

Round 11 Webinar Question and Answer

This document details commonly asked questions from the Round 11 webinars held in late March 2026 and provides answers from the UKRI Future Leaders Fellowships Team.

Is there a deadline to advise the FLF team about proposals with budgets over £1.4 million?

Any time up to submission but definitely as soon as possible after submission, including the application number generated by TFS.

Is it £1.4 million at 100% FEC or 80% FEC?

It is 80% FEC.

What is the difference between the assessment areas and assessment criteria?

These are different things.

The assessment areas are:

- vision and approach
- applicant capability to deliver
- career development
- host organisation support
- ethics and responsible research and innovation (RRI)
- resources and cost justification

The assessment areas are how you write your proposal. These are all individual questions within the application that the applicant must answer.

The assessment criteria are what the reviewers will use to assess the application.

They are:

- Research and innovation excellence
- Applicant and their development
- Impact and strategic relevance
- Research and Innovation Environment & Costs

The added value of the fellowship mechanism of support is key across all four criteria.

Can you advise how divergent reviews are handled for this scheme?

Every application goes through rigorous assessment and the expert reviewers' comments and scores are only a part of this process.

During the sift panel meeting, all the reviewers' comments are taken into consideration, along with the applicant's response. The application is assessed against the four assessment criteria by members of the Future Leaders Fellowships panel college and other relevant experts.

Is it still a requirement for host institutions to give an FLF applicant an open-ended position at the end of the FLF?

These fellowships require commitments from both UKRI and the host organisation of a tapered salary commitment from year 3 based on the Full Economic Costing model.

For academic applicants, the host should confirm an open-ended UK-based independent research or innovation position or providing a route to an open-ended UK based independent research and/or innovation position, to be taken up during or on the completion of the fellowship (in line with organisational employment policies and practices). Host organisations which do not provide the expected support, or where fellows are not progressing to open-ended positions (if remaining in academia) may not be awarded further fellowships, in the absence of an acceptable justification.

Is there a minimum size that the host organisation must be?

There is no minimum size for non-academic/business hosts, but there is an expectation of a degree of matched funding depending on the size of the company, and the nature of the research/innovation, under standard business subsidy rules.

Can collaborators be involved in any way?

Yes, but we recommend you see section 2.4 Core team in [Round 11 Guidance for Academic-hosted Applicants](#).

Requests for visiting researchers or specialists should be by exception only, and support must be clearly and robustly justified. Applicants must explain why the inclusion of these individuals is essential to the delivery of the fellowship, the distinct and complementary expertise they provide, and why this support cannot be delivered through mentoring, advisory, or supervisory arrangements. The involvement of visiting researchers and specialists should normally be limited to a maximum of six months, to ensure that the leadership and project ownership remain with the Fellow.

With the removal of the co lead role, can academic contributions from others still be funded?

Visiting Researchers should receive the same salary and conditions as other staff of an equivalent status within the host organisation, and costs should be requested as Directly Incurred. Only salary costs for the time spent directly working on the project should be claimed, and requests should exclude contributions from other sources.

Does the potential renewal period need to be mentioned in the original application?

You should outline the vision for the whole seven years, with an emphasis and costings for the first four, and what you would aim to achieve if you are planning on applying for the additional three years.

For the three year renewal, will there be extra funding that we can apply for?

Yes, there is additional funding that can be applied for, for the renewal period. Typically, this is capped at £567k full economic cost for the three years, as there is an expectation that the host is picking up more of the costs at this point, due to the funding tapering.

What is the resubmission policy?

Resubmission of an identical fellowship application is not permitted. However, previously unsuccessful applicants can apply to subsequent Future leaders fellowships calls provided the

proposal addresses 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 resubmission application question. UKRI reserve the right to reject applications that are not deemed to have addressed feedback appropriately or are not substantially different. Applicants may not have more than one application into the scheme at the same time (in overlapping funding rounds) and must wait for the outcome of an application before applying again. If an application is withdrawn during or following peer review, applicants may not resubmit to the next funding round.

Can I apply to multiple UKRI funding calls?

You cannot have the same application under consideration for any other UKRI scheme at the same time. It is your choice if you apply to schemes outside of UKRI.

FLF is a cross-council scheme, so considerations are given to all remits, so it is purely a choice as to which scheme is suitable for applicants.