

Diversity results for UKRI Future Leaders Fellowships

Rounds 1 to 7

Future Leaders Fellowships

Future Leaders Fellowships (FLF) support talented people in universities, businesses, and other research and innovation environments. They also allow universities, research institutes, independent research organisations and businesses to develop their most talented early career researchers and innovators or to attract new people to their organisations, including from overseas. To accompany the announcement of round 7 FLF awards we have published diversity data for round 7, and all rounds completed to date.

In round 7, demand management was applied, with the number of applications permitted from each academic host organisation capped at between 2 & 10 (depending on researcher population size). Alongside this, host organisations were required to submit an inclusive selection statement to explain the process they had used to select which candidates they put forward. The addition of demand management means that care should be taken when comparing rounds 1-6 to round 7 although it is noted that demand management coupled with the inclusive selection requirement did not adversely affect the diversity of applicants to the scheme.

Diversity results for the Future Leaders Fellowships

The dataset contains data on the four protected characteristics (gender, age, ethnicity, disability) for which data are collected from returns by individuals to their Joint electronic Submissions (Je-S) account, used by the FLF applicants to apply for UKRI funding.

Within the associated Excel file, counts and results are not disclosed for groups with 1 to 4 members, which are denoted with '--'. Counts of zero are shown, with other counts rounded to the nearest multiple of 5.

Percentages are calculated based on the unrounded counts, where a count is between 1 to 4 the percentage will also be denoted as '--'. The purpose of this rounding methodology is to reduce the risk of identifying individuals from published figures.

For round 7 the data are based on the awards that were accepted by applicants as of November 2023. For rounds 1 – 6 data are based on awards that have started.

It is worth noting that some of the groups in the protected characteristics have a low number of applicants, so care should be taken when interpreting differences in the figures.

We note:

- Round 7 award rates have increased due to the introduction of academic organisation caps on applications introduced in Round 7. Round 7 has a tentative award rate of 18.2%*, while rounds 1 to 6 had an award rate of 17%.
- Round 7 award rates were 25% for female applicants and 14% for male applicants. The proportion of applications received from female applicants was 5 percentage points higher for round 7 in comparison to rounds 1 to 7 combined.
- In round 7 the award rate for ethnic minority applicants was 16%. The proportion of applications received by ethnic minority applicants was 23% and the proportion of awards was 20%. In round 7 the award rate for ethnic minority applicants was 2 percentage points lower than that of white applicants. Over rounds 1 to 7 the award rate for ethnic minority applicants was 5 percentage points lower than that of white applicants.
- Over all seven rounds of the FLF, 4% of applications have been from applicants who have disclosed a disability, with award rates for these applicants 1.7% higher than award rates for the scheme as a whole.

- The only age groups for which we have not yet made an award are the 60-69 and 70+ age groups. We continue to make awards across all other age groups. The proportion of applications from applicants up to 29 reduced by 6 percentage points in comparison to rounds 1 to 7 combined. Across all other age groups, applications and awards for round 7 are consistent with the proportions of all rounds combined.

The scheme is committed to supporting researchers and innovators with outstanding potential, regardless of their background. Our processes for reviewing applications aim to be fair and unbiased. UKRI is examining the data in further detail and will be analysing further data to gain insight regarding the potential causes of any disparities that may be seen in award rates.

*subject to award acceptance, figures collated November 2023