

Newton International Fellowships 2025 – FAQs

This list is not exhaustive. You may be able to find the answer to your questions in the Scheme Notes for the round. Please check all relevant documents before contacting the Grants Team. Queries related to the Newton International Fellowship can be directed to info@newtonfellowships.org.

Eligibility & Assessment

1. Q: Can I contact the Royal Society ahead of the deadline to confirm my eligibility for the scheme?

A: The scheme notes (Section 4) provide guidance regarding eligibility for the scheme. Please consult the scheme notes before contacting the grants team. Eligibility can only be assessed based on the information provided in your email therefore a final decision is subject to receiving a full application on Flexi-Grant.

2. Q: How is ‘seven years active full-time postdoctoral experience’ calculated when considering eligibility?

A: Career breaks and gaps between employment contracts are taken into account when calculating active research experience. Part-time contracts are also considered, e.g. if you hold/have held a research contract at 0.5 FTE, your research experience will be pro-rated accordingly.

A: We are happy to review your career history if you are unsure if your work would be considered actual research experience or you have taken complex career breaks and are unable to calculate the time you have taken out of research since completing your PhD, please contact the Newton International Fellowship team on the email address above.

You will need to provide the following information when contacting us:

- date of your successful PhD examination/viva
- details of any research and non-research positions.
- details of career breaks/periods of leave and any additional circumstances that may have affected your research career.

Please provide dates in the format of DD/MM/YYYY (days may be omitted if unknown).

3. Q: Does the fellowship have to be two years, i.e. can I do a shorter fellowship?

A: Newton International Fellowships must have a full-time duration of two years, you cannot hold the fellowship for less time.

However, there is the option of working part-time for health or caring responsibilities and in such instances you can hold the fellowship part-time over a longer period (for example, you could hold it at 50% part-time over four years). Applications should be submitted with a two-year duration and then, if awarded, part-time working requests can be submitted to the Royal Society.

4. Q: How will the Royal Society consider the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on my application?

A: The Royal Society appreciates the impact of the coronavirus pandemic is complex and varied. As such, we have a specific question in the application form for applicants to outline the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on their research.

5. Q: Am I still eligible for the Newton International Fellowship if I move to the UK during application stage, or after the application deadline?

A: If you fulfil all the eligibility criteria (please see Section 4 of the scheme notes) at the time of the application deadline date, provide the required information in your application, and submit your application before moving to the UK, you are eligible for the scheme. Moving to the UK after the application deadline date does not affect an applicant’s eligibility status.

- 6. Q: I have dual-nationality/citizenship, one being British. Am I still eligible to apply for a Newton International Fellowship?**
- A:** Please contact us providing further information on your dual nationality/citizenship and time spent in the UK. We will then be able to advise on how your individual situation may affect your eligibility.
- 7. Q: My research proposal is interdisciplinary – which Royal Society Subject Group/Area(s) should I submit my proposal to?**
- A:** Please refer to our website for information on which subjects we fund: [Subject Groups and Areas | Royal Society](#). Please discuss with your UK Sponsor who may be able to advise on which primary field of research would be best placed. Please note that the Subject Group is used to define which Royal Society Newton International Fellowship Panel assesses your application. Further details can be found in Section 5.2 of the scheme notes. Alternatively, you can contact us with a brief outline of the proposed research and a panel suggestion which can be reviewed by our panel chairs before submission of the application.
- 8. Q: My research is in the humanities and/or social sciences subject areas. How do I apply?**
- A:** Please apply for the International Fellowship through the [British Academy](#) website. For specific questions regarding your eligibility or the remit of the scheme you can contact the British Academy and review their scheme notes. Humanities and Social Sciences applications submitted through the Royal Society will be made ineligible as they are outside the Royal Society's remit.
- 9. Q: How do I choose a UK Host Organisation?**
- A:** Please see our website for details on eligible Host Organisations ([Making a grant application | Royal Society](#)) Look for places that are active in your field and try to find a Host Organisation that will give some help in preparing your application. Find out how the host will support the fellowship in terms of space and resources, and possibly longer-term prospects. Choosing a Host Organisation is an opportunity for you to find somewhere that provides you with collaborative links, access to facilities, and training and development options that will enhance your research. Your host organisation should support you through from your application to your award.
- 10. Q: Can I be hosted in a British Overseas Territory institution?**
- A:** Institutions in British Overseas Territories are not eligible to be the host for a Newton International Fellow.
- 11. Q: Will there be an interview round for the assessment?**
- A:** Interviews are not conducted on this scheme. Please see Section 5.2 of the Scheme Notes for details on our assessment process.
- 12. Q: Do you allow resubmissions?**
- A:** Each application round is treated independently; therefore, resubmissions are allowed if the applicant continues to meet the eligibility criteria for the scheme. There is no set waiting period before resubmitting, i.e., you can re-apply in the subsequent round after being unsuccessful.
- 13. Q: What is the status of my application?**
- A:** When the application has been submitted and the submission has been approved by the host organisation, the applicant will receive a confirmation of submission email. The applicant will also receive a confirmation email, once the application has passed the eligibility checking stage. After this stage, the application will be in the review status, and therefore there will be no further updates until the decision notification stage scheduled for August.
- 14. Q: Will I receive feedback on my application?**

A: Unfortunately, due to the high volume of applications the Royal Society receive for Newton International Fellowships, we will be unable to provide individualised feedback.

15. Can I apply for other fellowships at the same time as the Newton International Fellowships:

A: We understand that you might apply for other opportunities at the same time as the NIF. Please include any active fellowship applications in the 'Applicant Research Funding' section of the application form. If your applications are successful, you will be required to choose one fellowship as you will not be able to hold a NIF in conjunction with another fellowship.

References & Letters of Support

16. Q: What information should be included in nominated referee statements?

A: The nominated referee will have to provide a PDF formatted statement on headed paper, that includes their name, title, and contact details. In that statement they will have to provide an unbiased comment on the proposed research project and your suitability for the fellowship and the match with the proposed host institution and UK Sponsor. They should be able to comment authoritatively on the application. We do not have guidance on formatting and content beyond this.

17. Q: How do I check if my potential nominated referee is part of the assessment panel?

A: Please see our website for details on who is part of the Newton International Fellowship Standing Committee assessment panel: [Committees, Working Groups, and Councils | Royal Society | Royal Society](#)

18. Q: Can both of my nominated referees be based outside of the UK?

A: No, one nominated referee MUST be based inside the UK. We suggest the referee nominated by the UK Sponsor must be based in the UK. If one referee is not based in the UK this will render your application ineligible.

UK Sponsor

19. Q: What is the role of the UK Sponsor?

A: The UK Sponsor's role is to provide mentoring, support, and guidance throughout the duration of the award. The Sponsor is not a principal investigator, co-applicant, or supervisor for this grant. Please see Section 4.3 of the Scheme Notes for more information.

20. Q: Can an additional UK Sponsor be added to the application?

A: Additional UK Sponsors or co-investigators cannot be added to the application as participants on Flexi-Grant. However, if the applicant will receive additional support during their fellowship from another faculty member, this information can be highlighted in the UK Sponsor and Head of Department letters of support.

21. Q: Can a UK Sponsor support more than one applicant in a single round?

A: Yes, a UK researcher can be the Sponsor for more than one application.

22. Q: Can an Emeritus professor act as a UK Sponsor?

A: Emeritus Professors can act as a UK Sponsors if they have an agreement in place with the Host Organisation that permits this. They must have Emeritus Professor status at the host institution for the duration of the fellowship and the host institution must approve the application. The Emeritus Professor must ensure, in collaboration with the Head of Department, that the commitments from the Host Organisation (Documented in section 4.4 of the scheme notes) are met.

23. Q: How far in advance should I contact a potential Sponsor when preparing my application?

A: It is highly recommended that you contact potential Sponsors as early as possible, ideally well before the application deadline. Many Sponsors require time to consider proposals and complete their internal approval processes. As a guideline, we suggest reaching out at least one month in advance of the application deadline and preferably longer, to ensure sufficient time for discussions, revisions, and approvals.

24. Q: Can I return to my UK-based PhD supervisor or organisation?

A: Applicants proposing to return to their UK-based PhD organisation, PhD supervisor, or postdoctoral supervisor are generally considered ineligible unless exceptional reasons are provided. If applicants choose to proceed with this option, they must include a sound justification in the application, with a strong scientific rationale for the return.

This policy also applies to non-UK-based PhD supervisors who are now working at a UK institution.

Application Form

25. Q: Does the research proposal have margins or image limits?

A: There are no restrictions on margins and figures. Tables and images are to be included in the specified page limit. The research proposal may be accepted in landscape orientation only if submitting a PDF file. For more information, please see the Research Proposal section in Section 10.3 of the Scheme Notes.

26. Q: Does the 3-page PDF limit include references?

A: No, references can be included in addition to the 3-page limit.

27. The financial details section of the application form requires a Host Organisation type. How do I know which my Organisation is?

A: Please contact your UK Sponsor for clarification over whether your proposed Host Organisation is a Higher Education Institute (HEI) or Independent Research Organisation (IRO). Please note that the financial details section of the application form must be filled in with the oversight of your Host Organisation's Research/Finance office. Therefore, the Research Support participant role can be used on Flexi-Grant for this purpose.

28. The Royal Society's Newton International Fellowship funding cap is £280,000. Is this 80% or 100%?

A: Please see the [Royal Society Grant Funding Guidance](#) and the budget table in the Financial Details section in the Flexi-Grant application for clarification over which budget headings are funded at 80% and 100%. Please note that this differs depending on whether your Host Organisation is a Higher Education Institute (HEI) or Independent Research Organisation (IRO)

£280,000 is the maximum contribution (excluding Relocation and Visa expenses which can be applied for above the cap) the Royal Society will pay towards the fellowship. Therefore, for budget headings funded by the Royal Society at 80%, (for Higher Education Institutes), the Host Organisation must contribute the remaining 20%. Please see values below as a guide:

Example Budget Heading	Royal Society's Contribution (To be entered into the budget table)	Host Organisation's contribution	Total
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HEI: Salary (at 80%)	80% e.g. £35,000 in Year 1	20% e.g. £8,750 in Year 1	100% e.g. £43,750 (Gross Salary) in Year 1
IRO: Salary (at 100%)	100% e.g. £43,750 in Year 1	0%	100% e.g. £43,750 (Gross Salary) in Year 1

29. Q: What will my gross salary be?

A: Newton International Fellows' gross salary will be the sum of the Royal Society's Contribution (80%) and a contribution of 20% made by the Host Organisation if it is a HEI. If your Host Organisation is an IRO 100% of your salary will come from the Royal Society's contribution. If your Organisation applies London Weighting this will be in addition to the 100% Royal Society and Host Organisation contribution to your salary.

30. Q: I have completed all the sections, and the application is at 100% but I cannot see a button to submit my application.

A: All participants on the participants tab must appear as 'complete' in green before the submit button appears. If a participant appears in orange as 'incomplete' they need to login and select 'Save & Submit' on the application form page or 'Submit your contribution' on the summary page – otherwise you will not be able to submit your application to your host institution for approval. Letters of supports from the Head of Department and Nominated Referee are compulsory, while the Research Support is optional and can be revoked if no longer needed.

31. Q: I cannot fit all of my publications in the application due to the word limit. Which ones should I include?

A: Please include your most relevant publications (up to 10). If you are the first author, you can add 'et al' while if you are not the first author, you can include the initials for all contributing. Alternatively, if you have an ORCID account, use the 'Retrieve/Update ORCID details' option located above the 'List your Key and/or Relevant Publications' textbox. Reviewers can access your complete list of publications via your ORCID ID.