

Faraday Discovery Fellowships 2025

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 emerging 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 awards 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 Aims of the Scheme

The aims of the Faraday Discovery Fellowships are to:

- **Support emerging 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** – Supporting the development of the next generation of research leaders in their field through a programme of training, mentoring and support for members of the research group (including early career researchers, PDRAs, PhD students and technicians) funded on the grants.

1.3 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.

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.

1.4 Duration and Start of Fellowship

Approximate number of Fellowships offered: 7 per year

Fellowships are expected to commence from October 2025. Earlier 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 CV application form (Stage 1)	Wednesday, 14 August 2024
Closing Date for the submission of CV application form (Stage 1)	Wednesday, 02 October 2024, 15:00 (UK Time)
Expected results	Mid-November 2024
Opening date for the invited applicants to submit full application (Stage 2)	Thursday, 28 November 2024

Closing date for the invited applicants to submit full application (Stage 2)	Thursday, 06 February 2025, 15:00 (UK Time)
Expected results	July 2025

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

3 Finance

Applicants are permitted to apply for up to £8 million. Applicants should only request the funding required to complete the research and may request less than the full amount. The level of funding requested should be fully justified.

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 5.3.

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 5.2.

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.

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 maximum grant amount of £8 million is being requested, a maximum of £2 million could be allocated to international collaborator costs. Within that £2 million, a maximum of £500,000 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 5.3. 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 Grants) will need to demonstrate their ability to run both grants concurrently. 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' 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 7).
- **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 consolidate their independence to become international research leaders in their field.
- **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/>
- **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 up 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 may be asked to justify the arrangement.

This scheme will **not** support:

- **Senior researchers** - Researchers who have more than 20 years' 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.

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 disabled applicants: The Royal Society welcomes applications from disabled applicants and provides adjustments to ensure that they can participate fully in the selection process. If you need an adjustment when accessing the application form, or for any other part of the application process, please contact the Faraday Discovery Fellowships team on faraday@royalsociety.org or call +44 20 7451 2666. Adjustments can include but are not limited to:

- Extension of the deadline
- Additional support to complete the application form

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 world-class 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 outstanding 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 suitability of the research environment (UK university or research institution).

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 Review Committee and Final Appointments Committee 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.

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

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
- **Independent peer review** – Shortlisted full applications are subject to high-quality independent peer review
- **Peer review response** – Following completion of independent peer review, applicants will receive the reviewers' comments and will have the opportunity to submit a written response
- **Appointment Committee meeting** – Recommendations for funding will be made by the Faraday Appointments Committees at the final appointments committee meeting

All applicants will normally be notified of the outcome of their application by the end of July 2025.

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 review process can be found in Appendix 1. All applicants will be notified of outcomes via email.

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 (Wednesday, 02 October 2024 for Stage 1) 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. If not, please email the Grants team via 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.

Further guidance and support can be found through the [applicant and approver knowledge base](#).

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

A full list of question fields to be completed as part of the application will be published prior to the round opening. An overview of the key questions can be found in the Question Guidance in the 'Application Guidance Notes' Section below, **please note that these questions are subject to change.**

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

Full question guidance, including a list of every question in each application form, will be published prior to the round launch. An overview of the key questions relating to the research proposal is provided below, please note that these questions are subject to change and only represent the core questions that will be included in the application relating to the applicant career history, research proposal and institutional support.

Please note that any pdf upload that exceeds the page limit specified will not be considered.

Stage One

Eligibility Criteria	
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.
Project Summary	
Project Title *	Please give the full title of your proposed project. Maximum 20 words.
Named Collaborators	Please provide the names and organisations of collaborators
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
Primary Committee	If your research proposal spans the remit of both Faraday Committees, please select the Committee you consider most appropriate.
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. Plain text only maximum of 250 words.

Applicant Career Summary	
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.
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>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.</p> <p>Note: You can retrieve your career history information from your profile to complete this section of the application form using your ORCID identifier.</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>
Publications *	<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>Most significant publications - Please identify with asterisks (*) ten publications which you consider to be most significant. For these * publications please provide a short statement describing their significance and your contribution (up to 50 words per output).</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>Note: You can retrieve your publications to complete this section of the application form using your ORCID identifier.</p>
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Personal Statement and Research Vision	
Personal Statement and Research Vision*	<p>Personal statement (1 side of A4): 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>Research Vision (2 sides of A4): 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.</p> <p>PDF upload only. This should be no longer than 3 sides of A4 combined (1 side for personal statement, 2 sides for research vision), 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>

Institutional and Departmental Support *
<p>You should invite the Head of Department 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 2 October 2024.</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>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.</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 research posts of equivalent value within the Department. This may include posts of equivalent seniority to the award holder in the department or multiple more junior research posts of equivalent value (PRDAs or PhDs). Additionally, please provide details of the resources that the department will commit to the applicant should the application be successful.

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

Applicant Career Summary	
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)
Personal Statement *	<p>Personal statement (1 side of A4): 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</p>

	<p>make a difference in terms of your research and specifically what it will enable you to do which is currently not possible.</p> <p>PDF upload only. 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>
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>
Publications *	<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>Most significant publications - Please identify with asterisks (*) up to ten publications which you consider to be most significant. For these * publications please provide a short statement describing their significance and your contribution (up to 50 words per output).</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>Note: You can retrieve your publications to complete this section of the application form using your ORCID identifier.</p>

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>
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Research Proposal	
Project Title *	Please give the full title of your proposed project. Maximum 20 words.
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.
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>Plain text only maximum of 400 words.</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>Plain text only maximum of 250 words.</p>
Research Proposal *	<p>Please use this section to make your case for support. You should outline the nature and goals of your research, the high-level scientific case for the proposed programme, and explain the 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>Please allocate 4 pages for years 1-5 of the research, and 2 pages for years 6-10.</p> <p>PDF upload only. This should be no longer than 6 sides of A4 (4 sides for years 1-5, 2 sides for years 6-10), 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>
Project Planning and Supporting Data *	<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>

	PDF upload only. 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.
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>).
Host Organisation *	Please select the organisation where the award will be held from the drop-down list.
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
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

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 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 research 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 (PRDAs or PhDs).

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

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Appendix 1: Application and Review Process

