

African Academy of Sciences (AAS) and the Royal Society, supported by the Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF), invites proposals for:

FUTURE LEADERS – AFRICAN INDEPENDENT RESEARCHERS (FLAIR) FELLOWSHIPS 2021

<https://royalsociety.org/grants-schemes-awards/grants/flair/>

These Fellowships are for talented African early career researchers who have the potential to become leaders in their field.

Key Words: Natural Sciences, Global Development Challenges, Sustainable Development Goals, Official Development Assistance (ODA), Early Career Researchers

Key Dates:

30 April 2020	Notification of intention to submit sent to the International Grants Hub (internationalgrants@uct.ac.za).*
13 May 2020	Submission of proposals for internal proposal review by the International Grants Hub (optional)
13 May 2020	Submission of letters of support for signature
15 May 2020	Budget approval: Submission of a completed eRA proposal approval form to the Finance Approver step (mandatory – see below for more information)
20 May 2020 (close of business)	UCT internal closing date (submission to Research Contracts & Innovation)
27 May 2020, 3 pm UK time	Funder deadline for applications
November 2020	Interviews for shortlisted applicants
December 2020	Expected results

* Please include the following details in your notification email: (1) project title; (2) faculty; (3) name of your supervisor if you are a postdoc.

UCT CONTACTS:

Please direct all queries, including those regarding letters of support, to:

- Faculty of Health Sciences: David Choveaux david.choveaux@uct.ac.za

- All other Faculties: Dionne Miles at internationalgrants@uct.ac.za

Background

The objectives of this scheme are to:

- Support talented early career African researchers to establish an independent research career in African institutions.
- Enable high-quality research that addresses the global development challenges faced by the African continent.
- Provide world-class support, training, mentoring and networking opportunities to benefit early career African researchers.

Each FLAIR Fellowship will be for two years initially and will offer up to £150,000 per year, alongside a programme of support to develop fellows as independent research leaders including training and mentoring, and opportunities to network both regionally and with the UK to develop international collaborations.

The proposals will be competitively evaluated based on the strength of the applicant, proposed research project, the host institution, potential for capacity building, and alignment with [GCRF global challenge\(s\)](#) directly relevant to Africa and other developing countries.

Eligibility

Applications should be within the Royal Society's remit of natural sciences (physical sciences and biological sciences). This includes but is not limited to biological research, chemistry, engineering, mathematics and physics. For a full list, please see <https://royalsociety.org/grants-schemes-awards/grants/subject-groups/>.

This funding scheme **does not cover**:

- Clinical or interventional research on humans
- Social sciences or humanities.

If you are unsure whether your topic of research is eligible, please check with the UCT contacts given above.

You can apply for this scheme if you:

- Are a national of a sub-Saharan African country and wish to work in a sub-Saharan African country in a research position, or a national of a sub-Saharan

African country in the diaspora and wish to return to a research position in a sub-Saharan African country.

- Hold a PhD at the time of application.
- Are an early career researcher with a minimum of two years' and no more than 8 years' post-doctoral research experience. Where applicants have taken formal periods of maternity, paternity, or adoptive leave as the primary carer, or extended sick leave, assessment will not only take into account the actual period of leave taken (e.g. three months), but will also allow an additional six months for each period of leave (e.g. three months plus six months = nine months) when assessing research experience eligibility.

Underrepresented groups, including women, are particularly encouraged to apply.

APPLICATION AND SUBMISSION PROCESS

Applications should be made through the Royal Society's grant management system Flexi-Grant®: <https://grants.royalsociety.org>. ***Paper-based applications will not be accepted.*** Further information about the Grants management system can be found [here](#)

Internal approval via UCT's [electronic Research Administration \(eRA\)](#) system:

All UCT applicants will be required to obtain internal approval of their research project and related budget via eRA for their application to be submitted to the Royal Society. As the official designated approver, UCT's Research Contracts & Innovation Office (RC&I) is responsible for final submission of all UCT applications and will only complete submission of your application once approval via eRA is received.

Specific steps and considerations for internal approval via eRA will be communicated to applicants who confirm their intention to submit to the scheme.

Note: RC&I requires a minimum of five working days before the funder deadline for completion of internal checks. **Please submit your applications no later than close of business on Wednesday, 20 May 2020.** RC&I will not be held responsible for any unsuccessful submissions to the funder for applications received after this date.

IMPORTANT!!

Supporting statements: To complete and submit your application form on Flexi-Grant® you are required to provide supporting statements from up to three individuals (including

the Head of Department and one nominated referee). These individuals can be invited through the 'participants' tab displayed on the application form summary page.

Institutional letter of support: A support letter outlining the research environment at UCT and signed by the DVC for Research & Internationalisation is required as part of the application form. The Research Office will provide a template upon receipt of your intention to submit. To get the letter signed, please send the completed letter to the below individuals by **Wednesday 13 May 2020**

- Faculty of Health Sciences: David Choveaux david.choveaux@uct.ac.za
- All other Faculties: Dionne Miles internationalgrants@uct.ac.za