

## Leverhulme International Professorships Guidance for Applicants 2020

The Trust Board is pleased to announce the **Leverhulme International Professorships**. This is a new scheme to help maintain the UK's international standing as a desirable research destination that is open to talented individuals from all countries. The key objective of the scheme is to 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.

### Eligible applicants

Eligible institutions are universities in the UK.

Institutions may make only one application for funding within this call. The applying organisation will be responsible for the selection of the Professorial candidate.

### Eligible topics

Applications are encouraged from universities seeking to recruit excellent research leaders of any nationality, currently working outside the UK, in order to fill strategically important positions in this country.

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

- studies of disease, illness and disabilities in humans and animals
- 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.

- The Trust will not fund applications for research of which advocacy forms an explicit component.
- The Trust does not support research which is aimed principally at an immediate commercial application.
- The Trust will not fund applications in which the balance between assembling a data bank or database and the related subsequent research is heavily inclined to the former.

## Duration and Timing

The Trust has allocated at least £100 million over five years to fund these grants. Up to 10 professorships will be made in the first round of the competition. Following the first round, two further rounds are anticipated over the next five years.

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

## Support offered

Eligible costs include the Professorial salary, up to a maximum of £250k p.a. (beyond which any additional remuneration is the responsibility of the recruiting university), and the salaries of associated academic and research staff. In total, salary costs must form at least 75% of the grant value.

Associated costs are also allowable up to a maximum of 25% of the total grant value. In this competition associated costs may be distributed unevenly across the years and exceptionally, may include single items of equipment up to a total value of £250k.

## 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.

In addition, it is expected that the university

- will offer permanent appointments to staff appointed on these grants AND/OR
- will offer an ongoing package of support after the end of the grant.

## Reporting requirements

The institution is required to submit an annual report and financial statement of expenditure and a final report and financial statement at the end of the grant. The Trust's support should be acknowledged in any publications arising directly from the grant and these publications should be listed in the reports.

## Application procedure

Applications should be made by a Principal Applicant, usually the PVC or DVC Research or equivalent, who will take responsibility for the administration of the grant and for providing annual progress reports to the Trust.

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. The case for the appointment should explain why the post is important for the university, its significance more generally in the UK context, and include a detailed curriculum vitae and summary of the particular qualities of the candidate who will fill the Professorship.
- A statement from the Professorial candidate 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.
- 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.]

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 October 2020.

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

**The competition will open on Monday 13 January 2020 and applications must be submitted online by the closing date of 4.00 pm on Friday 19 June 2020.**

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

Once a university has selected their chosen candidate they should notify the Trust and access will then be granted to the Leverhulme Trust Grants Management System.

Application queries

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