Royal Society Research Professorships

1. Overview

Aim: Royal Society Research Professorships provide long term support for world-class researchers of outstanding achievement and promise. These are the Society’s premier research awards and the aim of this scheme is to release the best leading researchers from teaching and administration allowing them to focus on research. Previous holders of Royal Society Research Professorships include Nobel Laureates and Presidents of the Royal Society.

Subjects covered: Research must be within the Royal Society’s remit of natural sciences, which includes but is not limited to biological research, chemistry, engineering, mathematics and physics. For a full list, please see https://royalsociety.org/grants-schemes-awards/grants/subject-groups/. The Royal Society does not cover clinical medicine (such as patient orientated research and clinical trials), social sciences or humanities, other than when working in partnership with organisations.

One award (Royal Society Noreen Murray Research Professorship) will be restricted to research in neurological sciences (specifically, neurobiology).

2. Eligibility Requirements

This scheme is open to world-class researchers (scientists and engineers). Applications are particularly welcomed from internationally renowned researchers currently residing outside of the UK.

The scheme is open to applicants of all nationalities. Note, Royal Society Research Professors requiring a visa to work in the UK are eligible for the Research and Innovation Talent Visa, i.e. the Tier 1 Exceptional Talent Visa, under the accelerated process of endorsement. Other visa routes are available. In line with the highly prestigious nature of the award, the Tier 1 Exceptional Talent visa route is designed for people who are internationally recognised as research and innovation leaders and enables the holder to be both adaptable and flexible during their research in the UK. Further details can be found on The Royal Society’s website https://royalsociety.org/about-us/competent-body/.

Under-represented groups are particularly encouraged to apply.

Length of tenure: Research Professors are appointed for up to 10 years: 5 years in the first instance with the opportunity to renew the professorship for a further 5 years subject to satisfactory progress. After 10 years, all responsibility for the post, financial and otherwise, will pass to the host organisation alone. A representative of the host organisation will be asked to agree in principle to make this commitment when an application is submitted to the Society.

Successful applicants will need to commence their Research Professorship award by the 31 March 2020.

Place of tenure: Professorships must be held at a UK University or a UK not-for-profit research institute (including Research Council Institutes). The host organisation will be required to provide assurance that the award will provide support for a new post and will be in addition to any existing posts. Royal Society funding cannot be used as substitution funding. This award is expected to be held full time, however, flexible working arrangements will be considered, according to the Royal Society’s policy.
3. **Award and funding**

Value and support provided by The Society includes:

A **contribution** to the award-holder’s basic **salary** of £83,333.58 per year, plus associated on-costs. The salary contribution may be supplemented at the discretion of the host organisation.

**Indirect and estate costs** – 80% of the award holder’s indirect and estate costs.

**Research assistance** - 80% of the full economic cost of a PDRA (including salary, and associated indirect and estate costs) and can include contribution to technical support if appropriately justified (note infrastructure technician costs should be included under directly allocated costs).

**Research expenses** - 100% of research expenses including consumables, equipment under £10,000 and travel etc

- **Equipment** - You can request specialised equipment required for your research outlined in your fellowship. Any equipment costing **more than £10,000 (inc. VAT)** will require a **50% contribution** from the host organisation (this can be financial or in-kind). Equipment purchased under this scheme is for the use of you the grant-holder. If the equipment is expected to be used more widely in the organisation, you should only request part of the total cost. In the event that the Society meets only part of the cost of the equipment, the grant holder should have priority access to the equipment during the award period. The Head of Department must confirm priority access to this equipment within their statement of support. Grant holders are not permitted to charge access costs for equipment purchased under this scheme. Applicants should clarify the VAT position on purchases before seeking a grant.

For all equipment and services costing more than £25,000 (excluding VAT), professionally qualified procurement staff must be consulted at the beginning of the procurement process and must approve the order before it is placed with the supplier.

- **A contribution to a PhD studentship** - You can request a contribution for a PhD studentship in Financial Years 2019/20 and 2020/21. If you are requesting costs to cover 2 years of a (new) 4-year PhD studentship, we will require a statement from you and your Head of Department confirming that:
  
  a. You and/or your host organisation will cover the remaining (final year) costs associated with the studentship (Fee at UK level and stipend);
  b. In the event of the award-holder leaving the host organisation, the PhD student 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 research fellow leaves the host organisation.

Applicants may request research expenses of £100k per year until 2021 (to cover research expenses, research assistance and contribution to a PhD studentship). In addition the Society will provide start up costs of £400k over two years (£200k and £200k) as follows:

- In financial year 2019/20, start up costs of up to £200,000 can be requested which will be paid in advance.
- In financial year 2020/21, research expenses of up to £300,000 (inclusive of £200k start up) can be requested. This will be paid quarterly in arrears.
- For financial years 2021/22, 2022/2023, 2023/24 and 2024/25, up to £16,000 per year for research expenses can be requested. This will be paid quarterly in arrears.

The Society is providing an enhanced level of research expenses for Research Professors until the end of March 2021 due to additional funding from the UK Government’s Talent Fund. The Society is not currently committing any enhanced funding for research expenses beyond the end of March 2021. Any future decision to continue this enhancement will be subject to the availability of continued funding of
the Royal Society through the Government’s Talent Fund. In the event that funding is available, the Society may run a further application process to enable award-holders to apply for additional funding during financial year 2020-21.

**Number of awards offered:** Up to 7 awards will be offered. This includes the Royal Society Noreen Murray Research Professorship, which is restricted to research in neurological sciences (specifically, neurobiology). Please note, the funding from this award will cover 100% of the research expenses and award-holder’s salary costs only and will not cover the estate and indirect costs.

4. **Timings and assessment criteria**

**Closing date:** 15:00 UK Time on Friday 09 August 2019
Please note that in order for your application to be considered by the Royal Society, it needs to be submitted (including completion of Head of Department’s support statement) with approval from the host organisation by the deadline of 09 August 2019.

**Results available:** Please note that applicants who are shortlisted for interview will be informed in October/November 2019 and interviews will be held at the Royal Society in London in November/December 2019. We anticipate results of this round will be available around December 2019.

**Assessment criteria**
These prestigious awards are aimed at world-class researchers and designed to enable such individuals of proven ability to lead independent, original research within the Society’s subject remit.

As such the primary considerations in the assessment will be:
- the outstanding research track record of the applicant and international standing in their field;
- the high quality and originality of the proposed research vision and programme, and how it will advance their field;
- the suitability of the research environment (UK university or research institution)

See section 6 for a summary of the review process.

**Other important information to note:**
- Applications will be made using the new Flexi-Grant® system. FAQ and Troubleshooting information can be found online ([support.flexigrant.com/support/home](http://support.flexigrant.com/support/home)).
- Fellows of the Royal Society can access Flexi-Grant® through their Fellows’ Room account on the Royal Society website.
- Please read the enclosed scheme guidance notes to help you complete your application.
- If your research will generate data of significant value to the research community, we ask you to provide additional information on your data management and sharing plan.
- We’re committed to supporting applicants with disabilities. If you need a reasonable adjustment during the application process, please contact the team ([seniorfellowships@royalsociety.org](mailto:seniorfellowships@royalsociety.org)) to let us know.

**Contact Information**
Enquires about this scheme can be made using the contact details below. Before contacting us, please check whether your question is answered by these scheme notes. If not, please contact the Grants Section Senior Fellowships team (tel: +44 (0) 20 7451 2263 or email: [seniorfellowships@royalsociety.org](mailto:seniorfellowships@royalsociety.org)).

Please quote your application reference number in all correspondence to the Royal Society.
5. Application Guidance Notes

The following set out the application process of the Royal Society Research Professorship scheme.

Using Flexi-Grant®
Applications can only be submitted online using the Royal Society’s Grants and Awards management system (Flexi-Grant®) via grants.royalsociety.org. Support, FAQs and troubleshooting 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.**

Before completing the online form, all applicants should check that they comply with the eligibility requirements and ensure all necessary information is presented in the application. These requirements are strictly adhered to and applications without all the necessary information, or evidence to show the assessment criteria are met, will be rejected.

Use of Application Data

Please note that information regarding your application for the Royal Society Research Professorship may be shared with the Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) for data monitoring and scheme evaluation purposes. You may also be contacted by selected third parties such as independent evaluators, consultancy groups, and career development organisations. If successful, the Royal Society will contact you regarding the administration of your award throughout the course of your funding and after its completion. You may also be contacted by the Royal Society, BEIS or an agent acting on their behalf, for reporting and evaluation purposes throughout the course of your funding and after its completion.

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

**ORCID identifier:** All applicants applying to the Royal Society will be required to obtain an ORCID (Open Researcher and Contributor ID) identifier before their application will be accepted for submission. ORCID maintains a registry of unique researcher identifiers and a transparent method of linking research funding, research publications, research data and any other research outputs to these unique identifiers. This is a mandatory requirement at the application submission stage only. You can register for an ORCID identifier via orcid.org/register.

Adding Participants

All applications must be commenced by the lead applicant. To invite a participant (i.e. Head of Department) to your application, the participant will need to be registered on Flexi-Grant®. You will need to ensure you have their registered email address to invite the participant on the participant tab.

Completing the application form

The 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
A full list of question fields to be completed as part of the application can be found in the following pages.

In the following table each box represents a page of the application form; the left-hand column contains the questions within each of these pages, as set out in the online form; the right-hand column contains useful guidance on its completion.

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 saved and submitted their work (please check the status of participants under the participants tab on the application form summary page). Late applications will not be accepted.

Please read these guidance notes carefully as you complete the form.

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<tr>
<th>Summary</th>
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<tr>
<td>Summary table</td>
<td>The summary page of the application form provides instructions for submission of your application for approval from the Host Organisation. In addition you are provided with an overview for each section of your application form, and the approximate length of time it will take to complete each section.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>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. Instructions for inviting participants can be found under the ‘participants’ tab on the application summary page.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Note:</strong> you will only be able to submit your application for approval by the UK Host Organisation once all sections of the form have been completed, which includes the Heads of Department support statement. Please invite them to your application at the beginning of your application.</td>
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<tr>
<th>Contact Details</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Title, Names, address, organisation and country*</td>
<td>Review and complete your <strong>personal details</strong> accurately. Errors in this section can cause difficulties in processing your application.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Under this section, you should edit the <strong>contact type</strong> 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’.</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Organisation:</strong> this table will automatically display details of the intended Host Organisation <em>marked by a tick</em> which you selected previously, and your current organisation if different from the organisation where the award will be held and administered.</td>
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### Applicant Career Summary

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Field</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Title of Current Position</strong></td>
<td>Please state the title of your current position.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Current Employer</strong></td>
<td>Please enter the official organisation name of your current employer (e.g. University of Bath).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Current Department</strong></td>
<td>Please enter details of your current department (e.g. Department of Astrophysics).</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Current Position Start Date</strong></td>
<td>Please enter the date when your current position started.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Current Position End Date</strong></td>
<td>Please enter the date when your current position is expected to finish.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
| **Personal Statement** | 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. (You will be asked to outline your proposed research programme in the next section).  

**Plain text only** 1,000 words or PDF upload. If uploading a PDF file please note it must be up to 2 sides of A4, portrait orientation. Please do not use a text size smaller than Arial 10 and make sure the document is titled.  

**Note:** You can retrieve your career history information from your profile to complete this section of the application form using your ORCID identifier. |

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<tr>
<th>Field</th>
<th>Description</th>
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</table>
| **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.  

Please provide details of any periods of part-time working, career breaks, extended sick leave or maternity/paternity/parental/adoptive leave.  

**Note:** You can retrieve your career history information from your profile to complete this section of the application form using your ORCID identifier. |

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<th>Field</th>
<th>Description</th>
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| **Applicant Qualifications** | Please list all your qualifications in reverse chronological order.  

**Note:** You can retrieve your qualification information from your profile to complete this section of the application form using your ORCID identifier. |

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<th>Field</th>
<th>Description</th>
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</table>
| **List your Key and/or Relevant Publications** | Please provide details of authors, titles and references of your best publications in refereed journals, in reverse chronological order. You should choose not only the best but also those most relevant to the application to support your case.  

Maximum of 300 words.  

**Most significant publications** – Please also identify with asterisks up to 10 publications which you consider to be most significant.  

**Note:** You can retrieve your full publications from your profile to complete this section of the application form using your ORCID identifier. |

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<tr>
<th>Field</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Applicant Research Funding</strong></td>
<td>Please list all your current and previous research funding in reverse chronological order.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Note: You can retrieve your information from your profile to complete this section of the application form using your ORCID identifier.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Research Proposal</strong></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Project Title</strong></td>
<td>Please give the full title of your proposed project. Maximum 20 words.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Keywords</strong></td>
<td>Provide up to 5-10 keywords that could be used to describe your research, which will aid with identifying the most appropriate peer reviewers.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Subject Group</strong></td>
<td>Please select the subject group that most closely reflects the research area of the research proposal from the drop-down menu.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Subject Area</strong></td>
<td>Please select one or more subject areas that most clearly defines the research area of the research proposal from the subject sub-category list.</td>
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</table>
| **Abstract** | 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.  
*Plain text only maximum* of 400 words. |
| **Lay Summary** | 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.  
*Plain text only maximum* of 250 words. |
| **Research Proposal** | Please use this section to make your case for support. 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.  
*Plain text only* 2,000 words or PDF upload. *If uploading a PDF file please note it must be up to 4 sides of A4, portrait orientation. Please do not use a text size smaller than Arial 10 and make sure the document is titled.* |
| **Host Department** | Please provide the name of the proposed department at your host organisation. Please enter the official name (e.g. School of Chemistry rather than Chemistry). |
| **Host Organisation** | Please select the organisation where the award will be held from the drop down list. |
| **Outline of Data Management and Data Sharing Plan** | The Society supports science as an open enterprise, and is committed to ensuring that data outputs from research supported by the Society are made publically available in a managed and responsible manner, with as few restrictions as possible. Data outputs should be deposited in an appropriate, recognised, publically available repository, so that others can verify and build upon the data, which is of public interest. To fully realise the benefits of publically available data they should be made intelligently open by fulfilling the requirements of being discoverable, accessible, intelligible, assessable and reusable.  
The 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 their approach for data management and sharing, applicants should consider the following: |
<table>
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<th>Question</th>
<th>Answer</th>
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<tr>
<td>What data outputs will be generated by the research that are of value to the public?</td>
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<td>Where and when will you make the data available?</td>
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<tr>
<td>How will others be able to access the data?</td>
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<tr>
<td>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?</td>
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<td>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.</td>
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<td>How will datasets be preserved to ensure they are of long-term benefit?</td>
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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.

**Plain text only** Maximum of 200 words.

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### Use of Animals in Research

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.

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.

**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.

### Experimental Design Assistant

The Royal Society recommends that applicants use the [Experimental Design Assistant](https://nc3rs.org.uk) (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.

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.

**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.

### Use of Human Patients and Tissue

Any application for a research proposal involving human 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.

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<tr>
<th>Does your proposal involve the use of human patients or tissue?*</th>
<th>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.</th>
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<th>Financial details</th>
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<tr>
<td>Directly incurred costs*</td>
<td>These are costs that can be explicitly identifiable as arising from the research fellowship. The university must have an auditable record for these costs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contribution to Basic salary*</td>
<td>Our contribution towards the basic award holder’s salary is £83,333.58 per year plus associated on-costs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>London Allowance</td>
<td>Where appropriate, and if not included in basic salary, please give details of any London weighting allowance.</td>
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</table>
| Research expenses* | Research expenses cover costs associated with a contribution to a PhD studentship, consumables, animal purchases and maintenance, travel, equipment under £10,000, research support and research assistance. Research expenses are covered at 100% fEC, excluding staff costs (i.e. PDRA which will be provided at 80% fEC. **However, please enter all costs at 100% fEC.** Please provide the total requested for each heading, per financial year, in the budget table in the online application form. Applicants may request research expenses of £100k per year until 2021 (to cover research expenses, research assistance and contribution to a PhD studentship). In addition the Society will provide start up costs of £400k over two years (£200k and £200k) as follows:  
  - In financial year 2019/20, start up costs of up to £200,000 can be requested which will be paid in advance.  
  - In financial year 2020/21, research expenses of up to £300,000 (inclusive of £200k start up) can be requested. This will be paid quarterly in arrears.  
  - For financial years 2021/2022, 2022/2023, 2023/2024 and 2024/2025, up to £16,000 per year for research expenses can be requested. This will be paid quarterly in arrears. |
<p>| Postdoctoral Researcher costs* | Please provide the basic salary, oncosts, indirect, estate and other costs, at 100% fEC. If awarded, all associated PDRA costs will be covered at 80% fEC. |
| PhD Stipend and PhD Fees* | Please include cost of stipend (fixed value) of £15,099 per year. Please include London weighting if necessary. University fees of up to £4,327 per year can also be requested. |
| Consumables (including fieldwork)* | Funding for essential consumables may be requested. Funding for essential fieldwork can also be requested. |</p>
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<th>Category</th>
<th>Description</th>
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| Other research expenses*| Other expenses may include:  
  - access charges of external facilities  
  - animal and plant licence fees  
  - software licenses                                                                                                                            |
| Animal purchases        | Funding for animal purchases may be requested but should be fully justified.                                                                                                                               |
| Animal maintenance      | Funding for animal maintenance may be requested but should be fully justified.                                                                                                                               |
| Travel*                 | Travel costs can be requested for you and your team and should be based on the most suitable and economical form of travel. Costs for attendance at conferences may be included, where attendance will be of direct benefit to the research. Travel to collaborators and other individual research related travel can requested as well as for attendance of Royal Society events. |
| Equipment*              | Funding may be requested for the purchase of specialised equipment (including the cost of installation, spares or software procurement and the annual cost of maintenance or relocation charges specifically related to the newly purchased equipment). Funding may be requested for highly specialised computer hardware. Any equipment costing more than £10,000 will require additional justification and a 50% contribution from the host organisation. Applicants should clarify the VAT position on purchases before seeking a grant. |
| Indirect costs*         | Non-specific university costs e.g. costs of administration, such as personnel, finance, library and some departmental services, charged across all research activities, based on estimates that are not included as Directly Allocated costs. Like estates costs, indirect costs will be calculated by your host organisation and a single figure is required. Information about the derivation or justification of indirect costs and estates costs is not required. **Please ensure that no indexation is added to these costs.** This will be added automatically each year of successful awards in line with HM Treasury's GDP deflator. Please enter these costs at 100% fEC. If awarded, these costs will be provided at 80% fEC. |
| Directly allocated costs*| The costs of resources that will be used by you that are shared by other research activities. These are funded on the basis of estimates. This cannot include the purchasing and maintenance of animal costs. **Please ensure that no indexation is added to these costs.** This will be added automatically each year of successful awards in line with HM Treasury's GDP deflator. Please enter these costs at 100% fEC. If awarded, these costs will be provided at 80% fEC. |
Estates costs*  
Please provide details of the estates costs required for the duration of the research fellowship.

These costs may include building and premises costs, basic services and utilities, clerical staff and equipment maintenance or operational costs that have not been included under other cost headings.

Please consult with the appropriate financial administrators to obtain the relevant figure for your host organisation.

Please enter these costs at 100% fEC. If awarded, these costs will be provided at 80% fEC.

Other*  
Other directly allocated costs can be requested, calculated on the basis of estimates, with the exception of depreciation costs and charge out costs for major facilities.

Funding for infrastructure technicians –
As part of the directly allocated costs applicants can now request funding for infrastructure technician costs.

Any request for other directly allocated costs must be fully justified.

Justification for research expenses*  
Please provide full justification for all requested research expenses requested, including for PDRA, any technical support and PhD studentship costs.

**Applicant Declaration**

By completing this section you are declaring that the information you have provided in your application is true and correct.

You are also signing to confirm the following:

- 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.
- 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.
### Departmental support

**Head of department**

You should invite the Head of Department Head of School/Dean/Vice Chancellor 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 are able to supply their statement by 15:00 UK time **09 August 2019**.

Please check which email address your Head of Department 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 the Head of Department to participate in completion of the application form, the Applicant is instructed to ensure that the Head of Department 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.**

As Head of Department Head of School/Dean/Vice Chancellor, you should state that the applicant will not have teaching nor administrative commitments for the duration of their professorship. You will also be expected to provide assurance that the award will provide support for a new post and will be in addition to any existing posts. Additionally, please provide details of the resources that the department will commit to the applicant should the application be successful.

It is the responsibility of the applicant to:
- Inform the Head of Department of the deadline
- Liaise with the Head of Department 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 Head of Department completion status on the application summary page. The Applicant can issue a **reminder** email to the Head of Department 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.

### 6. Review process

Applications are assessed by the Royal Society Research Professorship Panel.

All proposals submitted are initially reviewed and assessed by at least two members of the selection panel who have the most appropriate scientific expertise. Following initial assessment, a shortlist is drawn up, with shortlisted proposals subject to high quality peer review. Following completion of independent peer review, a final shortlist for interview is drawn up with oversight by the Chair. If successful at this stage, you will be notified about your interview in October/November 2019. Interviews will be held in November/December 2019. It is expected that applicants will be notified of the outcome of their application in December 2019.
Please be assured that the Royal Society specifically requests anyone involved in reviewing applications to consider them in confidence.

7. Enquiries

If you have any enquiries about the submission of your application or about the Flexi-Grant® process, please contact the Grants Section Senior Fellowships team (tel: +44 (0) 20 7451 2263 or email: seniorfellowships@royalsociety.org).
Appendix 1: Application Submission Process Flow Diagram

ROUND OPENS

Applicants fill in form online via Flexi-Grant®

Head of Department submit their support via Flexi-Grant®

Host Organisation’s approver submits their approval via Flexi-Grant®

ROUND CLOSES

Final submission to the Royal Society by deadline 09 August 2019, 15:00 UK Time

Application is checked for eligibility

Application enters selection process

Interviews held December 2019

AWARDED