



Research Fellowship (AI)

Grade and salary: Grade 8 (£47,389 – £59,966 pa) or Grade 9 (£61,759 – £75,917 pa)
(depending on experience)

Working hours: Full time, flexible working arrangements can be considered

Tenure: 5 years 'Tenure Track' fellowship

Location: Hybrid working, Liverpool campus

Contact: universityofliverpoolfellowships@liverpool.ac.uk

Job ref: 00123

The Opportunity

As part of the University's Strategy 2031, which takes the institution to its 150th anniversary, we are delighted to invite applications for our second cohort of University of Liverpool Research Fellows.

We are seeking to appoint up to 10 Fellows who have a world-changing research idea and the drive to grow into a knowledge leader of tomorrow. Our fellowship scheme for 2025-26 invites applications from candidates who have an AI-focused research idea that could be applied to our Research frontiers. Please click on the links below to read the detailed application guidance and [see our focus areas](#) for each Frontier. Candidates must apply against one of our defined focus areas and clearly outline their vision and alignment to the frontier focus area as part of their application.

- 1. AI for Life**
- 2. Infection Resilience**
- 3. Materials Discovery**
- 4. Particle Physics**
- 5. Therapeutics Innovation**

Applicants will typically have at least 3 years post-doctoral experience either in Higher Education, or equivalent experience in a research-intensive, non-HEI setting. However, this is not an essential requirement for appointment. We welcome applicants from all backgrounds and disciplines who can demonstrate a clear research vision that aligns with one of our defined AI focus areas as we are committed to supporting diverse career journeys.

We will support your world-class research potential while helping you develop into an inclusive, responsible, and collaborative leader for the future. This is an exciting opportunity to develop your research portfolio in a world-class University, and progress to permanent tenure by the end of the Fellowship, subject to meeting performance objectives.

We welcome applicants who currently hold a personal fellowship; however, this is not a prerequisite. There will be an expectation that you apply for external funding during the course of the fellowship.

The Fellowship offer

- The University of Liverpool Fellowship is linked to a permanent academic post, subject to performance against a high-quality threshold, detailed below, and the continued right to work in the UK.
- Fellows will be placed in the most appropriate University Department for their discipline, and we also encourage cross-disciplinary projects in our Frontier focus areas that can be co-hosted across our departmental boundaries.

- Fellows will develop and agree on their individual career progression plan with their Head of Department during the early stages of their fellowship. The first year is usually focused on establishing the research programme, with a limited amount of teaching.
- Teaching and administration will increase over the subsequent period of the fellowship. The balance of this will be carefully considered as part of each Fellow's career progression plan.
- Comprehensive support will be provided, including: a University induction; tailored developmental opportunities including mentoring and coaching; support to develop research and impact excellence and funding applications; leadership development opportunities; developing teaching excellence; and peer-to-peer networking opportunities.
- A competitive salary on Grade 8, or 9 of the University grading structure, commensurate with experience.
- A start-up package which includes £10K per annum (for wet lab research) / £5K per annum (other research) and the scope to agree on other start-up requirements.
- Access to the full range of [University benefits](#), including support for relocation in line with [University policy](#).
- Sponsorship available for successful candidates requiring a UK Right to Work.

How your application will be assessed

Assessment Criteria	First Stage - assessment	If you progress to the final Stage - assessment
Research and Innovation excellence		
Excellence of proposed programme of work and its potential to advance state of the art in AI or transformative applications of AI in the focus area selected	Outline Research Proposal	Full Proposal, Presentation, Interview
Track record of producing high impact research and/or innovation outputs that stand out and is on a trajectory to become world-class in AI or in the transformative application of AI. <i>Outputs include the full range as defined by the UK REF process e.g. publications, IP, policy documents, exhibitions, performances etc</i>	CV	
Robust methodological approach and appropriate consideration of research and innovation reproducibility. Demonstrate commitment to the responsible and ethical development of AI, with attention to inclusivity, governance and societal impact.		Full Proposal, Presentation

Impact		
Clear articulation of the potential short- and long-term impacts of the proposed research or innovation, and likely significance for AI and/or its transformative applications.	Outline Research Proposal	Full Proposal, Presentation, Interview
Credible, proportionate, and timely plans for achieving impact.		Full Proposal, Presentation
Alignment with the Frontier focus area and relevant external policy drivers, including the UK Industrial Strategy	Outline Research Proposal	Interview
Person attributes		
A PhD in a discipline relevant to your fellowship proposal is mandatory.	Application Form	
Clear evidence of independence and thought leadership, which may go beyond the level normally expected of their current position, with capacity to shape the future direction of AI research and its applications.	CV, Outline Research Proposal	Full Proposal, Presentation, Interview
Demonstrate an ability to be, or become, a clear communicator and disseminator of knowledge and innovation, able to inspire and lead others.		Interview
Experience of successful, collaborative working across teams, disciplines or sectors	CV	Full Proposal, Interview
Potential to lead and inspire others, through team development or taking a leading role in the relevant field.	CV, Outline Research Proposal	Interview
Understanding of the equity, diversity and inclusion drivers, with a willingness to embed these principles into working practice.		Interview

How to Apply – The process

Applications will only be considered if the following 3 documents are submitted:

- The application form
- CV – headings to cover provided on our e-recruitment site
- Outline Research Proposal template provided on our e-recruitment site. Candidates should clearly outline their vision and alignment to one of our frontier focus areas in their outline research proposal

Our e-recruitment system enables you to register for an online account, where you can view, copy and edit your applications. Set up your account on our [Vacancies Portal](#).

Once you submit your application you will receive an automatic email acknowledgment. You can view your application at any time by clicking into the application history section of your account.

The key dates and more information can be found here:

<https://www.liverpool.ac.uk/research/fellowships/>

More information about working at the University of Liverpool can be found [here](#)

Fellows will be assessed for tenure based on the following:

Research & innovation excellence

Fulfilled the agreed plans and priorities for your research programme, including generation of funding, to an internationally excellent standard, or be able to demonstrate that your research is progressing towards an internationally excellent standard.

Learning and Teaching

- Fulfilled the agreed teaching expectations to a standard expected in your subject area – this may include contributions to undergraduate/postgraduate tutorials, lectures, workshops and research projects. The degree of involvement in teaching will be phased in over the course of the fellowship and be dependent on the level of appointment.
- Contributed to the student experience at undergraduate and/or postgraduate level, including evidence of PGR supervision where appropriate.
- Achieved a Teaching Qualification and /or Professional Recognition against the UK Professional Standards Framework (UKPSF), [UK Professional Standards Framework \(UKPSF\) 2011 | Advance HE](#) as appropriate.

Knowledge Exchange

Awareness of and engagement with the internal and external knowledge exchange environment, with a clear plan for continued knowledge exchange activity

Development

- Successfully fulfilled the agreed leadership and managerial activities assigned to them.
- Contribution and engagement with departmental/institutional plans and priorities.
- A clear longer-term career plan.
- Participate in the University's Professional Development Review scheme and take a proactive approach to own professional development.
- Embody and uphold the University's Vision, Values and policies, completing all obligatory training and induction modules, including Equality & Diversity and Health & Safety

Clinical Engagement (if appropriate)

Fulfilled agreed clinical duties assigned to you and all of the associated professional requirements of your clinical status and registration.

Confirmation in Appointment process

- Fellows in years one and two of their probationary period will have their progress annually assessed, which during the first two years of the fellowship will include discussion about whether progress is meeting the expectations for confirmation on tenure in year 3. This offers an early opportunity for probationary staff to evaluate their progress in the lead up to their probationary review/confirmation in post.
- Fellows will be considered for confirmation in the latter part of their third year in post when a University level review panel, chaired by the Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Research and Impact, will consider their eligibility for confirmation in post (permanent tenure).
- We are also committed to ensuring support for individuals returning to academia after a career break for family, caring or health reasons. Career breaks such as maternity leave, EU national service, and Voluntary Service Overseas will be accommodated in the eligibility criteria. Time spent in industry since the award of a PhD will also be considered. Further details of our Equality and Diversity policy can be consulted [here](#)

Disabilities and alternative formats

If you have any other requirements which will help you access the application or interview process or employment opportunities at the University, or if you require copies documentation in alternative formats, please email: jobs@liverpool.ac.uk or telephone 0151 794 6771.

