



UK Research  
and Innovation

# Supplementary Document for FLF non-academic webinars

**Round 7 Guidance for non-academic hosted applicants can be found in the 'Additional Info' section of the [Round 7 Funding Finder](#) page on the UKRI website.**

Can you kindly share the link of the previous webinar?

A recording of the first business webinar, introducing the scheme and providing information is available [here](#).

Please can you provide in depth guidance on how to complete the costing? Can you show an example of a completed finance form and where the numbers come from?

We are unable to provide a completed finance form but you may seek guidance on Equipment, Overhead and Other costs under Section 6 (Resources) of the non-academic guidance document.

You can also seek guidance on other cost categories at [on the UKRI website](#).

Does this have to be 4 years? Can the funding be across 2 years?

In order for the 4-year Future Leaders Fellowship to allow the Fellow time to tackle ambitious, challenging research and innovation, and to develop their career the duration cannot be shortened. A shorter programme of work would not match the ambitions of the scheme.

Are applicants from Wales welcome to apply?

Applicants from Wales are welcome to apply as the scheme is UK wide.

Can co-fellow applications be made - two business applicants (fellows) sharing the delivery of the programme?

Yes. Please refer to Annex B of the non-academic guidance document for more guidance on whether a job-share might be right for you.

Is there a minimum time in this scheme for someone to be granted the status of "fellow"? I think my idea would take 18-24 months.

The Future Leaders Fellowship is a 4-year programme to tackle ambitious and challenging research and innovation and to develop your career and the duration cannot be shortened.

Is there any sector preference / prioritisation e.g., health, environment, arts etc.? If so, would you be able to point me towards relevant guidance please?

Please kindly refer to Section 2.2 (Project Eligibility) of the non-academic guidance document.

What about projects in public health? If an idea would not lead to a patent but is still innovative in terms of a new process?

We can't give advice on specific projects, but as long as you are able to demonstrate that the research and/or innovation project meets the Assessment Criteria and Project Eligibility it can come from any remit or sector.

The assessment criteria can be found within the Assessment Criteria document, found on the link at the top of this document.

The project eligibility can be found in the non-academic guidance document.

If we are a founder of a micro-SME, we were advised to evidence to have other partnerships. Would it be possible to host the R&D team within another institution such as a university? Another question, if as a fellowship applicant I straddle both business and academia (i.e. founder and also lecturer/researcher) then how would you advice applying, as a business or academia?

Yes, it is possible to host the R&D team within another institution such as university. However, there can only be one host organisation where the applicant is/will be employed. Other organisations can be collaborators, project partners, subcontractors, and/or provide mentors. Time can be spent at another organisation away from the host organisation on secondment.

We are unable to advise on who is best placed to host the fellowship applicant as the decision lies with the applicant and they must make the judgement based on personal circumstances, the nature of the programme of work and taking the assessment criteria into consideration.

Could we apply if we just finished our PhD without having "business" affiliation or experience yet?

Please refer to the person specification in Annex C of non-academic guidance document.

Can someone with close to none publications apply?

Yes. The outputs list should include sector relevant outputs. For non-academic-hosted applicants this may include patents/new products/processes/trade publications etc. UKRI welcomes the inclusion of preprints in the Outputs list. We recommend that you refer to the person specification Annex C in our non-academic guidance document.

Can a High Value Manufacturing Catapults attached to a University be considered a business for purposes of this application?

Catapult organisations are eligible to apply for an FLF award. However, please kindly note that If they are a non-IRO, they can refer to Round 7 Guidance for Non-academic-hosted Applicants and if they are, they can refer to Round 7 guidance for academic-hosted applicants for more information.

What reassurance or commitment do you need from the employing/supporting company?

Responsibilities of the host organisation can be found at Section 2.7 of the non-academic guidance document.

If we collaborate with university, should we let them register in our application together as well?

The main host and applicant should register on Je-S. For more information on collaborations see Section 3.5 of the non-academic guidance document.

Can you apply for FLF with a totally different project than the one applied last time, which was not successful?

Please see Section 2.11 (Resubmission policy) of the non-academic guidance document.

"Good morning, thank you for all the very useful and detailed information provided around about the specific criteria for FLF resubmissions? The expression of interest stage opens on September the 6th. I'm not back in the office until early-mid September but I wanted to use the next couple of weeks to sense-check eligibility and size up the work needed on the current proposal if we resubmit. So any further info or guidance around how much proposals have to change or be reworked to be eligible would be very helpful at this point."

Please see Section 2.11 (Resubmission policy) of the non-academic guidance document.

We are unable to advise on the exact details that needs to be changed to be eligible. Previously unsuccessful applicants can apply to subsequent FLF calls provided the proposal address feedback from reviewers and the interview panel (where applicable) and will be assessed alongside all other applications to that call without bias. A summary of these amendments and how the feedback has been addressed must be detailed in the Cover Letter attached to the application. UKRI reserve the right to reject applications that are not deemed to have addressed feedback appropriately.

What flexibility do we have about start date of the project for this round?

We expect decision to be communicated to be announced by October 2023, after which the latest start date for this round will be 31 March 2024.

One of my colleagues submitted an application in the last round and was invited to interview but unfortunately was unsuccessful on that occasion. She is looking to rework her application with a view to resubmit to the current round. Are there any specific criteria or guidance around re-submissions, and in particular which criteria may have changed from the last round that would require a re-think of some aspects of the proposal? Any advice, tips and guidance on these points gratefully received."

Please see Section 2.11 (Resubmission policy) of the non-academic guidance document and Round 7 Assessment criteria (which can also be found on the link at the top of this document).

What is the difference between Project Partners and Co-Investigator?

Please see the difference between both at 3.3 Co-Investigator and 3.5.1 Project Partner of the non-academic guidance document.

If your application is likely to include a mixture of academic and non-academic workstreams, is there anything that you would like to see in application?

It is up to your own judgement and interpretation on how to best present your application considering the assessment criteria.

Can we have multiple host organisations (a partnership of three being the "host")?

No. There can only be one host organisation where the applicant is/ will be employed. Other organisations can be collaborators, project partners, subcontractors, and/or provide mentors. Time can be spent at another organisation away from the host organisation.

"What if I am in the process of completing a PhD? Can I still apply? Can I ask for reduced hours for the time needed to complete the PhD and complete publications, which may also be relevant to my FLF application? Can my PhD be incorporated?"

PhDs are not funded through this scheme as there are other UKRI schemes available. Reduced Hours are only applicable for non-academic hosted fellows where a fellow's career will benefit from taking on non-fellowship activities, such as working on ongoing external contracts, Innovate UK grants, or business as usual activities, non-academic-hosted fellows may hold the fellowship on a 'Reduced Hours' basis, where up to 40% of a fellow's time is spent on other work commitments. For more details, please see section 2.5.1 of the non-academic guidance document

What defines 'fundamental research' on the finance form for determines subsidy level?

Please see FLF Subsidy Control and State Aid: Funding levels and additional considerations of the non-academic guidance document

If we are under Subsidy control as micro-SME for 100% eligibility, then is there a top limit of £300k to apply for the FLF due to state aid or de minimis?

Please see FLF Subsidy Control and State Aid: Funding levels and additional considerations of the non-academic guidance document

The De minimis rule does not apply to the Future Leaders Fellowships programme, it is subject to Subsidy Control/State Aid funding based on the General Block Exemption Regulation; you are also required to clear the required financial checks.

You welcome a portfolio of projects, but how are you meant to create a diagram for a portfolio with sufficient detail on each one?

It is up to your judgement on how to best present the work plan to reflect the case for support, as any form of work plan is acceptable within the page limit.

When considering 'conflict of interest' individuals within a cover letter, does this include senior academics you know or have worked with? Or more specific conflicts around formal roles, past tendering experiences, competitive or commercial roles, etc.?

You may include any 'conflict of interest' individuals that you do not wish to be approached for a review. UKRI will make all reasonable efforts to honour justified requests, however this cannot be guaranteed.

Can I apply to the FLF with a proposal in relation to mental health, performance and space exploration?

Please kindly refer to our guidance at Section 2.2 Project Eligibility.

What is the first start date possible?

We expect decisions to be communicated to be announced by October 2023, after which the earliest start date is subjected to clearing all required project set-up checks.

Can non-researcher businesses/organisation apply? and is it worth applying?

Non-Research organisations are eligible to apply provided that the company is registered on company's house and has a UK Postcode. Please note that non-academic awards are subjected to FLF Subsidy Control and State Aid: Funding levels and additional considerations. Please see the non-academic guidance document for details.

We have funded a non-for-profit organisation through FLF before.

Discussion Panel Audio Issues

The webinar recording on the YouTube video includes an improved-quality version of the discussion panel segment, with subtitles.