

Fellowship Application Guidance

The Royal Society of Biology (RSB) is a single unified voice for biology: advising Government and influencing policy; advancing education and professional development; supporting our members, and engaging and encouraging public interest in the life sciences.

Our Fellows

Fellowship is the most prestigious grade of membership and RSB Fellows have achieved distinction in biological research, teaching or in the application of biology.

Eligibility

Fellowship applications are welcome from all fields of work and the broad criteria used are reflective of the diversity of the biosciences. Applicants need to demonstrate a distinctive and notable contribution to the advancement of the biological sciences and must have a minimum of five years' influential experience throughout their career.

Application process

To apply for Fellowship, applicants need to provide:

- An application statement (750 words) and a short CV (2 pages)

Applicants can include an optional publication list (with full citations) of up to five publications, with an explanation (200 words) as to why they demonstrate impact.

The application statement will vary based on each applicant's experience, but some examples of notable contribution, distinction, and/or impact on the biosciences might include:

- leadership
- strategic influence
- outreach and communication
- project management
- innovative research and its outcomes
- line management or supervision experience
- grants or funding received
- budgetary responsibilities
- mentoring and career advice

The concise CV, with dates, can include membership of other professional bodies, but these will not necessarily have a bearing on being awarded Fellowship of the RSB.

While Fellowship applicants are not required to be nominated, it may further support the application to provide the details of a maximum of two referees. This should ideally be someone who can vouch for the applicant's professional standing and they do not need to be an RSB member. Referees will be contacted following submission.

Once an application is submitted and the payment has been received, it is reviewed by the membership team and the Fellowship Committee for examples of the applicant's impact on the biosciences.

If the application is successful, the applicant will be elected at the next quarterly election. These are held on 1 January, April, July and October.

If the application is unsuccessful, the applicant can choose to join the RSB at a different grade and will receive a partial refund. Alternatively, they can withdraw their application and get a full refund.

Get in touch

For queries about eligibility, send a copy of your CV to membership@rsb.org.uk and the team can advise. Start your application to join the RSB network via mySociety at <https://my.rsb.org.uk>