# UR Device RGBUniversity Research Fellowships 2025 to 2026

**Route B: Monograph Completion (all career stages)**

The University Committee for Research & Innovation is supporting up to five University Research Fellowships which provide **£15,000** to successful applicants to cover teaching replacement costs and research expenses. Fellowships will be for the **duration of one year** and can be taken by part-time staff on a fractional basis over two years.

**Two** of the five University Research Fellowships (Route B) have been designated to support researchers in the **arts, humanities, and social sciences to complete monographs (or other long-form outputs) intended for submission to REF 2029 as double-weighted outputs**. This funding call responds to feedback received through the Research Culture Survey (2023) and aims to support both career development for individual researchers and division planning for the next REF exercise.

The Fellowships will support the completion of ambitious, high quality outputs of extended scale and scope that are likely to be considered suitable for submission as double-weighted outputs in REF 2029. Researchers at any stage of their career are eligible to apply.

## Objectives and Criteria

The objectives of the University Research Fellowship (Route B) are to:

1. Enable the completion of a longer-form output (e.g. monograph/book, long-duration creative work or multi-component output) that demonstrates sustained research effort.
2. The output should demonstrate any of the following characteristics: reports on the collection and analysis of a large body of material; uses primary sources which were extended, complex or difficult to access; presents critical insight or argument that was dependent upon the extended data collection and analyses; involves undertaking of a complex, extended and/or multi-layered process of creative investigation; or the investigation of a given theme in considerable depth, from different perspectives, and/or in relation to different contexts.

Applications will be assessed against the following criteria:

* Evidence for the quality and significance of the proposed output and its suitability for double-weighting (e.g. citing peer review reports from PRO, external readers reports, track record of applicant) (50%).
* The contribution of the Fellowship and completion of the extended output to the career development of the applicant (25%).
* The feasibility for timely completion of a high quality output of extended scale and scope within the period of the Fellowship (25%).

A final report to UCRI will summarise progress towards publication. Fellowships that are judged as unsatisfactory in terms of having met the envisaged objectives might result in limits on the access of the individual or school in question to future funding from RDF.

## Eligibility

All T&R staff within the arts, humanities, and social sciences across the Heritage & Creativity and Prosperity & Resilience research themes are eligible to apply through their Research Division Lead. Applicants must be able to demonstrate significant progress/ sustained research effort towards completion of the output and how a University Fellowship will enable full completion.

Eligible staff at **all career stages** **on a permanent academic RI or T&R contract** are encouraged to apply and considerations of career stage will be taken into account for ECR applicants. Previous holders of a University Fellowship (or other funding to complete the output in question) are not eligible to apply.

Please note that:

* It is anticipated that applications will primarily come from researchers in the H&C Theme, the P&R Theme and the Research Division AFESS, but may also include relevant research from other areas, for example Built Environment and PCLS, depending on the nature of the topic/research methods. Potential applicants from the latter and other areas are advised to consult with their APVC Research if they are uncertain whether their topic is eligible.
* Holders of active internal University Fellowships or RDF (formerly RETF) Open Call awards will not be eligible to apply until such time as their current awards are successfully completed.
* Projects in partnership with RBFT will not be considered.

## Application Process

Applications are invited for appointment to Route B University Research Fellowships for the academic year 2025/26.

Only one application will be accepted from each relevant research division. **RDLs are invited to submit one application by Tuesday 25 March 2025**.

Applications must be submitted on the attached pro-forma and emailed to the Executive Governance Office Research (research-execgovoffice@reading.ac.uk).

Proposals will be assessed by the University Committee for Research & Innovation against the assessment criteria outlined above.

# University Research Fellowship 2025 to 2026

# Application Form (Route B)

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| **Name** |  |
| **Research Division** |  |
| **School** |  |
|  |
| **Section 1 - To be completed by the Applicant** |
| **Extended Output Title** |
| **Output Quality**Briefly describe the monograph or extended output. If it is jointly authored/collaborative, explain your role and that of other contributors.What is the evidence for quality (originality, significance and rigour) of 3-4\*? Please provide evidence from PRO or other peer review mechanisms or publishing track record (where relevant). How does the output meet the criteria for double-weighting (see Objective 2 above)? (max. 500 words)  |
| **Feasibility of completion** Describe the expected deliverables and the timetable for their delivery. (max. 350 words) |
| **Career development** How will completion of the monograph or extended output contribute to your career development as a researcher? What is the rationale for the target publisher and is a contract in place? How will the output be made available Open Access (green or gold routes)? (max. 350 words) |
| **Finances**The awards will provide £15,000 to contribute to teaching buy-out for the year of the Fellowship.  |
| **Previous Periods of Research Leave**Provide details of any previous periods of internal or externally supported research leave to complete this output. (max. 50 words) |
| **Previous Funding from RDF (formerly RETF)**Please provide details of, and outcomes from, any other RDF (formerly RETF) funding received in the last three years. |
| **Signature of Applicant** **Date** |
| **Section 2 - To be completed by the Research Division Leader** |
| **RDL Supporting Statement** Please provide a supporting statement for the application. What is the REF strategic case for completion of the extended output? What support and monitoring will be put in place to ensure timely completion? (max. 300 words)  |
| **Signature of Research Division Leader** **Print Name** |
| **Section 3 - To be completed by the Head of School** |
| **HoS Supporting Statement**Please confirm: 1. Your support for the project, and that successful applicants will be relieved of all teaching responsibilities (excl. PhD supervision) for the year of the Fellowship and your commitment to cover funding shortfall if required.
2. That the School, through its line management and PDR and ARP processes, will seek to ensure that the Fellow will produce promised outputs of the Fellowship within the envisaged time.
3. That the School will ensure that the appropriate teaching buy-out arrangements are put in place. Please briefly outline the buyout plan below:
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| **Signature of Head of School****Print Name** |

Once completed, please email to the Executive Governance Office Research (research-execgovoffice@reading.ac.uk) by **Tuesday 25 March 2025**.