University Research Fellowships 2021 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 must inform the Society and will be required to 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.

4. Q: I hold a tenure track position with five years' salary guaranteed and followed by a permanent position subject to performance, am I eligible to apply?
   A: This would be considered equivalent to holding an independent research position and on par with a proleptic position, you are therefore not eligible to apply. Please note that if you were awarded such position while your application is under assessment you will be required to inform the Society and withdraw your application.

5. Q: Do you allow resubmissions?
   A: Yes as long as an applicant continues to meet the eligibility criteria.

6. Q: What impact will the Covid-19 pandemic have on my application and/or award?
   A: The Royal Society appreciates the impact of the coronavirus pandemic will be complex and varied. As such we have a specific question in the application form for applicants to outline the impact on their research. Please also see our Covid-19 related FAQs: https://royalsociety.org/grants-schemes-awards/grants/coronavirus-covid19-grants-information/faq-award-holders/

APPLICATION FORM

7. 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. Total amount of research expenses that you can apply for in each fellowship year is:
   Year 1 (1 October 2021 – 30 September 2022): £13,000
   Year 2 (1 October 2022 – 30 September 2023): £11,000
Year 3 (1 October 2023 – 30 September 2024): £11,000
Year 4 (1 October 2024 – 30 September 2025): £11,000
Year 5 (1 October 2025 – 30 September 2026): £11,000

Please note:
Fellowship year: 1 October to 30 September
Financial year: 1 April to 31 March

8. Q: Can I apply for funds to host a workshop?
   A: Unfortunately, workshop costs (e.g., 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.

9. Q: Can I request funds to cover open access publishing fees?
   A: Costs associated with open access publications cannot be requested.

10. 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.

11. 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 20). 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.

12. 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.

13. 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.