

Why apply for an RS-SFI University Research Fellowship?

Gabrielė Butkutė
Scheme Manager, UK Grants



About the Royal Society



RS-SFI University
Research Fellowship



Application process



Why apply



Contact details





Strategic Priorities

Our Strategic Plan for 2017-22 is built on three strategic priorities:

- Promoting excellence in science
- Supporting international scientific collaboration
- Demonstrating the importance of science to everyone

Supporting Outstanding Science

- Our funding sources are from the Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (UK) and Science Foundation Ireland.
- Approx. 210 scientists are currently supported through the URF Scheme – awarded 13 SFI-URFs.

“You are given the freedom to concentrate on the science and the trust to run your own project”

Dr Lynette Keeney

University Research Fellow
University College Cork, Ireland



Who can apply?

There are no nationality restrictions

- 3-8 years postdoctoral experience
- Must not hold a permanent academic post
- Must not hold a Fellowship equivalent to a URF

Note: career breaks are taken into account when assessing eligibility

What support is offered?

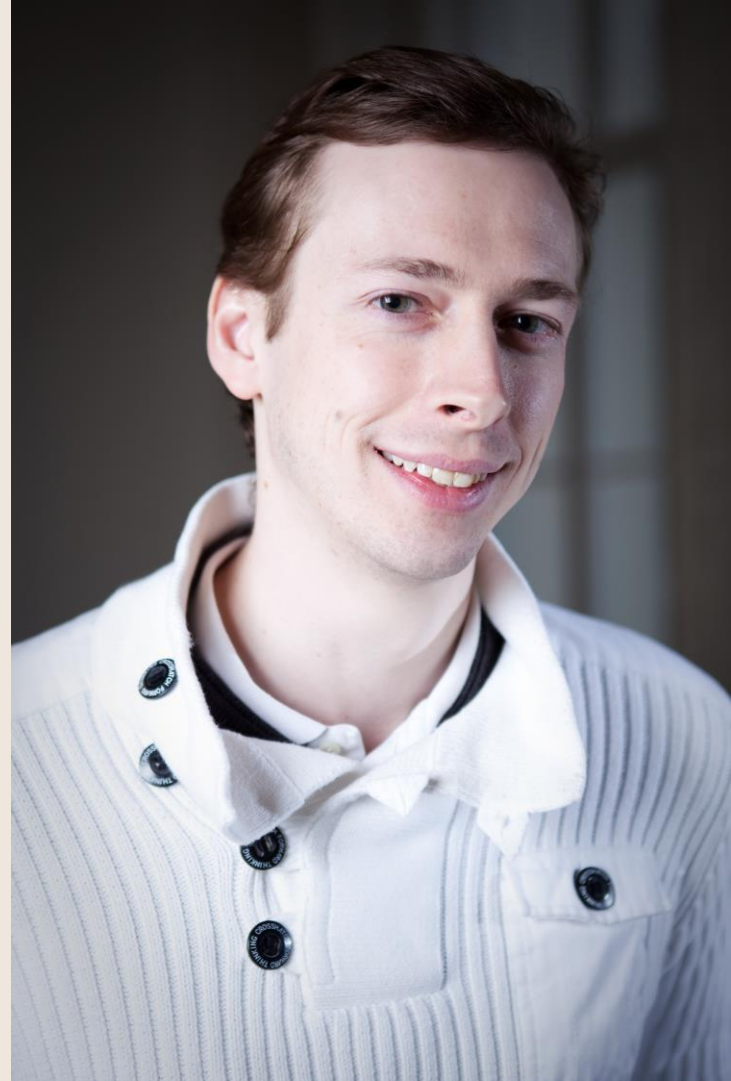
- **Basic Salary**, Research expenses (€15,000 in Year 1 and €13,000 in subsequent years), 30% contribution to **Overheads**
- Additional contribution to research expenses
- Expected to commence on 1 October 2020
- 5 years in first instance, potential 3 year renewal
- Fellowships can be held **flexibly**

“I've taken six months paternity leave during my URF; my partner and I split the parental leave 50/50.

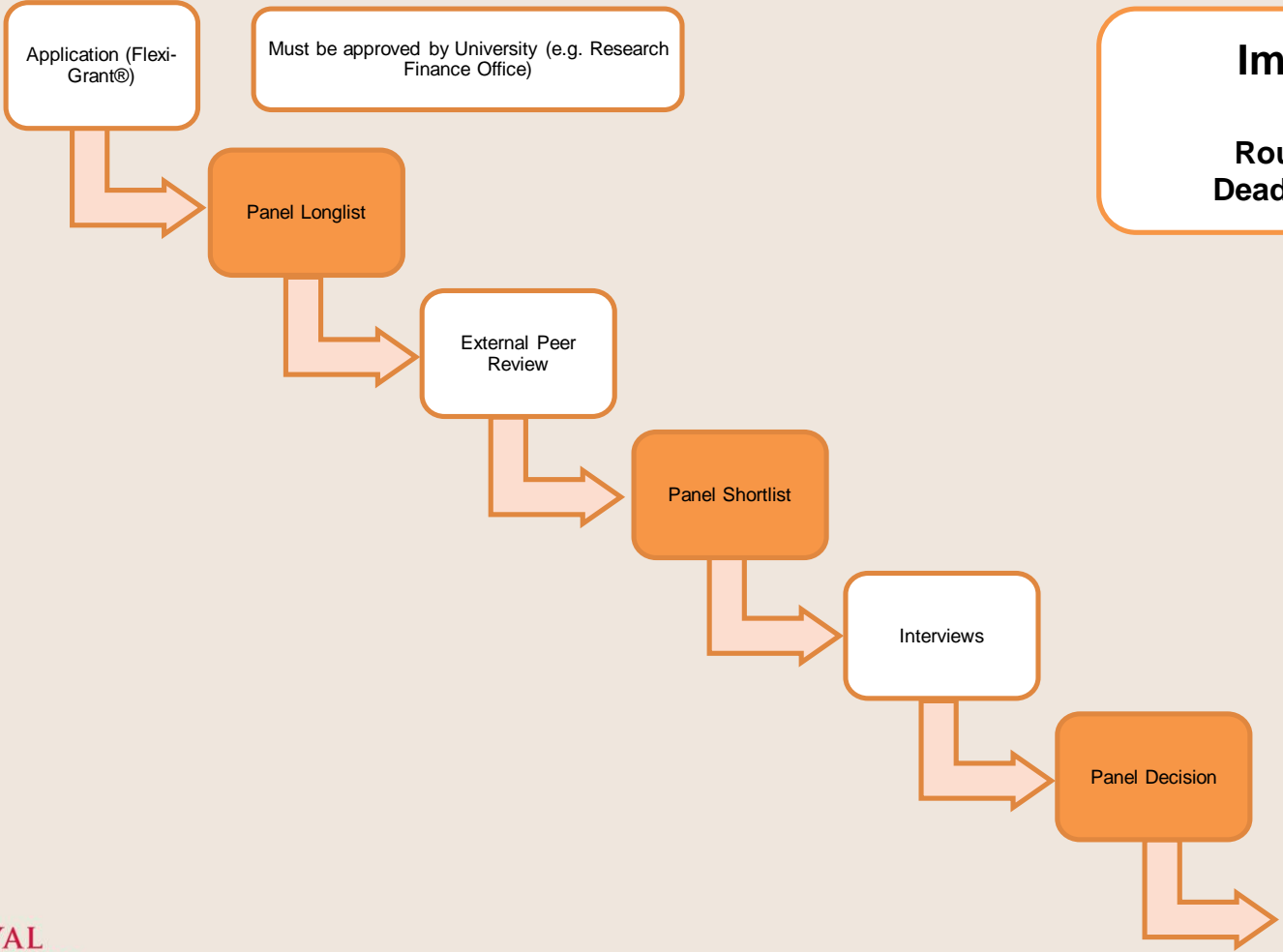
The Royal Society have completely supported this. For both maternity and paternity leave, the duration of the Fellowship is simply extended accordingly.”

Dr Toby Cubitt

University Research Fellow
University College London



Applying



Important dates:

Round opens: mid July
Deadline: early September

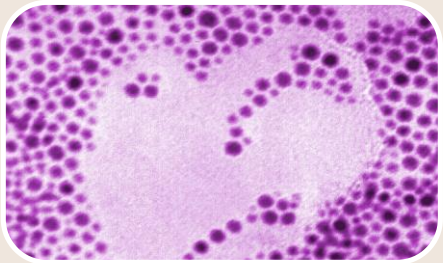
Applications – What are we looking for?



Excellent scientific
merit



Validity of hypothesis



Creativity



Track Record



Career development



Host institution

Hints & tips



Leave plenty
of time



Write a good
lay summary



Be
enthusiastic



Read the
scheme notes

Interview Process

- The interview will be conducted by a panel of committee members
- Two panel members will lead the interview, but all members can ask questions
- Candidates will be asked to give a brief overview of their applications and area of research

The questions will focus on the following issues:

The science of the application

Developments since submission

The choice of host institution

Route of independence

Any issues needing further clarification

Training & Development Opportunities for Research Fellows

Training

- Innovation & the Business of Science
- Understanding Grants Processes
- Public Engagement
- Policy Primer
- Writing & Media Skills

Support

- Mentoring
- Public Engagement Fund

Meetings/workshops/conferences...

- Regional Network Meetings
- Meeting of Minds Conference
- Industry College Events
- Scientists Meet the Media
- Relevant conferences/discussion meetings
- Committees/boards
- Policy workshops
- Induction Day for newly appointed RFs



“My University Research Fellowship provided me the opportunity to pursue independent blue-skies and applied research, while connecting me to a large interdisciplinary network of world-class scientists”

Dr Steven Spoel
University Research Fellow
University of Edinburgh

Contact details

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