

# Faraday Discovery Fellowships 2026

The following scheme notes set out the eligibility and application process of the Faraday Discovery Fellowships. Please read through the entire document before proceeding with an application.

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# 1 Overview

## 1.1 Background

The Faraday Discovery Fellowships are prestigious long-term awards that will support the most talented mid-career research leaders to undertake high-quality, original research. The programme is aimed at outstanding mid-career Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) researchers and will provide grants of up to £8m over a ten-year period to support the development of world-leading research groups in the UK. It is expected that institutions will use these awards to make strategically important appointments, attracting leading researchers from overseas and retaining the most talented researchers in the UK.

Faraday Discovery Fellowships are large investigator-led grants awarded to a single Principal Investigator (PI) to enable them to establish an outstanding team of researchers to address the most challenging research questions. The PI is expected to have an excellent track record of research in the natural sciences or engineering. The primary research questions should be within the remit of the Royal Society. Where the research is interdisciplinary or requires collaboration with other research teams, the costs for such collaborations may also be included – this includes collaborations overseas and with industry.

The award will be made to a single PI but may include multiple collaborators. The PI is expected to outline a clear vision for an ambitious and original research programme (which may include translation and commercialisation).

The Royal Society recognises that diversity is essential for delivering excellence in STEM. The Society encourages applications from under-represented groups and from the widest range of backgrounds, perspectives and experiences to maximise innovation and creativity in science for the benefit of humanity. We regularly review and revise processes and assessment criteria to help ensure that all talented applicants have an equitable chance to succeed.

Host organisations are expected to support applications from candidates from diverse backgrounds and ensure that institutional Equality Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) policies are consistent with good practice. PIs are expected to consider EDI as part of the recruitment of research groups.

## 1.2 Changes to the Scheme

- **Duration of award:** The maximum duration that can be applied for remains 10 years, and the expectation is that most applications would be for this length of time. However, if a shorter research programme is more suitable for the proposed research, applicants are able to apply for less than 10 years of funding.
- **Value of award:** The maximum value that can be applied for is £8 million over 10 years, comprised of up to £6 million of core funding over 10 years with an additional £2 million available subject to further, specific justification. The additional £2 million in funding is to recognise that some researchers may require the full £8 million to achieve the scientific aims of their programme or that some fields are more expensive or have additional equipment needs. Committee assessment criteria for Stage 2 will be updated to include a more focussed consideration of the scientific justification for resources requested.
- **Applicant eligibility:** The years of post-PhD eligibility remain as 10-20, taking into account career breaks, but the wording regarding what an exceptional mid-career research leader should look like has

been amended to clarify that the scheme is intended for the most talented mid-career researchers with a proven track record in their field.

- **Assessment criteria:** The assessment criteria have been updated to reflect the importance of the proposed science being transformative, and at Stage 2 to include a more focussed consideration of the scientific justification for resources requested.
- **Resubmission:** Any applicant who applies to the 2026 round but does not reach the **shortlist** stage will not be eligible to submit into the 2027 round. Please note, this does not apply to unsuccessful applicants to the 2025 round (Round 1), they are still able to submit to the 2026 round if they continue to meet the eligibility criteria. For applicants who are shortlisted but not awarded, there are no restrictions on applying into the subsequent round as long as they continue to meet the eligibility criteria.
- **Introduction of the Accelerated International Route:** Candidates currently based overseas are still eligible to apply for the standard round of the Faraday Discovery Fellowships if they are intending to conduct their research in a UK host institution and meet all other eligibility criteria. An accelerated international route for applicants currently based overseas with a more immediate need to relocate has also been launched, full details can be found [here](#). Applicants cannot apply to both schemes concurrently.

### 1.3 Aims of the Scheme

The aims of the Faraday Discovery Fellowships are to:

- **Support the most talented mid-career research leaders to be based in the UK** – both attracting outstanding mid-career researchers from overseas and retaining outstanding researchers in the UK, as well as their groups/teams.
- **Fund high-quality original research** – providing long-term funding to enable talented mid-career researchers to focus on their research vision and address the most challenging research questions (including supporting translation or commercialisation where those are part of their long-term vision for their research).
- **Develop world leading research groups/teams in the UK** – providing long-term, stable levels of support to enable the UK-based award holder to establish world-leading groups/teams and pursue their research.
- **Train the next generation** – Providing the next generation of research leaders with a programme of mentoring, training and networking. A career development package including training and events will also be made available to PDRAs in their research group funded on the grant. We will monitor others in the research group including (early career researchers, PDRAs, PhD students and technicians) to evaluate the impact of the funding on their careers.

### 1.4 Subjects Covered

Research must be primarily within the Royal Society's remit of natural sciences, which includes but is not limited to biological research, biomedical sciences, chemistry, engineering, mathematics and physics. For a full list, please see the breakdown of subject groups and [areas supported by the Royal Society](#). Costs for interdisciplinary collaborations outside of STEM (for example within the areas of social sciences and humanities) may be included in the proposal – please see [Section 3.2 'Programme-Specific Funding Rules'](#) for further details.

Submissions from clinically qualified scientists may be considered. The Society does not support clinical or interventional research on humans at the individual or group level. If there is any doubt about the eligibility of a project, contact the Grants team at [faraday@royalsociety.org](mailto:faraday@royalsociety.org) by **29 August 2025**

The Faraday Discovery Fellowships **does not operate thematic priorities**. As with all Royal Society funding, we will consider applications from all areas of STEM that are covered by [the Royal Society's remit](#). This may include, although is not limited to, the following examples:

- **Frontiers of Science** – examples might include research into quantum, materials, earth observation, engineering biology and understanding the microbial world.
- **Science for Resilience and Prosperity** - examples might include research into waste, future telecoms, scarce resources, protecting planetary life support systems, life in extreme environmental conditions, science and engineering of cutting-edge technologies, AI, batteries and Net Zero.

We will consider applications from all areas of science and assess applications purely on the track record of the candidate and the quality of the proposed research.

### 1.5 Duration and Start of Fellowship

Approximate number of Fellowships offered: 7 per year

Fellowships are expected to commence from October 2026. Earlier or later start dates may be agreed on request at the offer stage.

Faraday Discovery Fellows are appointed for up to 10 years, subject to satisfactory progress being demonstrated during year five.

## 2 Timetable

Opening date for the submission of outline application form (Stage 1)	Tuesday, 5 August 2025
Closing Date for the submission of outline application form (Stage 1)	Tuesday, 23 September 2025, 15:00 (UK Time)
Expected results	Mid-November 2025
Opening date for the invited applicants to submit full application (Stage 2)	Thursday, 27 November 2025
Closing date for the invited applicants to submit full application (Stage 2)	Thursday, 5 February 2026, 15:00 (UK Time)
Expected results	July 2026

Please see the [Faraday Discovery Fellowships web page](#) for the expected dates of future rounds.

## 3 Finance

Requests of up to £8 million will be considered. Applicants should only request the funding required to complete the research. The level of funding requested should be fully justified, and requests above £6 million will require an exceptionally strong justification to be granted.

### 3.1 **Total Funding Available**

Core Funding Rules are listed within the Royal Society [Grants Funding Guidance](#). Please note that in instances where Core Funding Rules are in conflict with Programme Specific Funding rules, the Programme Specific Funding rules always take precedence.

### 3.2 **Programme Specific Funding Rules**

The costs that can be requested depend on the type of host organisation. See section 4 of the [Grants Funding Guidance](#) for detail.

**Staff costs** - See [Grants Funding Guidance](#) Section 5.1.

**Research students** - See [Grants Funding Guidance](#) Section 5.2.

**Research costs** - See [Grants Funding Guidance](#) Section 5.4. Research costs are intended to be flexible to enable researchers to respond to changes in research objectives. Researchers will have the flexibility to move funding between headings within their research costs.

**Equipment costs** - See [Grants Funding Guidance](#) Section 5.3.

**Refurbishment costs** - The Society will not cover general laboratory refurbishment costs. However, where there is a specific case (for example a lab requires some limited refurbishment to accommodate a specific piece of equipment bought on the grant) then the Society will allow some limited refurbishment costs. The Society reserves the right to remove such costs that it does not consider appropriate.

**UK partner costs** - See Section 4.3 of the [Grants Funding Guidance](#) for a breakdown of how UK collaborator costs should be calculated based on the type of organisation they are based in. Salary contribution for the UK collaborator is an eligible cost, as are costs for members of their research group, consumables, and other directly incurred costs. Collaborating research groups can be located at other eligible (UK) institutions or elsewhere within the host institution.

**International partners** - Costs for international collaborators cannot exceed 25% of the total amount requested. Costs will be provided at the funding rate of 100% of the direct costs, and up to 25% of the amount requested may be claimed to support indirect costs or overheads. For example, if the grant value requested is £6 million, a maximum of £1.5 million could be allocated to international collaborator costs. Within that £1.5 million, a maximum of £375,000 could be used to cover indirect costs and overheads. Salary contributions and overheads for the international collaborator are not eligible, but the salary costs for other research staff (PDRAs, technicians and/or contributions to PhD students) in the collaborator's lab are eligible. These costs will be provided through the UK host.

The Royal Society will only support student fees up to the Royal Society's set home/UK fees rate as outlined in the [Grants Funding Guidance](#) Section 5.2. Any shortfall between our standard fee allowance and the international fee rate must be covered by another source of funding.

**Industry partners** - Costs for collaboration with industry partners may be included and should not exceed 20% of the grant total. Industry partners involved in the research are expected to contribute appropriate funding and

resources to the research programme. Applicants may also include the costs of sub-contracting where appropriate.

**Inter/cross disciplinary research costs outside of STEM** - Where the research is cross-disciplinary or requires collaboration with other teams outside of STEM areas, the costs for such collaborations may also be included. The PI must have a strong track record of research in STEM but may include costs for collaborators whose research falls outside of the remit of the Royal Society (for example, in the social sciences or humanities). Costs for research outside of the remit of the Royal Society will only be eligible costs if the research proposed is intended to contribute to answering the primary scientific research question outlined in the application, and should not exceed 25% of the grant total. The Society reserves the right to exclude such costs that it deems inappropriate.

**Knowledge transfer and innovation costs** - One of the objectives of the programme is to facilitate greater knowledge transfer and collaboration with Industry. Applicants may include costs of:

- Translation - Costs associated with translation and determining the feasibility of commercialising an aspect of your research (proof of concept, consultancy costs, prototyping costs, associated staff costs *etc.*)
- Training and knowledge transfer - Costs associated with staff and students spending time in industry for the purposes of training and for the purposes of access to equipment and facilities.

The PI will be able to take sabbaticals of up to 12 months in industry, but the cost of these sabbaticals should not be met from the grant.

### **Time spent on research**

Award holders will be expected to spend a minimum of 80% of their time undertaking research. The remaining 20% may be dedicated to other duties (teaching, admin *etc.*) **Grant holders will be required to spend at least 50% of their time managing their Faraday Discovery Fellowship.** Applicants holding or applying for additional large grants (such as ERC Consolidator or Advanced Grants, Wellcome Discovery Awards or similar) will need to demonstrate their ability to run both grants concurrently, and other grant funding should not cover research that is the same as that proposed within the Faraday Discovery Fellowship. Applicants should not hold any other personal Fellowships concurrently with the Faraday Discovery Fellowships.

## **4 Eligibility**

### **4.1 Applicant Eligibility**

The Faraday Discovery Fellowships will provide funding to outstanding mid-career researchers who are already leading their own independent research groups/teams. Candidates will be required to meet the following criteria:

- **Be a mid-career researcher** with 10\*-20 years research experience post-PhD or equivalent research experience (\*exceptional candidates with fewer years of experience will be considered). Candidates who have had changes in discipline or research direction, or time working on industrial research, will be welcomed. As standard, career breaks and non-linear career paths will be taken into consideration (see page 8).
- If you have more than 20 years of post-PhD experience but have changed research discipline and therefore believe you should be eligible, please contact the team at [faraday@royalsociety.org](mailto:faraday@royalsociety.org) by **29 August 2025** to discuss your specific case. Please note that for change in discipline, exceptions will

only be granted in cases where there has been a **clear and substantive change in the field of research**. Applications submitted which cite a change in discipline as reason for an eligibility exception, but which have not been approved in advance through this route, will be rejected as ineligible.

- **Be a recognised research leader** within their field with experience of managing significant research grants as the Principal Investigator. Candidates should either:
  - hold a permanent academic post **OR**
  - be in the latter stages of a recognised long-term research fellowship (such as a Royal Society University Research Fellowship or an equivalent externally or university funded fellowship) **OR**
  - have equivalent research experience.

We would expect candidates to have experience of managing a research group, including training and supervising PhD students and junior staff, or equivalent examples of relevant leadership activities.

- **Demonstrate significant and original research contributions** - The applicant should have an exceptional track record of outputs commensurate with their research experience and be able to demonstrate significant research contributions in the last 10 years.
- **Be well-established internationally** – Candidates should have well-established international networks and plans to develop these.
- **Demonstrate wider contributions to research, research impact and research culture** – for example public engagement, schools’ engagement, knowledge exchange, industry collaboration, team leadership, commercialisation or broader business activity, peer review and committee membership.

The scheme will be open to:

- **All nationalities** - Applicants of all nationalities wishing to conduct their research in a UK university or eligible research organisation. Successful candidates requiring a visa to work in the UK will be eligible to apply for a Global Talent Visa under the fast-track process of endorsement. Other visa categories are available. In line with the highly prestigious nature of the Faraday Discovery Fellowships, the Global Talent Visa is designed for people who are recognised as leaders and potential leaders in their field. Further details can be found on the Royal Society’s website: <https://royalsociety.org/grants-schemes-awards/global-talent-visa/>. Researchers currently based overseas may also be eligible to apply for the Accelerated International Route – see details [here](#).
- **Academic researchers** – Academics who are based entirely in an eligible HEI or not-for-profit research host organisation.
- **Collaboration with industry partners** - Researchers based in a HEI or not-for-profit organisations may collaborate with an industry partner if:
  - the researcher is employed by an HEI or not-for-profit research organisation and
  - the arrangement would not contravene the UK Government’s rules on the provision of subsidies.
- **Joint appointments with industry** – The Society will allow applicants to spend up to 20% of their time working in industry. The industry partner would be expected to meet any costs associated with industry appointment.
- **Joint international appointment** – Academics who have a joint appointment outside of the UK, if:

- The researcher is employed by a UK HEI or not-for-profit research organisation for more than 80% of their time **OR**
- They are based at a recognised international research institute which is governed by an international cooperation agreement (for example CERN).

Researchers who are employed within the UK but are based outside of the UK for the majority of their time will be asked to justify the arrangement.

This scheme will **not** support:

- **Senior career researchers** - Researchers who have more than 20 years of experience post PhD (taking into account career breaks) will not be eligible.
- **Industry** - researchers who are based entirely or primarily in industry will not be funded.

Please note that applicants who are not successful in reaching the shortlisting stage of the 2026 round will not be eligible to apply to the 2027 round, and will need to wait until at least the 2028 round before reapplying. This rule is not in effect for those who were unsuccessful in the 2025 round. Shortlisted applicants have no restrictions on reapplying into the subsequent round, as long as they continue to meet the eligibility criteria.

The Society appreciates that there are diverse research career paths and understands the challenges of managing a research career alongside other personal commitments. When reviewing applicants' eligibility and research experience, the Society will consider time spent outside the research environment (e.g. time away due to personal reasons such as maternity, paternity, shared parental and adoptive leave or other caring responsibilities; ill-health or working in a non-research environment/role, such as industry).

Furthermore, where applicants have taken formal periods of maternity, paternity, shared parental, and adoptive leave as the primary carer (either the mother, father, partner or adopter), or extended sick leave, the Society will allow an additional amount of time on top of each period of leave when assessing eligibility. Each case will be considered individually as per the guidelines below:

**Maternity, paternity, shared parental leave and adoptive leave:** In addition to the actual time taken off work, an additional amount of time equivalent to 100% of the duration of leave taken will be added on top, up to a maximum of 6 months per period of leave.

Example 1: If an applicant took 4 months leave, an additional 4 months would be added, and a total of 8 months would be deducted.

Example 2: If an applicant took two periods of leave of 12 months each, an additional 6 months would be added to each (maximum additional time allowed) and 18 months would be deducted per period of leave, so 36 months in total.

**Extended sick leave** (defined as more than four weeks off work, as per the UK Government's definition): In addition to the actual time taken off work, an additional amount of time equivalent to 100% of the duration of leave taken will be added on top, up to a maximum of 6 months. As with the parental leave, cases will be considered individually, and the host institution may need to confirm that the applicant qualifies for this provision. Supporting documents may be requested at the Society's discretion. The Society reserves the right to consider individual requests outside of the outlined policy in exceptional circumstances.

The Royal Society recognises that diversity is essential for delivering excellence in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM). The Society wants to encourage applications from the widest range of backgrounds, perspectives and experiences to maximise innovation and creativity in science for the benefit of humanity. We regularly review and revise policies and processes to embed EDI principles in all aspects of the

grant making process and ensure all talented applicants have an equitable chance to succeed as per assessment criteria.

**Support to applicants with disabilities:** The Royal Society welcomes applications from disabled scientists and provides support and adjustments to ensure that they can participate fully in the selection process. If you require support or an adjustment when accessing the application form, attending interviews if applicable, or for any other part of the application process, please contact the Grants team on [faraday@royalsociety.org](mailto:faraday@royalsociety.org) or call +44 20 7451 2666. All requests for adjustments are made in confidence. Any request for an adjustment will not normally be shared with panel members unless it becomes relevant to the selection process itself. If we need to share your request with anyone (for example if panel members are required to implement any adjustments during interviews), we will ask for your permission first.

Adjustments can include but are not limited to:

- Extension of the deadline;
- Additional support to complete the application form;
- Receiving the application form in a different format, such as on a Word document.

The Grants team will be pleased to answer questions about eligibility and/or points covered in this section.

## 4.2 Host Organisation Eligibility

The following types of organisations will be eligible to apply to hold the grant:

- Higher Education Institutes that received funding from one of the UK higher education funding bodies.
- Research institutes (RIs), for which research councils have established a long-term involvement as major funder as part of the national research base.
- Approved relevant [Independent Research Organisations](#).
- Public Sector Research Establishments, a list of eligible PSREs is available [here](#).

Other organisations such as businesses may partner the applicant with an eligible organisation but cannot host the grant and must comply with relevant Subsidy Control regulations.

# 5 Assessment Criteria and Review Process

## 5.1 Assessment Criteria

These prestigious awards are aimed at talented mid-career researchers and designed to enable such individuals of proven ability to lead independent, original research within the Society's subject remit.

As such the primary considerations in the assessment will be:

- The research track record of the applicant and international standing in their field.
- The quality, ambition and originality of the proposed research vision and programme, and how it will advance research and innovation. The proposed programme of research is expected to be **transformative**, and represent a step change for the field of research which will likely yield significant benefits to UK science.
- The suitability of the research environment (UK university or research institution).
- At Stage 2, the Committee will also consider the scientific justification of resources requested.

## 5.2 Committees

Applications are assessed by the Royal Society Faraday Research Appointments Committees, which are split into the following subject groups:

- **Physical Sciences** – Astronomy, Chemistry, Cosmology, Engineering, Earth Sciences, Environmental Physical Sciences & Geosciences, Physics, Pure and Applied Mathematics, Statistics, the Mathematical aspects of Astronomy, Gravitation, Theoretical Physics, Computer Science, Communications and Computer Engineering.
- **Biological Sciences** – Anatomy, Biochemistry, Developmental Biology, Evolutionary and Ecological Science (including Soil Biology and Agriculture), Genetics (except Population Genetics), Immunology, Microbiology, Molecular Cell Biology, Neurosciences, Organismal Biology, Palaeontology and Structural Biology.

Interdisciplinary applicants will be able to decide which committee they are primarily considered under. Additional members will be seconded to the Committees as required to enable appropriate assessment of interdisciplinary applications.

Please note that the Royal Society does not fund translational medicine, clinical trials or the development of new treatments. Research with a health outcome or direct impact in health also falls outside of the Royal Society remit. If your field of science is not covered above or you have any queries regarding eligibility, then please contact the Royal Society Grants Team by **29 August 2025** to discuss your specific case.

### **5.3 Review Process**

The review process will consist of two stages:

#### **Stage 1**

- **Outline application** – Applicants submit a CV and an initial outline of their vision for the research programme.
- **Initial assessment** – This will be reviewed and assessed by the appropriate Faraday Review Committee.
- **Longlisting** – Following initial assessment, the Review Committees will confirm a longlist of applicants who will be invited to submit a full Stage 2 application. Feedback will not be provided to candidates who are unsuccessful at this stage.

#### **Stage 2**

- **Full application** – Longlisted applicants will submit a full application.
- **Committee assessment** – Full applications will be reviewed and scored by the appropriate Faraday Review Committee.
- **Shortlisting for independent peer review** – Following this assessment, the Committees will confirm a shortlist of applicants who will progress to independent peer review. Feedback will be provided on request to unsuccessful candidates at this stage.
- **Independent peer review** – Shortlisted full applications are subject to high-quality independent peer review.
- **Peer review response (rebuttal)** – Following completion of independent peer review, applicants will receive the reviewers' comments and will have the opportunity to submit a written response.
- **Selection Committee meeting** – Recommendations for funding will be made by the Faraday Committees at the final selection Committee meeting. Feedback will be provided on request to unsuccessful candidates at this stage.

All applicants will normally be notified of the outcome of their application by the end of July 2026.

Applicants who are not successful in reaching the shortlisting stage of the 2026 round will not be eligible to apply to the 2027 round, and will need to wait until at least the 2028 round before reapplying. This rule is not in

effect for those who were unsuccessful in the 2025 round. Shortlisted applicants have no restrictions on reapplying into the subsequent round, as long as they continue to meet the eligibility criteria. Applicants may not apply to the standard round and the Accelerated International Route round simultaneously.

The subject tags you select on your application play a vital role in matching your application with appropriate reviewers, so it is extremely important to select only the most relevant subject tags on your application.

Please be assured that the Royal Society specifically requests anyone involved in reviewing applications to consider them in confidence. More information on the application process can be found in Appendix 1. All applicants will be notified of outcomes via email. We will not be able to provide feedback to unsuccessful Stage 1 applicants due to the very large number of applications we receive for this scheme. Feedback to unsuccessful Stage 2 applicants will be available on request.

## 6 References and Participants

To complete and submit the application form, the lead applicant is required to provide supporting statements or references from two individuals. The following individuals must be included:

- Head of Department at the host organisation (Stage 1)
- Pro-VC for Research at the host organisation (Stage 2)

### 6.1 How to invite participants to contribute to an application

All references and supporting statements must be submitted through Flexi-Grant. To submit references please follow the steps below.

#### Step 1 | Ensure all participants have a Flexi-Grant account

- All participants must set up a Flexi-Grant account in order to contribute to an application.
- If a participant already has a Flexi-Grant account they should use that, if not then a new account should be set up.

#### Step 2 | Invite participants to contribute to an application

- Applicants should invite participants to submit their supporting statements through the 'participants' tab.
- The participants tab can be found on the application form summary page and contains details of each participant required to contribute to the application.
- Applicants should select 'invite' and enter the e-mail address of the person they wish to invite to provide the relevant reference or statement and send the invitation.

#### Step 3 | Monitor participants responses

- The recipient will need to accept your invitation before they can participate in the application.
- You can monitor the progress of your participants' activity through this section of the application form and issue reminders as required.
- Once the participant has accepted your invitation, their status will be displayed as 'active'.
- Once participants have completed all their sections of the application form, they should select '**Save & Submit**' on the application form page or select '**Submit your contribution**' on the summary page.
- Upon completion of their section of the application form their status will be displayed as 'complete'.

**Please note that you will not be able to submit your application form until the status of all participants' shows 'complete'.**

Please note that once an applicant submits an application on Flexi-Grant®, it is then directed to the designated approver for the employing organisation at which the applicant has applied to host an award (see Application Approvals in the 'Application Guidance Notes' Section). It is recommended that referring and supporting participants fulfil their requirements **at least 5 working days** before the submission deadline (Tuesday, 23 September 2025 for Stage 1, Thursday 5 February 2026 for Stage 2) to ensure there is sufficient time for organisational approval. The Host organisation approver must approve the completed application by the submission deadline.

**It is the applicant's responsibility to liaise with the Host Organisation's Approver, Head of Department, and the pro-VC for Research to ensure that the required tasks are completed by the deadline. Please contact the Grants team before the deadline if there is any issue. Alternatively, the Host Organisation's Approver, Head of Department or pro-VC for Research can contact us directly. The Royal Society will not be held responsible for emails that are not received due to address errors or spam filters and no provision is made for non-receipt of emails sent by the Royal Society.**

### **Re-opening the Application form to Participants**

On the occasion that an invited participant accidentally submits their section of the application form prematurely, the applicant has the ability to re-open the application form for the participant. To do this, the applicant should return to the participant tab on the application form summary page. You will find a 're-open' button alongside the name of any participant who has completed their section of the form. Once you click this button, the form is reactivated and available for participants to amend.

### **Research Support Role**

The Research Support role displayed under the participants tab is an optional role, which allows you to invite an individual from the relevant Host Organisation research support team to review and amend the application prior to submission. The primary purpose is to ensure that the requested finances have been recorded correctly for this specific grant programme. Applications cannot be submitted until all participant sections are marked as complete, so it is important that applicants ensure that their organisation's research support team complete this section.

As the Research Support Role is optional, applicants can revoke this participant request in order to submit their application if the section has not been completed. Please navigate to the participants tab and revoke the request for Research Support Role.

Additional system guidance can be found in the ['Systems Guidance Notes'](#) Section.

## **7 Contact Information**

Enquires about this scheme can be made using the contact details below. Before contacting us, please check whether your question is answered by these scheme notes and FAQs document. If not, please email the Grants team via [faraday@royalsociety.org](mailto:faraday@royalsociety.org) or call +44 20 7451 2666 (lines open Mon-Thurs, 10am to 4pm).

***Please quote your application reference number in all correspondence with the Grants team.***

## 8 Use of Data

All applicant data, including personal data, is governed by the [Royal Society's Privacy Policy](#). This Policy sets out how and why the Royal Society uses your personal data, and how we protect your privacy when doing so. Please refer to the section entitled "Grant Applicants and Holders" for details of how the Privacy Policy determines the use of applicant data.

In addition to the usage set out in the Royal Society's privacy policy, please note that information regarding your application for the Faraday Discovery Fellowships may be shared with the Department for Science, Innovation and Technology (DSIT) for data monitoring and scheme evaluation purposes. You may also be contacted by selected third parties such as independent evaluators, consultancy groups, and career development organisations. If successful, the Royal Society will contact you regarding the administration of your award throughout the course of your funding and after its completion. You may also be contacted by the Royal Society, DSIT or an agent acting on their behalf, for reporting and evaluation purposes throughout the course of your funding and after its completion.

## 9 Use of Generative AI

Generative AI tools offer potential benefits for research but also challenges and risks. The Royal Society has joined with other funders to set our expectations around the use of generative AI tools in funding applications. [Funders joint statement: use of generative AI tools in funding applications and assessment](#).

When developing funding proposals, researchers must ensure generative AI tools are used responsibly and in accordance with relevant legal and ethical standards where these exist or as they develop. Funding proposals for Royal Society grants should adhere to our existing commitments to policies on [Research Integrity and Trusted Research](#). Applicants are responsible for ensuring the originality, validity, reliability and integrity of any outputs created or modified by generative AI tools. Where generative AI tools are used in funding proposals their use should be acknowledged in the application by naming the AI source and specifying how the content was generated (for example by listing the prompt used).

## 10 System Guidance Notes

Please read these guidance notes carefully as you complete the application form.

### 10.1 Using Flexi-Grant®

Applications can only be submitted online using the Royal Society's Grants management system (Flexi-Grant®) via <https://grants.royalsociety.org>. Further information about the Grants management system can be found via <https://royalsociety.org/grants-schemes-awards/grants/flexi-grant/>. If you have not previously used Flexi-Grant®, please follow the registration process from the Flexi-Grant®, homepage. ***Paper-based applications will not be accepted.***

Before completing the online form, all applicants should check that they comply with the eligibility requirements and ensure all necessary information is presented in the application. These requirements are strictly adhered to and applications without all the necessary information, or evidence to show the assessment criteria are met, will be rejected.

**All applications must be approved by the Host Organisation and the applicant's departmental support must be completed before you can submit via Flexi-Grant®. Late applications will not be accepted.**

For instructions on inviting participants to contribute to an application (such as departmental support), please see the 'References and Participants' section.

## **10.2 ORCID Identifier**

All applicants should submit an ORCID (Open Researcher and Contributor ID) identifier if they have one before their application is submitted. ORCID maintains a registry of unique researcher identifiers and a transparent method of linking research funding, research publications, research data and any other research outputs to these unique identifiers. This is a mandatory requirement at the application submission stage only. You can register for an ORCID identifier via <https://orcid.org/register>.

## **10.3 Completing the application form**

The Stage 1 application can be completed by using the navigation tabs on the application summary page, with each page categorised as follows:

**Summary**  
**Understanding our Promotion**  
**Eligibility Criteria**  
**Contact Details**  
**Applicant Career Summary**  
**Project Summary**  
**Personal Statement and Research Vision**  
**Institutional and Departmental Support**

**Please note, the Stage 2 application questions are not finalised and are subject to change.**

The Stage 2 application can be completed by using the navigation tabs on the application summary page, with each page categorised as follows:

**Summary**  
**Contact Details**  
**Applicant Career Summary**  
**Research Proposal**  
**Data Management and Data Sharing**  
**Use of Animals in Research**  
**Use of Human Patients, Participants or Tissue**  
**Financial Details**  
**Applicant Declaration**  
**Institutional Support**

Please note that questions with \* are mandatory fields, which is typically the majority of questions. You will only be able to submit your application for approval by the Host Organisation once all sections of the application form have been marked as complete, and your participants have marked their work as complete (please check the status of participants under the participants tab on the application form summary page). Late applications

will not be accepted. A full list of the Stage 1 and Stage 2 question fields to be completed as part of the application can be found in the Question Guidance in the 'Application Guidance Notes' Section.

## 11 Application Guidance Notes

### 11.1 Application Approvals

**It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure that approval of the application by the Host Organisation is completed before the closing date.**

The person responsible for approving your application will be the delegated authority at the Host Organisation where you are applying to hold your award. This may be someone within the research office, Faculty administration, Vice-Chancellor, or other administrative or management role.

The approver must be someone with the authority to confirm that the potential award can be hosted within their organisation, confirm that there is the capacity to deliver the proposed research and assure the proposed budget is appropriate and eligible for the scheme.

**You will only be able to submit your application for approval by the Host Organisation's Approver once all sections of the application form have been marked as complete and all participants have marked their work as complete AND have submitted their section.** The applicant must check the status of the participants under the 'Participants' tab on the summary page of the application form. **Applications submitted after the deadline will not be accepted.**

### 11.2 Question Guidance

**The below application guidance has been updated and is accurate for Stage 1 of the Faraday Discovery Fellowships 2026. The Stage 2 questions are not finalised, and are still subject to change prior to the launch of Stage 2 in November 2025.**

**Please note that any pdf upload that exceeds the page limit specified will make the application ineligible.**

### Stage One

Summary	
Summary Page	<p>The summary page of the application form provides instructions for submission of your application for approval from the UK host organisation. In addition, you are provided with an overview for each section of your application form, including the approximate length of time it will take to complete each section.</p> <p>The summary page also allows applicants to manage and invite participants (e.g. Head of Department) who are required to contribute to the application form. Instructions for inviting participants can be found under the 'participants' tab on the application summary page.</p>

	<b>Note:</b> you will only be able to submit your application for approval by the Host Organisation once all sections of the form have been completed by all participants.
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<b>Understanding our Promotion</b>	
Understanding our Promotion *	Please select how you found out about the scheme, and if you attended a Faraday webinar.

<b>Eligibility Criteria</b>	
Eligibility Criteria *	Please provide confirmation that you meet the eligibility criteria. Details of the eligibility criteria can be found in the 'Eligibility' Section of these Scheme Notes.

<b>Contact Details</b>	
Title, Names, address, organisation and country *	<p>Review and complete your <b>personal details</b> accurately. Errors in this section can cause difficulties in processing your application. Errors will not be corrected after submission.</p> <p>Under this section, you should edit the <b>contact type of</b> the participants who will partake in your application form. The system default contact type is set as 'collaborator'. To amend the contact type of your Head of Department, click 'edit', and under the contact type field, select the 'Head of Department'.</p> <p><b>Organisation:</b> this table will automatically display details of the intended Host Organisation (marked by a tick) which you selected previously and your current organisation, if different from the organisation where the award will be held and administered.</p>
Email address *	This field defaults to the account in which the application has commenced and is where all correspondence pertaining to the application throughout the application process will be sent. The applicant must therefore commence the application using the login email address used to register a user account on Flexi-Grant®.

<b>Applicant Career Summary</b>	
Title of Current Position *	Please state the title of your current position.
Current Employer *	Please enter the official organisation name of your current employer (e.g. University of Bath).
Current Department *	Please enter details of your current department (e.g. Department of Astrophysics).
Country/Territory *	Please select the country/territory where your current employer (or last employer if currently unemployed or on leave) is based.
Host Organisation*	Please enter the official name of the organisation where the award will be held from the drop-down list. Please consult the eligibility criteria on our <a href="#">website</a> .
Host Organisation Type *	Please select the Host Organisation type from the drop-down menu

Host Department *	Please provide the name of the proposed department at your host organisation. Please enter the official name e.g. <i>Department of Chemistry</i> rather than <i>Chemistry</i> .
Justification for the Choice of Host Organisation *	Please provide a short statement justifying your choice of host organisation.
PhD Award Date *	Please enter the date that you were awarded your PhD (the date when you received formal notification of your PhD thesis being accepted in its final form and approved by the Board of Graduate Studies). If you have not received a PhD, please enter 31 December 2050.
Applicant Career History *	<p>Please provide a full list of your appointments since your PhD in reverse chronological order, stating if part-time (and percentage part-time) when necessary.</p> <p><b>Please provide full details of any periods of part-time working, career breaks, extended sick leave or maternity/paternity/adoptive leave as your eligibility may depend on the accuracy of this information.</b></p> <p>If you have been granted an exception to the 20 years maximum post-PhD experience based on a change in research discipline, please record that in this section.</p> <p><b>Note:</b> You can retrieve your career history information from your profile to complete this section of the application form using your ORCID identifier.</p>
Impact of Covid -19	The Society appreciates that the impact of the coronavirus pandemic on researchers and their work will be varied. Please provide a summary of how the pandemic has affected your research activities. This can include but is not limited to: delays in publishing/submitting a key paper(s) (please note preprints can be included in your publications list), pause on experiments/research plans, reduced ability to work due to additional caring responsibilities. (Maximum 500 words)
CV *	<p>Please upload a copy of your CV as a PDF. This should be no longer than 3 sides of A4, portrait orientation, with margins of at least 2cm. Please do not use a text size smaller than Arial 11 and make sure the document is titled.</p> <p>The format and content of the CV is at the applicant's discretion, however it should include details of the applicant's track record, wider contributions to research, research impact and research culture as well as details of research appointments. These contributions might include public engagement, schools' engagement, knowledge exchange, mentoring, industry collaboration, team leadership, patents, commercialisation or broader business activity, peer review and committee membership.</p>
Full Publications list *	<p>Please provide details of authors, titles and references of your preprints and publications in refereed journals, in reverse chronological order. Please note that publications will be reviewed on the basis of scientific content, rather than publication metrics or the identity of the journal.</p> <p>Your list can be divided into three sections: (i) refereed papers in primary journals, (ii) contributions to symposia and compiled volumes (refereed only); and (iii) preprints.</p>

	<p>For publications arising from large collaborative programmes clearly specify the exact role and contribution made towards large collaborative research programmes that have resulted in multi-authored publications.</p> <p>If your field of research differs in any way from normal conventions, e.g. lead author, first author, and publications in journals being the main gauge of success, please provide a brief explanation at the top of your publication list.</p> <p>If appropriate, give the publisher or where each publication may be obtained, providing a URL if available. Citations for preprints must state "Preprint", the repository name and the articles persistent identifier (e.g. DOI).</p> <p><b>Note:</b> You can retrieve your publications to complete this section of the application form using your ORCID identifier.</p>
Most Significant Publications *	Please highlight your ten most significant publications in order of importance. For each publication, please provide a short statement describing their significance and your contribution (up to 50 words per output)

<b>Project Summary</b>	
Project Title *	Please give the full title of your proposed project. Maximum 20 words.
Scientific Categorisation *	Please select which category best describes your application out of "Physical Sciences" or "Biological Sciences". For multidisciplinary projects, please select the category which is the best fit. This categorisation will help to determine which of the two committees assesses your application.
Subject Group *	Please select the subject group that most closely reflects the research area of the research proposal from the drop-down menu.
Subject Area *	<p>Please select one or more subject areas that most clearly defines the research area of the research proposal from the subject sub-category list.</p> <p>The subject areas that you select in this section of your application play a vital role in matching your application with appropriate reviewers, so it is extremely important to select only the most relevant subject sub-categories from the list. Please select between 1 to 4 tick box options, with 4 as the maximum.</p>
Lay Summary *	<p>Please provide a lay summary of your proposed project. This should be understandable by a lay person. Explain why you have chosen to work in this subject area and what it is about your proposed research that you find particularly exciting, interesting or important. If applicable, please also explain the potential impact or wider benefits to society of your research.</p> <p><b>Plain text only maximum of 250 words.</b></p>
Collaborations	Please provide details of any collaborative arrangements that currently exist to support this proposed research, including the names of your collaborators
Potential Collaborations	Please provide details of any collaborative arrangements that you plan to develop to support the proposed research. Please enter the name (optional) and the organisation of the proposed collaborators.

<b>Personal Statement and Research Vision</b>	
Personal Statement *	<p>Please provide a statement to highlight your major achievements (including prizes) and the difference securing this award would make to you, the host department and University as well as the research community in the UK.</p> <p>Please confirm your current teaching and admin duties and clearly explain how the Faraday Discovery Fellowship (and relocation to the UK if applicable) will make a difference in terms of your research and specifically what it will enable you to do which is currently not possible.</p> <p><b>PDF upload only.</b> This should be no longer than 1 side of A4, portrait orientation, with margins of at least 2cm. Please do not use a text size smaller than Arial 11 and make sure the document is titled.</p>
Research Vision *	<p>Please provide an overview of the proposed research, include the vision and the key research questions to be addressed. The challenges, feasibility, risk and key outcomes should also be highlighted in this section. The research vision should include detail as to how the proposed programme will be transformative and what makes the programme suitable for a Faraday Discovery Fellowship <i>i.e.</i> why the outcomes could only be achieved with a 10-year programme and with the level of funding provided by a Faraday Discovery Fellowship.</p> <p><b>PDF upload only.</b> This must be no longer than 2 sides of A4 for the research vision (plus 1 additional page for references only, if required), portrait orientation, with margins of at least 2cm. Please do not use a text size smaller than Arial 11 and make sure the document is titled.</p>

<b>Institutional and Departmental Support *</b>
<p>You should invite the Head of Department at your host organisation to provide a statement of support by following the instructions under the <b>participants tab</b> on the application form summary page. Please check that they can supply their statement by 15:00 UK time <b>23 September 2025</b>.</p> <p>Please check which email address your Head of Department would like to use, as they may already be registered on Flexi-Grant® and mistakes may lead to a delay in processing your application.</p> <p><b>Before inviting the Head of Department to participate in completion of the application form, the applicant is instructed to ensure that the Head of Department is willing and available to provide a confirmation of support prior to the round closing date. Incomplete confirmations will mean that an application cannot be submitted and will be deemed to be ineligible.</b></p> <p>A statement in support of the application will be expected from the Head of Department as a PDF on headed paper, that includes your name, title, and contact details.</p> <p>As Head of Department, you should state how the applicant will be supported in focusing on their proposed research, for example by not having competing duties such as teaching or administrative commitments. You will also be expected to provide assurance that, where the successful applicant is already employed within the Department, the salary released by the Faraday Discovery Fellowships funding would be reinvested through replacement posts of equivalent value within the Department. This</p>

may include posts of equivalent seniority to the award holder in the department or multiple more junior research posts of equivalent value (PDRAs or PhDs). All of the salary that covers the lead applicant's time which would now be covered by the award would be expected to be reinvested to benefit the department. The proportion currently allocated to teaching can go to teaching and the proportion currently allocated to research should go to research. Please note that this should be funding for people rather than resources. Additionally, please provide details of the resources that the department will commit to the applicant should the application be successful.

**The statement should be no longer than 2 sides of A4.**

It is the responsibility of the applicant to:

- Inform the Head of Department of the deadline
- Liaise with the Head of Department to ensure that they have received their invitation with instructions to participate in completion of the application, as no provision is made for non-receipt of these automatic emails.
- Keep track of the progress of Head of Department completion status on the application summary page. The Applicant can issue a reminder email to the Head of Department through the participants tab on the application summary page.

If the instruction email from the Royal Society has not been received please:

- a) double check the accuracy of the email address supplied on the application form
- b) advise the intended recipient to check their spam filters/junk folders
- c) contact the Royal Society with an alternative email address for the recipient

The Royal Society will not be held responsible for automated emails that are not received due to address errors or spam filters.

## Stage Two

**Please note, questions in this section are subject to change. Questions duplicated from the Stage 1 form should be auto-populated with the response from Stage 1.**

<b>Summary</b>	
Summary Page	<p>The summary page of the application form provides instructions for submission of your application for approval from the UK host organisation. In addition, you are provided with an overview for each section of your application form, including the approximate length of time it will take to complete each section.</p> <p>The summary page also allows applicants to manage and invite participants (e.g. Head of Department) who are required to contribute to the application form. Instructions for inviting participants can be found under the 'participants' tab on the application summary page.</p> <p><b>Note:</b> you will only be able to submit your application for approval by the Host Organisation once all sections of the form have been completed by all participants.</p>

## Contact Details

Title, Names, address, organisation and country *	<p>Review and complete your <b>personal details</b> accurately. Errors in this section can cause difficulties in processing your application. Errors will not be corrected after submission.</p> <p>Under this section, you should edit the <b>contact type of</b> the participants who will partake in your application form. The system default contact type is set as 'collaborator'. To amend the contact type of your Head of Department, click 'edit', and under the contact type field, select the 'Head of Department'.</p> <p><b>Organisation:</b> this table will automatically display details of the intended Host Organisation (marked by a tick) which you selected previously and your current organisation, if different from the organisation where the award will be held and administered.</p>
Email address *	<p>This field defaults to the account in which the application has commenced and is where all correspondence pertaining to the application throughout the application process will be sent. The applicant must therefore commence the application using the login email address used to register a user account on Flexi-Grant®.</p>

<b>Applicant Career Summary</b>	
Title of Current Position *	Please state the title of your current position.
Current Employer *	Please enter the official organisation name of your current employer (e.g. University of Bath).
Current Department *	Please enter details of your current department (e.g. Department of Astrophysics).
Country/Territory *	Please select the country/territory where your current employer (or last employer if currently unemployed or on leave) is based.
Current Position Start Date *	Please enter the date when your current position started.
Current Position End Date *	Please enter the date when your current position is expected to finish. If you are on an open-ended contract, please enter 31 December 2050.
Field of Specialisation *	Enter details of your field(s) of specialisation. (Maximum 20 words)
Summary of Your Current Research *	Provide an outline summary of your current research. Please also include a brief comment on the strength of your organisation. (Maximum 200 words)
Applicant Career History *	<p>Please provide a full list of your appointments since your PhD in reverse chronological order, stating if part-time (and percentage part-time) when necessary.</p> <p><b>Please provide full details of any periods of part-time working, career breaks, extended sick leave or maternity/paternity/adoptive leave as your eligibility may depend on the accuracy of this information.</b></p> <p><b>Note:</b> You can retrieve your career history information from your profile to complete this section of the application form using your ORCID identifier.</p>
Personal Statement *	<b>Personal statement (1 side of A4):</b> Please provide a statement to highlight your major achievements (including prizes) and the difference securing this award

	<p>would make to you, the host department and University as well as the research community in the UK.</p> <p>Please confirm your current teaching and admin duties and clearly explain how the Faraday Discovery Fellowship (and relocation to the UK if applicable) will make a difference in terms of your research and specifically what it will enable you to do which is currently not possible.</p> <p><b>PDF upload only.</b> This should be no longer than 1 side of A4, portrait orientation, with margins of at least 2cm. Please do not use a text size smaller than Arial 11 and make sure the document is titled.</p>
Impact of Covid -19	<p>The Society appreciates that the impact of the coronavirus pandemic on researchers and their work will be varied. Please provide a summary of how the pandemic has affected your research activities. This can include but is not limited to: delays in publishing/submitting a key paper(s) (please note preprints can be included in your publications list), pause on experiments/research plans, reduced ability to work due to additional caring responsibilities. (Maximum 500 words)</p>
CV *	<p>Please upload a copy of your CV as a PDF. This should be no longer than 3 sides of A4, portrait orientation, with margins of at least 2cm. Please do not use a text size smaller than Arial 11 and make sure the document is titled.</p> <p>The format and content of the CV is at the applicant's discretion, however it should include details of the applicant's track record, wider contributions to research, research impact and research culture as well as details of research appointments. These contributions might include public engagement, schools' engagement, knowledge exchange, mentoring, industry collaboration, team leadership, patents, commercialisation or broader business activity, peer review and committee membership.</p>
Applicant Qualifications *	<p>Please list all your qualifications in reverse chronological order.</p> <p>The depth of information you provide is up to you, but this will represent you under assessment and so it is worth including as much good evidence of your academic merit as possible and as appropriate for the funding for which you are applying. Note: You can retrieve your qualification information from your profile to complete this section of the application form using your ORCID identifier</p>
Full Publications list *	<p>Please provide details of authors, titles and references of your preprints and publications in refereed journals, in reverse chronological order. Please note that publications will be reviewed on the basis of scientific content, rather than publication metrics or the identity of the journal.</p> <p>Your list can be divided into three sections: (i) refereed papers in primary journals, (ii) contributions to symposia and compiled volumes (refereed only); and (iii) preprints.</p> <p>For publications arising from large collaborative programmes clearly specify the exact role and contribution made towards large collaborative research programmes that have resulted in multi-authored publications.</p>

	<p>If your field of research differs in any way from normal conventions, e.g. lead author, first author, and publications in journals being the main gauge of success, please provide a brief explanation at the top of your publication list.</p> <p>If appropriate, give the publisher or where each publication may be obtained, providing a URL if available. Citations for preprints must state "Preprint", the repository name and the articles persistent identifier (e.g. DOI).</p> <p><b>Note:</b> You can retrieve your publications to complete this section of the application form using your ORCID identifier.</p>
Most Significant Publications *	Please highlight your ten most significant publications in order of importance. For each publication, please provide a short statement describing their significance and your contribution (up to 50 words per output)
Applicant Research Funding *	<p>Please list your current and previous research funding in reverse chronological order.</p> <p>The depth of information you provide is up to you, but this will represent you under assessment and so it is worth including as much good evidence for your academic merit as possible and as appropriate for the funding for which you are applying.</p> <p>Note: You can retrieve your information from your profile to complete this section of the application form using your ORCID identifier.</p>

<b>Research Proposal</b>	
Project Title *	Please give the full title of your proposed project. Maximum 20 words.
Start Date *	Please enter the proposed start date of the project. Fellowships may commence from 1 October 2026.
End Date *	Please enter the proposed end date of the project. This should be a maximum of 10 years from the proposed start date.
Keywords *	Provide up to 5-10 keywords that could be used to describe your research, which will aid with identifying the most appropriate peer reviewers.
Scientific Categorisation *	Please select which category best describes your application out of "Physical Sciences" or "Biological Sciences". For multidisciplinary projects, please select the category which is the best fit. This categorisation will help to determine which of the two committees assesses your application.
Subject Group *	Please select the subject group that most closely reflects the research area of the research proposal from the drop-down menu.
Subject Area *	Please select one or more subject areas that most clearly defines the research area of the research proposal from the subject sub-category list.
Abstract *	<p>Please provide a scientific summary of your proposed project. This should be a summary of your research proposal, briefly outlining the background and summarising the aims of your project.</p> <p><b>Plain text only maximum of 400 words.</b></p>
Lay Summary *	Please provide a lay summary of your proposed project. This should be understandable by a lay person. Explain why you have chosen to work in this subject area and what it is about your proposed research that you find particularly exciting, interesting or important. If applicable please also explain the potential impact or wider benefits to society of your research.

	<b>Plain text only maximum of 250 words.</b>
Research Proposal (Years 1-5) *	<p>Please use this section to make your case for support, focussing on the first five years of the research. You should outline the nature of your research and explain the potential impact or wider benefits of your research. Your statement should also provide justification for the award and detail the difference securing this award would make to you and your long-term research vision.</p> <p><b>PDF upload only, maximum 4 sides of A4.</b> Portrait orientation, with margins of at least 2cm. Please do not use a text size smaller than Arial 11 and make sure the document is titled.</p>
Research Proposal (post 5 years) *	<p>Please use this section to make your case for support, focussing on the latter part of your project (after the first 5 years). You should outline the nature of your research and explain the potential impact or wider benefits of your research.</p> <p><b>PDF upload only, maximum 2 sides of A4.</b></p> <p><b>You may also include 1 additional page (so 3 sides total) for references relating to the full 10-year research proposal, if required.</b></p> <p>Portrait orientation, with margins of at least 2cm. Please do not use a text size smaller than Arial 11 and make sure the document is titled.</p>
Supporting Technical Information *	<p>Please use this section to provide additional information to support your proposal. This may include additional supporting data, further technical methodological detail, further discussion of risks and potential mitigations, a detailed project plan (for the first 5 years of the research programme), key milestones, and staffing priorities. This information will be particularly useful for the independent peer reviewers who are technical experts in the application subject area, and this section can be used by the applicant to pre-empt reviewer queries. There will be an opportunity for applicants to provide a written rebuttal to any remaining independent reviewer queries in advance of the final Selection Committee meeting.</p> <p><b>PDF upload only.</b> This should be between 4-6 sides of A4, portrait orientation, with margins of at least 2cm. Please do not use a text size smaller than Arial 11 and make sure the document is titled.</p>
Host Organisation *	Please select the organisation where the award will be held from the drop-down list.
Host Organisation Type *	Please select the Host Organisation type from the drop-down menu
Host Department *	Please provide the name of the proposed department at your host organisation. Please enter the official name (e.g. <i>School of Chemistry</i> rather than <i>Chemistry</i> ).
Justification for Choice of Host Organisation *	Please provide a short statement justifying your choice of host organisation (i.e. why is it best suited for your research and career?).
Named Collaborators Letters of Support	Optional upload

	However, it is encouraged that letters of support from significant collaborators are included to strengthen the case for support. They should be no longer than 2 sides of A4 per letter.
Full/Part-time working *	If you intend to hold the Fellowship part-time, please select the appropriate FTE from the drop-down list. If you will work full time, please select '1.0 FTE'.
Part-time resourcing details	If you have selected to hold the Fellowship part-time, please specify how the funds released by the PI working part-time would be used to support the delivery of the proposed research programme e.g. using unspent salary funds from their part-time working to resource their group more fully by hiring a lab manager
Suggested Independent Reviewers	<p>Please suggest independent reviewers with relevant expertise to review your proposal without a conflict of interest. If your application is selected for independent peer review, The Royal Society will consider your recommendations and decide whether or not to include them in the list of experts invited to review your proposal. You will not be informed of this decision.</p> <p>If there are any individuals you do not believe would be appropriate to approach as independent peer reviewers due to a <b>commercial conflict</b> with your proposed research programme, please include their names here with a short description of the potential conflict.</p>

<b>Data Management and Data Sharing</b>	
<p>The Royal Society supports science as an open enterprise and is committed to ensuring that data outputs from research supported by the Society are made publicly available in a managed and responsible manner, with as few restrictions as possible. Data outputs should be deposited in an appropriate, recognised, publicly available repository, so that others can verify and build upon the data, which is of public interest. To fully realise the benefits of publicly available data they should be made intelligently open by fulfilling the requirements of being discoverable, accessible, intelligible, assessable, and reusable.</p> <p>The Royal Society does not dictate a set format for data management and sharing plans. Where they are required, applicants should structure their plan in a manner most appropriate to the proposed research. The information submitted in plans should focus specifically on how the data outputs will be managed and shared, detailing the repositories where data will be deposited. In considering your approach for data management and sharing, applicants should consider the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What data outputs will be generated by the research that are of value to the public?</li> <li>• Where and when will you make the data available?</li> <li>• How will others be able to access the data?</li> <li>• If the data is of high public interest, how will it be made accessible not only for those in the same or linked field, but also to a wider public audience?</li> <li>• Specify whether any limits will be placed on the data to be shared, for example, for the purposes of safeguarding commercial interests, personal information, safety or security of the data.</li> <li>• How will datasets be preserved to ensure they are of long-term benefit?</li> </ul>	
Outline of data management and data sharing plan *	If the proposed research will generate data that is of significant value to the research community, then please provide details of your data management and sharing plan. <b>(Maximum 200 words)</b> .
Fieldwork *	Will you be conducting fieldwork as part of your research? Yes/No *

Fieldwork	Please provide all details of any proposed fieldwork to be carried out. Please ensure you provide details of location, duration and justification for the fieldwork.
Fieldwork (Upload only)	Please upload documents related to the following (if applicable): 1. <u>Permission</u> Any mandatory documents that show local support has been assured by way of permission from the government concerned to travel to and work in the country. 2. <u>Collection of specimens</u> Any mandatory documents that show: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Specific permission has been obtained from the host country to collect and to export specimens and material.</li> <li>• The director of the museum or other decision makers where these specimens will be deposited has indicated his/her desire or willingness to have such specimens and material.</li> </ul>

<b>Use of Animals in Research *</b>	
<p>The Royal Society is committed to supporting the development of alternative methods to reduce and/or replace the use of animals in research. Applicants proposing to use animals in their research must ensure that the use of animals falls within the regulations stipulated in the Animals (Scientific Procedures Act) 1986 and subsequent amendments. Additionally, applicants should continually be aware of developments in best practice, and adopt the principles of the <a href="#">3Rs</a> when designing and conducting experiments on animals.</p> <p>As a funder of research, the Society takes its responsibilities towards the UK Animals (Scientific Procedures Act) 1986 seriously and requires applicants to consider the questions below when preparing grant applications that include the use of animals.</p>	
Does your proposal involve the use of animals or animal tissue? *	Select 'Yes' or 'No'. If you have selected 'Yes' it is mandatory to complete all of the relevant questions on the Use of Animals in Research page.
<p><b>Experimental Design Assistant</b></p> <p>The Royal Society recommends that applicants use the <a href="#">Experimental Design Assistant</a> (EDA), which is a free resource from the NC3Rs to support researchers in the planning of animal experiments. This will help to facilitate robust study design and reliable and reproducible findings.</p> <p>The EDA helps applicants build a machine-readable diagram representing their experimental plan, following capture of their methodology, and allows the applicant to then generate a PDF report which provides a transparent description of the experimental design in a standardised format, which can be uploaded to the application form.</p> <p><b>Please note:</b> Applicants who choose to use the EDA, and subsequently upload the EDA report to the application form, are advised to enter <b>see report</b> or <b>n/a</b> into any question fields within this section of the application form that have already been captured in the EDA report, to avoid any duplication.</p>	

<b>Use of Human Participants and Tissue</b>	
Any application for a research proposal involving human participants, patients or tissue and therefore requiring local ethical committee approval will be considered only when accompanied by the necessary permission certificate or proof that ethical permission will be sought, which must be provided in English.	

Does your proposal involve the use of human participants, patients or tissue? *	Select 'Yes' or 'No'. If you have selected 'Yes' it is mandatory to provide either a certificate or letter, as proof that ethical permission has been, or will be, obtained. Please upload the file as a PDF in portrait orientation.
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<b>Financial Details</b>	
General information	<p>When completing the budget table in Flexi-Grant® please ensure to provide values at the appropriate FEC level (80% or 100%), as indicated in the <a href="#">Royal Society Grant Funding Guidance</a>. The cap of £8 million may be exceeded for visa and relocation costs only.</p> <p><b>If you have collaborators, please break down the costs for collaborating organisations within each justification category.</b></p>
Summary Budget Table *	<p>Please enter the values applied for under the budget table headings. This should match the summary table in tab 3 of the Excel finance form.</p> <p>Application finances should be done in collaboration with your Host Organisation's Research/Finance Office. A reasonable level of inflation to all grant costings should be applied (within the grants cap), except for PhD studentships and fees.</p> <p>The full duration of the award is 10 years, with years 6-10 subject to a mid-Fellowship review. The total grant cap may be exceeded in order to cover visa costs if this is well justified in the application. Please refer to the <a href="#">Royal Society Grant Funding Guidance</a>.</p> <p>In the event of the award-holder leaving the host organisation, the PhD student(s) will be permitted to decide whether to remain at the host organisation or move with the supervisor (with advice from the supervisor and other academic staff as appropriate). The host organisation will provide a deputy supervisor who will become lead supervisor in the event that the award holder leaves the host organisation.</p>
Excel budget form upload *	Please upload the completed Excel file detailing award finances.
Justification for Value requested *	Please include a justification for the total grant value requested. If requesting over £6 million, please make it clear why the additional funds are needed to deliver the proposed work.
Justification for Salary *	Please include grade and salary point as per the host organisation salary structure. A justification of annual increment should be included.
Justification for Other Research Staff *	<p>Please confirm the total value requested and provide a full justification for this amount. For PDRA costs, please also include the overheads associated with any posts in this section.</p> <p>PhD stipend and fees will be subject to annual review and uplift by the Society. Host organisations are requested to cost for the full duration of award using <a href="#">current rates</a> outlined in the <a href="#">Royal Society Grant Funding Guidance</a>.</p>
Justification for Research Expenses *	Please fully justify all requested costs (Other Directly Incurred Costs) by referring to each budget heading. Funding will not be awarded without justification. If you are requesting funds to support a PhD Studentship please use the yearly rates for stipend and fees listed in the <a href="#">Royal Society Grant Funding Guidance</a> .

Justification for Equipment *	Please provide costing details for any individual items of equipment with a value over £25,000. Items of equipment with a value of less than £25,000 should be detailed in the 'Justification for Research Expenses' section above.
Justification for Relocation and Visa Expenses *	<p>Visa and relocation costs can be claimed for the PI and their immediate dependents (partner and children) only.</p> <p>Please include the number of dependents (partner and children only allowed), which visa type you are applying for, its cost, and an estimation of other relocation expenses.</p>
Justification for Other Costs *	Please justify any other costs included in the application.
Justification for Inflation rate applied *	Please include the percentage inflation rate applied across all budget categories and the reasoning behind the percentage used.

### **Applicant Declaration \***

#### **Please declare that:**

You have read the Terms and Conditions of Award under which Royal Society grants are awarded and, if a grant offer is made, you agree to abide by them. **The Terms and Conditions for Royal Society applications can be found [here](#).**

- You have access to the necessary facilities to enable you to deliver the research proposed and will continue to have access to the facilities for the duration of the project.
- You have agreed with your Head(s) of Department that you will be afforded sufficient time and resources to deliver the research project as described in this application.

### **Institutional and Departmental Support \***

You should invite the pro-Vice Chancellor for Research at your host organisation to provide a statement of support by following the instructions under the **participants tab** on the application form summary page. Please check that they can supply their statement by 15:00 UK time **6 February 2025**. Please check which email address your pro-Vice Chancellor for Research would like to use, as they may already be registered on Flexi-Grant® and mistakes may lead to a delay in processing your application.

**Before inviting them to participate in completion of the application form, the applicant is instructed to ensure that the pro-Vice Chancellor for Research is willing and available to provide a confirmation of support prior to the round closing date. Incomplete confirmations will mean that an application cannot be submitted and will be deemed to be ineligible.**

The statement of support should be uploaded as a PDF on headed paper, that includes your name, title, and contact details. **The statement should be no longer than 2 sides of A4.**

The pro-Vice Chancellor for Research is required to summarise as part of their statement and organisation's commitment to the candidate:

- The suitability of the candidate for the Fellowship and department
- Set out how the host department/institution will provide the support, mentorship and guidance to enable the candidate to thrive in their career and research.
- The host organisation is expected to adhere to the principles of the Concordat to support the development of research careers. The host organisation is also required to commit to providing appropriate training and development for members of the PI's research group (including early career researchers, PDRAs, PhD students and technicians) funded through the grant.

- Where the holder was already employed at the host organisation, the host is required to commit to providing like-for-like replacement posts of equivalent value within the department. This may include posts of equivalent seniority to the PI in the department or multiple more junior research posts of equivalent value (PDRAs, PhDs, highly skilled support staff). The re-investment of the Faraday Discovery Fellow's salary is expected to cover the value that will actually be paid by the Society, i.e. 80% if the research fellow is based at an HEI and funded at 80% FEC. The proportion currently allocated to teaching can go to teaching and the proportion currently allocated to research should go to research. Please note that this should be funding for people rather than resources.

Research Fellows are expected to devote their time to research. Funded PIs must spend at least 80% of their time on research activity, with the other 20% of their time being used to contribute towards other duties such as teaching and contact with students, administration, departmental leadership etc. Where innovation or translation activity, including working with industry, is part of the agreed programme of the fellowship, that time can also be considered as "research".

It is the responsibility of the applicant to:

- Inform the pro-Vice Chancellor for Research of the deadline.
- Liaise with the pro-Vice Chancellor for Research to ensure that they have received their invitation with instructions to participate in completion of the application, as no provision is made for non-receipt of these automatic emails.
- Keep track of the progress of pro-Vice Chancellor for Research's completion status on the application summary page. The Applicant can issue a **reminder** email through the participants tab on the application summary page.

If the instruction email from the Royal Society has not been received please:

- a) double check the accuracy of the email address supplied on the application form
- b) advise the intended recipient to check their spam filters/junk folders
- c) contact the Royal Society with an alternative email address for the recipient

The Royal Society will not be held responsible for automated emails that are not received due to address errors or spam filters.

# Appendix 1: Application and Review Process

