# UKRI Future Leaders Fellowship – Round 9

## Head of Department (HoD) Supporting Statement

Below is a suggested structure for the paragraphs to include in the Head of Department (HoD) supporting statement. This is based on the guidance from UKRI (included in bold) and has recommendations for tailoring the statement for each application, along with additional items to include relevant to UWS.

Although supporting statements are often initially drafted by the candidate, we expect the host Schools to have agreed to all commitments. Therefore, in drafting the statement of support, candidates must discuss with the relevant Dean of School what specific resources they require and what support is available to them. You must check the process for this locally with your host School.

Draft letters should be in Word format to allow for Pro Vice-Chancellor Research, Innovation and Engagement edits and final signature.

Introductory paragraph

**The applicant’s suitability for a FLF** - why are they an ideal candidate for an FLF, what is it about them and the novelty of their research, what have they done in the past and where are they already starting to show some leadership? What existing external collaborator(s) and partner(s) does the candidate have? How will this fellowship build on all of that?

**The suitability of the project for the training and career development of the applicant** - How well does the fellowship fit into existing and future research priorities for the School/University? What other expertise (names of senior research staff) would the Fellow have access to? What other ongoing programmes could they naturally align to (e.g. existing Centres, research themes, doctoral training programmes)? What wider University strategy does it align to and what world-leading facilities would the fellow have access to?

**Why the host School is appropriate for the work proposed, including the long-term commitments the School will make to mentor and support the applicant** - why is the host school the best place to nurture the Fellow (reference REF Results/Environment)? What support will the Fellow be given in terms of mentorship (ideally naming someone here)? What other training and career development opportunities are available?

**The effective and transparent arrangements that led to the applicant being selected for the FLF -** How did Schools/Institute/Centre support and encourage staff to apply? How was the selection managed at School/Institute/Centre level?

Include standard text for University level selection process: *There has been a fair and open process to select the strongest candidates from across the University*. *Firstly, all applications have been reviewed and ranked using a common scoring matrix by review comprising four Deans of School and the Pro Vice-Chancellor Research, Innovation and Engagement to select the final candidates.*

In addition to the following UKRI requirement**:**

**Confirmation of the commitment to the balance of the salary of the applicant and of the commitment to providing an open-ended independent research position, to be taken up during or upon the completion of the fellowship (in line with organisational employment policies and practices)**

**Confirmation of the commitment to 50% of any Equipment costs requested in the application**

we also recommend including details of other agreed School/Institute/Centre and university financial/resource commitments (listed as bullet points and valued wherever possible). Examples include:

* teaching/admin relief
* access to equipment and resources
* office space
* PhD studentship/s, if available

along with University support:

* sector engagement and commercialisation support through Business Innovation Teams
* open access and open research support expertise from dedicated local and central teams
* communications support from local, School level and Professional Services;
* training and development from Researcher Developer team

Final paragraph summarising that UWS strongly supports the application of [name] because….