

Leverhulme International Professorships Guidance for Applicants 2023

The Trust Board is pleased to announce the **2023 Leverhulme International Professorships**. This scheme aims to help maintain the UK's international standing as a desirable research destination that is open to talented individuals from all countries. The scheme will enable UK universities to conduct world-wide searches for research leaders and innovators and bring them to the UK, to help ensure that the best possible appointments are made to strategically important academic positions.

Please note that the 2023 round will be the final call for the scheme.

Eligibility

Eligible institutions are universities in the UK who hold research degree awarding powers.

Institutions may make only one application for funding within this call. Please note that resubmissions are not accepted.

The applying organisation will be responsible for the selection of the Professorial candidate.

Applications are invited from universities seeking to recruit excellent research leaders of any nationality, currently working outside the UK. International Professorships should fulfil strategically important positions in this country and contribute to the institution's strategic aims and objectives.

It is expected that the Professorial appointment would be full-time, unless the university can make the case that a part-time appointment is appropriate due to the candidate's personal circumstances.

Please note that joint appointment holders are not eligible in this competition.

Applications cannot be made retrospectively, so where an employment contract has already been signed, the candidate cannot be considered in this competition.

Topics

Professorial Candidates may conduct research in any subject area, with the exception of:

- studies of disease, illness and disabilities in humans and animals and/or research that is intended to inform clinical practice or the development of medical applications
- policy-driven research where the principal objective is to assemble an evidence base for immediate policy initiatives
- research where advocacy is an explicit component
- research aimed principally at an immediate commercial application
- proposals in which the balance between assembling a data bank or database and the related subsequent research is heavily inclined to the former

Please read the advice at leverhulme.ac.uk/research-we-do-not-fund carefully and contact the Trust to confirm eligibility if there is any uncertainty.

Grant value and duration

Successful bids will offer an ongoing package to support an individual Professorship and any associated posts, and a contribution to associated costs, with an award worth up to £5 million for up to five years.

Support offered

Awards provide up to £5 million for staff and associated costs. This figure should not be considered a target and bids which do not request the maximum sum available will be considered on an equal footing with those that do.

Salaries

At least 75% of the resources requested must be used to provide funding for staff. This may include:

a) Salary for the professorial candidate

Up to £250k p.a. may be requested to support the salary package of the candidate, including visa and relocation costs. Any additional remuneration is the responsibility of the recruiting university.

b) Salaries for research staff

This can include academics, research assistants and doctoral students relocating as part of the team and/or those that will be recruited in the UK.

Where the proposed team includes doctoral students, up to twenty per cent of these positions can be allocated to international students, with the remainder of PhD fees and stipends set at UKRI domestic rates. The additional costs of international student fees above the twenty percent will need to be covered or waived by the institution.

Please note that the scheme does not fund existing appointments at the proposed host institution or the employment of local researchers based overseas.

Consultancy costs need to be carefully justified and will only be considered where these are for a very short period and where the expertise is not available any other way.

Associated costs

This includes technical, administration or computing staff costs or services, travel and subsistence and consumables, up to a maximum of 25% of the total budget.

Exceptionally, items of equipment may be included up to a total value of £250k, however, these should not account for all of the associated costs.

Associated costs may be distributed unevenly across the five years to allow for front loading of expenditure.

Please note that the Trust does not make grants on a full economic costing basis.

Institutional commitments

The host institution must undertake the following:

- to meet all overhead and departmental costs,
- to manage all necessary arrangements relating to the visitor's recruitment, relocation, visa and tax requirements,
- to administer the funding in accordance with the approved budget.

It is expected that the university:

- will offer a permanent appointment to the Professor and, where possible, to staff appointed on these grants AND
- will offer an ongoing package of support after the end of the grant.

Application procedure

Please note that each institution is limited to one bid only.

Applications should be made by an Applicant, usually the PVC or DVC Research of the UK University or equivalent, who will take responsibility for the administration of the award and for providing an annual progress and a final report to the Trust.

The Candidate is the Professor the UK University is seeking to recruit.

Once a university has selected their chosen candidate, they should send the applicant's name, departmental affiliation and email address to Katharyn Lanaro at grants@leverhulme.ac.uk. Access will then be granted to the [Leverhulme Trust Grants Management System](#). The recommended browser to use is Google Chrome.

Applications will also require Institutional Approval of the content of the application, including the finances requested by the organisation. This approver may not be the Principal Applicant.

The application will consist of a short form and include:

- A statement from the recruiting university setting out how this appointment meets their strategic objectives (up to 5 pages). The case for the appointment should explain why the post is important for the university and its significance more generally in the UK context.
- A detailed curriculum vitae (up to 10 pages) and summary of the particular qualities of the candidate who will fill the Professorship.
- A statement from the Professorial candidate (up to 3 pages) setting out how this appointment is important and interesting to them and how they expect the post will contribute to their career development and that of their team. Brief details of any key staff who will be involved and their planned contribution should also be included. The Candidate is not required to submit a worked up research project.
- An *indication* of how the resources might be used over five years outlining staff and associated costs. [If awarded, a formal budget will be expected to be submitted once the start date has been agreed.]

Please note that all attachments should be in Arial size 11.

Where necessary, expert advice will be sought in confidence from senior academics, although the Trust Board itself will be responsible for making final decisions.

The Trust will report results to applicants by the end of March 2024. Please note the Trust is unable to provide feedback on applications.

Universities that secure a Professorship will then negotiate final details with the individual concerned. Where no agreement can be reached in practice, grants will lapse and funds will revert to the Trust.

The competition will open on 1 May 2023 and applications must be submitted online by the closing date of midday on 22 November 2023.

Application queries

Katharyn Lanaro: grants@leverhulme.ac.uk