that they can supply their statement by 15:00 UK time **6 February 2025**.

Please check which email address your pro-Vice Chancellor for Research would like to use, as they may already be registered on Flexi-Grant® and mistakes may lead to a delay in processing your application.

Before inviting them to participate in completion of the application form, the applicant is instructed to ensure that the pro-Vice Chancellor for Research is willing and available to provide a confirmation of support prior to the round closing date. Incomplete confirmations will mean that an application cannot be submitted and will be deemed to be ineligible.

The pro-Vice Chancellor for Research is required to summarise as part of their statement and organisation's commitment to the candidate:

- The suitability of the candidate for the Fellowship and department
- Set out how the host department/institution will provide the support, mentorship and guidance to enable the candidate to thrive in their career and research.
- The host organisation is expected to adhere to the principles of the Concordat to support the development of research careers. The host organisation is also required to commit to providing appropriate training and development for members of the PI's research group (including early career researchers, PDRAs, PhD students and technicians) funded through the grant.
- Where the holder was already employed at the host organisation, the host is required to commit to providing like-for-like replacement research posts of equivalent value within the department. This may include posts of equivalent seniority to the PI in the department or multiple more junior research posts of equivalent value (PDRAs or PhDs).

Research Fellows are expected to devote their time to research. Funded PIs must spend at least 80% of their time on research activity, with the other 20% of their time being used to contribute towards other duties such as teaching and contact with students, administration, departmental leadership etc. Where innovation or translation activity, including working with industry, is part of the agreed programme of the fellowship, that time can also be considered as "research".

It is the responsibility of the applicant to:

- Inform the pro-Vice Chancellor for Research of the deadline.
- Liaise with the pro-Vice Chancellor for Research to ensure that they have received their invitation with instructions to participate in completion of the application, as no provision is made for non-receipt of these automatic emails.
- Keep track of the progress of pro-Vice Chancellor for Research's completion status on the application summary page. The Applicant can issue a **reminder** email through the participants tab on the application summary page.

If the instruction email from the Royal Society has not been received please:

- a) double check the accuracy of the email address supplied on the application form
- b) advise the intended recipient to check their spam filters/junk folders
- c) contact the Royal Society with an alternative email address for the recipient

The Royal Society will not be held responsible for automated emails that are not received due to address errors or spam filters.