

## Future Leaders Fellowships Self-Assessment template and guidance for applicants

### Introduction

This form is for prospective applicants to [round 11 of the UKRI Future Leaders Fellowships](#) scheme that would like to host their Fellowship at the University of Liverpool. It is intended to allow prospective applicants to self-assess their suitability for the opportunity ahead of developing a full application. We encourage you to utilise the information that you provide in this self-assessment template when discussing support for your application with your chosen host department.

**If you are interested in applying for a Future Leaders Fellowship to be hosted at the University of Liverpool:**

1. Review the internal demand management guidance and timeline
2. Complete this template
3. Discuss your proposal with your HoD to secure departmental support for your application preferably before you submit your Intention to Submit form.
4. If you decide that an FLF is right for you, please complete and submit your [Intention to Submit form](#) by Monday 23 February 2026, by 4pm
5. HoD to confirm with you if they are supportive of your application (prior to the internal submission deadline of 9 March 2026)
6. Submit your Internal Application form before 9 March 2026 (Internal Application template will be available as soon as possible following UKRI's full announcement)
7. HoD to submit HoD Statement of Support template by 9 March 2026

**THIS SELF-ASSESSMENT TEMPLATE DOES NOT NEED TO BE SUBMITTED TO THE UNIVERSITY OF LIVERPOOL PEER REVIEW COLLEGE**

### Resources

- For internal candidates, the UoL Research Funding and Outputs Hub has some general resources on [preparing for a fellowship application](#)
- You should also carefully review the call [guidance and eligibility criteria](#).

## Eligibility

Your research vision and career stage should align with the funder remit broadly outlined below.

FLFs are designed to support fellows to develop as **impactful and influential** research or innovation leaders. Applications are encouraged from the entirety of the UKRI remit. The opportunity aims to provide **long-term, flexible funding to tackle difficult and novel challenges**, and support **adventurous, ambitious programmes**.

### Who is eligible to apply?

Early career researchers and innovators who are either transitioning to or establishing independence or developing their own original and ambitious plans within a commercial setting. There are no eligibility rules based on whether you currently hold a permanent or open-ended position or job role.

### Who is not eligible to apply?

You are not eligible to apply if:

- you have already achieved research or innovation independence (for example, by securing funding aimed at this career stage, or by already managing your own significant programme of work within a business)
- you are a senior academic or innovator

To further assess and justify your suitability, look at the application guidance on the [UKRI FLF scheme web pages](#).

## How to use this template

- Use the table below to summarise the key aspects of your research vision and reflect on any gaps you might have in your plans or experience. This will help you to consider your overall fit to the FLF scheme at this point in time.
- Prior to submitting an application, you should discuss departmental support with your chosen host department. We encourage you to use this template to frame these discussions to confirm eligibility, fit to opportunity and strategic fit to the host department.

**Note: Applications received without the support of an HoD will be rejected.**

## Self-Assessment Table

The table is split into three sections:

1. **Research vision:** Considering [the three Ps of a fellowship application](#) (person, project and place) will help you think about you and your projects fit to the FLF scheme
2. **Career stage:** Consider the UKRI guidance on eligibility for this scheme and whether you are at the right point in your career to take this step
3. **Overall assessment:** Space for you to comment on your overall readiness to apply for an FLF at this time

<b>1. Research vision</b>	
<b>Person</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Why are <b>you the right candidate</b> to deliver your research vision? What skills and experience will you bring?</li><li>• Why is now the <b>right time</b> for you to take the next step in your career?</li></ul> <b>Project</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• What about your approach is <b>novel or innovative</b>? Is it distinct from your previous work and that of your previous supervisor(s)?</li><li>• Why does your project need a <b>fellowship award, instead of a standard grant</b>?</li></ul> <b>Place</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Is your research <b>complementary</b> to The University of Liverpool/your department?</li><li>• Why is here the right place to deliver it?</li></ul>	
<b>2. Career stage</b>	
Applicants should be: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Looking to establish or transition to independence, OR</li><li>• Developing their own original and ambitious plans within a commercial setting</li></ul>	

Consider both the [person specification](#) in the application guidance\* and the following three areas of your track record to assess whether you have sufficient experience across all areas to present a strong capability to deliver statement:

- **Research** experience (e.g. Co-I experience, outputs)
- **Engagement** experience (e.g. invited speaker, external partnerships, advisory experience)
- **Leadership\* and collegiality** experience (e.g. peer review, mentoring, leading a work package)

\*The FLF scheme is for future leaders, so you don't have to have specific leadership experience yet, but some indication of how leadership is an important next step in your skills development will help your application.

### 3. Overall assessment and next steps

Following consideration of the above prompts, assess how closely you are suited to applying for this scheme and note your next steps.

E.g. If you have noted any gaps in your experience or issues with your project proposal, you may wish to discuss these with a mentor and/or consider delaying your application to a future round/scheme to allow more time to grow your experience in these areas.

## Planning your Time

A strong FLF application will require a significant amount of time to develop, so consider getting things in place (for example speaking to your Head of Department to gain their support, and potential partners) as early as you can. Applicants are encouraged to plan their associated workload accordingly and ask for support to do this. Engaging with a mentor early in the process will be a useful step.