

University Research Fellowships 2020 FAQs

ELIGIBILITY

1. **Q: If I am slightly outside of the three to eight years of research experience, can I still apply?**

A: Please contact the University Research Fellowship team (urf@royalsociety.org) with the date of when your PhD thesis was accepted in its final form, dates of your employment history and any career breaks.

2. **Q: Can I apply for other fellowships at the same time as the University Research Fellowship?**

A: While we understand that you might apply for other opportunities at the same time as the University Research Fellowship, if you were to accept a fellowship equivalent to a University Research Fellowship while your application is under consideration, you would be required to inform the Society and withdraw your application.

3. **Q: Can I apply for a University Research Fellowship if I hold a proleptic position?**

A: If you hold a proleptic position at the time of application, you are not eligible to apply.

APPLICATION FORM

4. **Q. What is the maximum value of research expenses I can apply for in each fellowship year?**

A: Contribution to research expenses is £13,000 in year one and £11,000 for following years. Furthermore the Society will provide up to £40,000 for additional research expenses in 2020/21 financial year (1 October 2020 - 31 March 2021). In your application you will need to enter financial details per fellowship year.

Total amount of research expenses that you can apply for in each fellowship year is:

Year 1 (1 October 2020 – 30 September 2021): £13k + £40k = £53k

Year 2 (1 October 2021 – 30 September 2022): £11k

Year 3 (1 October 2022 – 30 September 2023): £11k

Year 4 (1 October 2023 – 30 September 2024): £11k

Year 5 (1 October 2024 – 30 September 2025): £11k

Please note:

Fellowship year: 1 October to 30 September

Financial year: 1 April to 31 March

5. **Q: Can I apply for funds to host a workshop?**

A: Unfortunately, workshop costs (eg catering, venue hire, stationary, printing) are not eligible. However, you can use your travel expenses to cover travel costs for your collaborators and members of your research group.

6. Q: Can I request a contribution to a three-year PhD studentship instead of a four-year one?

A: Only a one-year contribution to a four-year PhD studentship can be requested. We will require a statement from you and your Head of Department confirming that you and/or your host organisation will cover the remaining (three year) costs associated with the studentship (fees at UK level and stipend). Please note, this has to be a contribution to a new PhD studentship, not an existing one that has already started.

7. Q: Can I request costs to cover a technician's time?

A: There are two different ways to include these costs:

1. You can apply for technical support/research assistant. This can be included under "Other research expenses" requiring technicians to complete timesheets if not working 100% of contracted time on the grant.
2. Costs for infrastructure technicians, such as pooled staff, can be included under Other Directly Allocated Costs.

8. Q: Do images and references need to be included within the three page limit of the research proposal or are they in addition to?

A: All images and references have to fit within the three page limit of the research proposal document.

9. 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 10 most relevant publications. 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. Reviewers will be able to see the full list of your publications through your ORCID ID, which is a part of the application.

10. 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 two Nominated Referees are compulsory, while the Research Support is optional and can be revoked if no longer needed.

11. Q: What is the Head of Department expected to contribute to the application form?

A: The Head of Department section is made of two parts:

1. Statement of Support (PDF upload)
2. Commitment of Resources (max 250 words text box) - please provide details of the resources that the department will commit to the applicant. This section will be included in the award letter if the application is successful.