

International Fellowships Guidance for Applicants 2024

Scope of the scheme

International Fellowships provide established researchers with a concentrated period (3–24 months) based in one or more research centres outside the UK. The intention of the scheme is to provide opportunities for international research collaboration and the exchange of ideas or practices. The scheme may be used for example for:

- developing new lines of research through overseas collaboration
- making ‘discipline-hopping excursions’ into new areas of research
- developing innovations in teaching
- preparing for collaborative grant applications
- observing and sharing ground-breaking techniques or practices.

Applicants must provide clear reasons for their choice of host institution(s) and country or countries of tenure. Host institutions may be universities, museums or research institutes of any kind. Applicants should provide a detailed account summarising the proposed programme of activity (objectives, nature of activities, methodology, location(s) and expected outcome/gain).

If you wish to dedicate a period abroad entirely to an individual research project you should apply to the Trust’s Research Fellowships scheme. You may not apply for both an International Fellowship and a Research Fellowship in the same year.

Eligible applicants

Candidates must hold a post at a UK university with research degree or taught degree awarding powers or an Independent Research Organisation or Institute listed as eligible for UKRI funding and have held such a post in the UK for at least the last three years. Candidates who have previously held an International Fellowship may apply for an International Fellowship but at least seven years should have elapsed since the previous grant. Applicants who have previously held a Research Fellowship are eligible to apply if at least three years have elapsed between their application for the Research Fellowship and the International Fellowship.

Those who are registered or intending to register for, or waiting to have work examined for degrees, doctoral studies, professional or vocational qualifications (whether or not connected with the application being submitted for consideration) are not eligible.

Support offered

Applicants may seek: travel to and within the overseas country or countries (economy fares or similar); costs associated with a partner and/or children travelling overseas with the applicant; a maintenance grant to meet the increased cost of living overseas; reasonable replacement costs to provide cover whilst overseas; and essential support costs (e.g. laboratory or office consumables) but not equipment, overheads or bench fees. However, some modest assistance with administrative costs relating directly to the visit of the grant holder can be requested for those visiting institutions and countries without a well-developed infrastructure.

If applicants are seeking overseas subsistence (including accommodation) a maximum rate of £200 per day may be used. For visits over 21 days it is expected that the daily rate used will be lower than the maximum. Please provide a justification for the rate used to calculate your budget for all subsistence allowances.

The Trust does not make awards on a full economic costing basis. Please consult paragraphs 3.31 to 3.37 of the Science & Innovation Investment Framework 2004-2014, HM Treasury (July 2004), which explains arrangements for the provision of overheads linked to charity funding.

Replacement costs

The Trust will contribute to the cost of a temporary appointment or hourly paid replacements, or a combination of these (plus any National Insurance and superannuation costs). Any cover requested should be made at the appropriate level commensurate with the type and range of activities to be replaced. Applicants should consult with their Head of Department and Finance Officer at an early stage to ensure that the bid for replacement costs is at the correct level and realistically costed. Applicants are required to detail the type of activities to be replaced and the arrangements for providing adequate cover.

The university cannot claim for the employment costs of a permanent member of academic teaching staff to cover the applicant's teaching and administrative duties.

This grant can be held in conjunction with a sabbatical from your institution.

The Trust's support depends upon the applicant's institution providing confirmation that the award holder will be on full pay during the tenure of the Fellowship and that the institution is willing to accept the Trust's contribution towards the replacement costs and, if necessary, to make up any shortfall between this and the actual cost.

When calculating replacement costs, applicants should use current salary scales/hourly rates and include normal increments but not any unsettled revisions. The Trust will make separate allowance for such revisions up to the maximum award possible of £50,000.

Value

The maximum value of an International Fellowship is £50,000 in total.

Duration and timing

International Fellowships are tenable for between 3 and 24 months and must be started between 1 June 2024 and 1 May 2025. More than one visit can be made to the place of tenure but all trips must be completed within a 24-month time span. If an applicant wishes to interrupt the period spent overseas they should make a specific argument for this in the application. **Research expenses and replacement teaching costs can only be covered during the time spent overseas.**

Eligible fields

Applications will be considered in all subject areas with the following exceptions:

- studies of disease, illness and disabilities in humans and animals, or research that is intended to inform clinical practice or the development of medical applications

There are two reasons for this: substantial funding is available from other sources for applied medical research; the Trust's priority is to support investigations of a fundamental nature.

Place of tenure

Fellowships may be held in any country or countries outside the UK. Applicants must give clear reasons for the choice of host institution and country.

Host institution's support

Upon submission of your application, your host institution will be sent an email requesting confirmation of its willingness to host you as a Fellow. They will also be asked to provide details of the facilities you will have access to and the level and nature of any funds that will be provided. The email will include a link enabling them to view your application and details of how to submit their response to us. Please provide the details of a person at the main overseas host institution authorised to provide this information and confirmation. It is crucial that you enter the correct email address. The approval and further details must be provided by your host institution by 23 November 2023.

Application procedure

Application materials will be available from 1 September 2023. Applications can only be made via the Trust's Grants Management System. The closing date for submission of applications is 4pm on 9 November 2023.

Your application must be approved by an Administrative Officer on behalf of your employing institution. This officer (institutional approver) will be asked to confirm, on behalf of your department and institution that:

- you will be granted the period and proportion of time requested in the Duration and Timing section
- if replacement costs are requested, you will be in receipt of your normal salary during tenure of the award and the institution will provide such cover as set out in the Finance section

- if research expenses are sought, this request has the support of the head of department/school and institution

Therefore you must ensure that your head of department is in full agreement with all of the content of your application before you submit this for institutional approval.

It is your responsibility to ensure that you complete your application in time for your institution to process it and that the details are all correct (particularly the financial ones). The Trust strongly recommends that you submit your application for institutional approval at least five working days before the closing date of 4pm on 9 November 2029.

Queries

Telephone: 020 7042 9862

Email: grants@leverhulme.ac.uk