

International Fellowships 2026

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Last review date	March 2025
Next review date	March 2027

Please read the scheme notes carefully. Incorrectly submitted applications will not be considered.

1 Introduction

- 1.1 The International Fellowships programme provides support for outstanding early career researchers to make a first step towards developing an independent research career through gaining experience across international borders. Each award is expected to involve a specific and protected research focus with the award holder undertaking high quality, original research.
- 1.2 The programme is funded by the UK's Department for Science, Innovation and Technology (DSIT).
- 1.3 The programme offers support for two years of funding at 80% FEC to enable internationally based early career researchers to establish and conduct their research in a UK host organisation.
- 1.4 It is expected that around 12 awards will be offered in this round by the British Academy.
- 1.5 The deadline for applications is 5pm (UK time) **Wednesday 11 March**.
- 1.6 Applications are developed with the support of the UK Sponsor. The Sponsor must work with the lead applicant to develop the project proposal and should provide mentoring, support, and guidance throughout the duration of the fellowship. More information regarding the expectations of the sponsor can be found in section 11 of these scheme notes.

2 Value and duration of awards

- 2.1 This round of Fellowships will be for a duration of two years, and the award is offered at 80% FEC. Applicants may apply for research expenses of up to £12,000 and relocation costs of up to £8,000. Applicants will need to justify the level of research expenses and relocation costs requested in their application. In exceptional circumstances, the Academy will consider bids for relocation costs above £8,000, however, this will require full justification.
- 2.2 80% FEC is understood in the following manner:

Cost Category	FEC contribution
Directly Incurred staff costs for the PI	80%
Other Directly Incurred including travel and consumables	100%

<p>2.3</p>	<p>Directly Allocated (including estates costs) and Indirect Costs 80%</p>
	<p>The British Academy International Fellowship award holders are no longer classified as visiting researchers on a stipend, but salaried employees. Award holders will receive a reasonable salary set by their host institution. These changes will help to enhance the awards that the Academy can offer, ensuring that we can continue to support and attract excellent international early career researchers to engage with the UK.</p>

3 Deadline for applications and timeline

3.1 **Applications must be submitted by** Wednesday 11 March, 17.00 (GMT). Applicants will not be allowed to make any changes to their applications after the deadline.

Applications should be submitted well in advance of the deadline. We recommend at least five days prior to allow for institutional approval

3.2 Applicant will be notified of application success by August 2026.

3.3 The British Academy International Fellowships are expected to commence between October 2026 and March 2027. Awards cannot start before 1 October 2026. A start date of the first of the month is preferred

3.4 Awards are expected to run for two years each.

4 Purpose

4.1 The overarching aim of the International Fellowships programme is to attract and retain emerging talent in the UK and build a globally connected, mobile research and innovation workforce. The objectives are to:

- Attract talented international early career researchers to establish and conduct their research in the UK;
- Support early career researchers to pursue high-quality and innovative lines of research;
- Provide opportunities to acquire and transfer new skills and knowledge through training and career development;
- Foster long-term relationships through networking opportunities and the International Fellowships alumni programme.

5 Subjects Covered

5.1 The International Fellowships are delivered by the following UK National Academies, and applicants should apply to their relevant Academy for support and in line with the following remits:

- British Academy – social sciences and humanities
- [Royal Society](#) – natural sciences, including biological research, biomedical sciences, chemistry, engineering, mathematics, and physics.

5.2 To apply through the British Academy, applicants should be intending to work in any aspect of the humanities or the social sciences. Outputs involving creative practice (e.g., musical composition and performance, visual practice, creative writing, and film making) are welcome but will be considered to fall within the British Academy's remit only when they form part of an integrated project of critical or historical significance. For a full list, please see below.

- Classical Antiquity
- Theology and Religious Studies
- Africa, Asia, and the Middle East
- Linguistics and Philology
- Early Modern Languages and Literatures to 1830
- Modern Languages, Literatures and Other Media from 1830
- Archaeology
- Medieval Studies
- Early Modern History to 1850
- Modern History from 1850
- History of Art and Music
- Philosophy
- Law
- Economics and Economic History
- Anthropology and Geography
- Sociology, Demography and Social Statistics
- Political Studies: Political Theory, Government, and International Relations
- Psychology
- Culture, Media, and Performance

- Education
- Management and Business Studies

5.3 If there is any doubt about the eligibility of a project, contact the International Team at overseas@thebritishacademy.ac.uk

6 Protected Research Time

6.1 The funding provided through these awards is for the entirety of the award holder's time (whether that be for a part-time or full-time award). 100% of the time on the award must be spent on project activities related to the award that has been made as set out in the application. It is for the applicant, and subsequent International Fellowship award holder, to determine the research activities they undertake so that they most support their research and career development. This award is for research and there is a responsibility on the host institution to ensure that the award holder will have protected research time. Where beneficial to the award holder, they may wish to undertake some teaching, however, the onus of the award is one that is focused on research and only the award holder may determine if they wish to undertake teaching to complement their other activities. At most, teaching may only be for 5 hours per week.

7 Eligible and ineligible costs

7.1 Eligible costs are:

7.1.1 A contribution to the directly incurred salary costs of the award-holder at 80% FEC – the salary is to be negotiated between the applicant and the UK host institution. **The Academy will be monitoring the proposed salaries from an equality, diversity, and inclusion perspective.** Salaries should be commensurate with skills, responsibilities, expertise, and experience. It is expected that the requested basic salary for the first year will be comparable to academic staff at an equivalent career stage. Inflation should be applied to salaries by institutions with a justification provided for the level that they are using.

7.1.2 Estates and indirect costs – 80% of the award holder's estates and indirect costs.

7.1.3 Research expenses at 100% including travel, field trips, subsistence, accommodation, consumables, training, conferences, dissemination, and one-off relocation and visa expenses.

7.2 Support for the cost of childcare will be considered as part of the allowable research expenses.

7.3 Award-holders will be able to apply via an accelerated route for a Global Talent Visa. For further information, see <https://www.thebritishacademy.ac.uk/international/global-talent-visas/>

7.4 The cost of the visa and any associated costs for the applicant and their dependents (e.g., including Immigration Health Surcharge costs) are eligible under this programme.

7.5 Consumables include the purchase of specialist software (not readily available at the UK host organisation), datasets, photocopies, microfilms, etc., and any other minor items that will be used up during the course of the award.

7.6 Travel related to progressing the research and/or innovation activities of the award is an eligible cost with relevant fieldwork in the UK or internationally being encouraged where appropriate. Applications, however, must be for awards based in the host organisation applied to where it is expected that the majority of the research supported will be undertaken.

7.7 The Academy expects award holders to minimise their travel and carbon footprint using alternatives where possible (for example video conferencing), and choose travel that has a lower carbon impact, where practical.

7.8 Ineligible costs include (applicants registered with special needs may consult the Academy about possible exceptions prior to application):

- salary costs for research staff/assistants;
- salary costs, research expenses or other research support for the sponsor;
- purchasing equipment;
- open access fees;
- computer hardware including laptops, electronic notebooks, digital cameras, etc;
- books and other permanent resources;
- the preparation of camera-ready copy, copy-editing, proof-reading, indexing, nor any other editorial task;
- subventions for direct production costs (printing, binding, distribution, marketing etc);
- costs of publication in electronic media;
- carbon offsetting.

7.9 In addition, funding provided through the grant must not be duplicated through other sources.

- 7.10 All payments will be made quarterly in arrears in instalments directly to the UK host organisation.
- 7.11 The Academy reserves the right to reduce the funding requested if it does not consider the rates applied to be reasonable, such as in relation to inflation, research expenses and relocation costs.

8 Alumni Follow-on Funding

- 8.1 Award holders may also be eligible to receive Alumni follow-on funding following the tenure of their Fellowship award to support networking activities with researchers based in the UK or internationally.
- 8.2 Information regarding the Follow-on Alumni funding will be sent to successful International Fellowship award holders during their Fellowship award.

9 Award Flexibility

- 9.1 The International Fellowships are intended to be highly flexible. The following guidelines will normally apply. However, in exceptional circumstances, additional flexibility may be available. Please contact overseas@thebritishacademy.ac.uk for further information.
- 9.2 It can be held on either a full-time or on a part-time basis for health reasons or caring responsibilities. There is also provision for maternity, paternity, shared parental leave, adoptive or extended sick leave as well as financial support for childcare costs that arise from attending conferences for example.
- 9.3 The costs of reasonable adjustments required to support researchers with disabilities will also be an eligible cost.
- 9.4 If the Award Holder moves host organisation before the start or during the award, the award will be moved to the new host organisation (provided that the new host organisation is in the UK and meets the host organisation eligibility criteria as specified in paragraphs section 12 of these scheme notes).

10 Eligibility criteria

Duplicate applications to more than one British Academy funding programme will not be accepted.

- 10.1 Academy welcomes applications from a diverse range of eligible UK host institutions. The award must be held at a UK institution recognised by the Academy. The following types of organisations will be eligible to apply to host the award:
 - Higher Education Institutes that received funding from one of the UK higher education funding bodies.
 - Research institutes (RIs), for which research councils have established a long-term involvement as major funder as part of the national research base.
 - Approved relevant Independent Research Organisations.
- 10.2 The Academy is aware that individuals will have had different opportunities to balance their research with other commitments during their career. There is a question in the application form (the personal statement) that will enable applicants to provide further information on any significant periods of leave or any periods of significant teaching or administrative workload that may have impacted on their research, so the Academy can take this into account when assessing applicants' track record.
- 10.3 Where applicants have taken formal periods of maternity, paternity, shared parental or adoptive leave as the primary carer (either the mother, father, partner, or adopter), or extended sick leave, the Academy will allow an additional amount of time on top of each period of leave when assessing eligibility.
- 10.4 Applications from individuals who have not studied or worked in the UK previously are encouraged as the scheme aims to establish new links between the applicant and the UK.
- 10.5 The Academy wishes to encourage applications from historically and/or structurally disadvantaged groups and female researchers.
- 10.6 Applications from researchers with disabilities are welcome and encouraged. The Academy will provide adjustments to ensure they can participate fully in the selection process. If an adjustment is required when accessing the application form or for any other part of the application process, then please contact overseas@thebritishacademy.ac.uk. In addition, costs that are required for the researcher to undertake their award will be considered eligible regardless of what is set out above in point 7.8. The Academy welcomes any questions applicants may have on this matter.

10.7 Applicants for the International Fellowships must meet the following eligibility criteria:

- Applicants must hold a doctoral degree or be in the final stage of their PhD provided that it will be completed (including viva) before the Final Awards committee meets on 1 June 2026 (or have equivalent research experience).
- Applicants should have **no more than five years** of active full-time postdoctoral experience at the time of application, including teaching experience, time spent in industry on research, honorary positions and/or visiting researcher positions. Career breaks must be clearly detailed and explained in the application, for example “Start and end dates - career break – maternity/paternity leave.”
- Applicants who have obtained their PhD from a UK-based institution are **not** eligible to apply for this programme.
- Applicants should be working outside the UK and should not hold UK citizenship at the time of application. Applicants cannot have lived, worked, or undertaken research in the UK in the 12 months immediately prior to the application, with the exception of short-term visits of less than three months in total and applicants who are refugees in the UK according to the Geneva Convention or have humanitarian protection status.
- Individuals already living, working, or undertaking research in the UK are **not** eligible to apply.
- Individuals working outside the UK but employed by a UK organisation are also **not** eligible to apply.
- Applicants must be competent in oral and written English. The applicant must confirm their competency on the application form and the UK Sponsor needs to include the applicant’s competency in their supporting statement.
- Applicants may only submit one application in a round. The application must be with only one UK Sponsor.
- Applications who have been unsuccessful in a previous round of the competition may make another application in this round.
- Applications who have previously held a Newton International Fellowship are ineligible to apply for an International Fellowship.

11 Sponsor Commitments and Eligibility

- 11.1 All applications **must be** developed with the support of a UK Sponsor for the International Fellowships.
- 11.2 A maximum of **one** application per Sponsor is permitted in each application cycle.
- 11.3 The International Fellowships are aimed to promote independence in the award holder; however, the Sponsor is expected to support in the development of the project proposal, and throughout its delivery when required.
- 11.4 The UK Sponsor must work with the lead applicant to develop the project proposal **and should provide mentoring, support, and guidance throughout the duration of the award**. Sponsors are not eligible for any funding and are not to utilise an award as an opportunity to extend their own research.
- 11.5 It is essential that there is contact and discussion between the UK Sponsor and applicant prior to an application being submitted. This should lead to a clearly defined research proposal and a clear understanding of the needs of the award holder and the responsibilities of the Sponsor.
- 11.6 **Please note that the British Academy will not be able to assist in locating a UK Sponsor.**
- 11.7 UK Sponsors for the International Fellowships must:
 - be an established independent researcher of at least postdoctoral (or equivalent) status;
 - make all the necessary practical and administrative arrangements for the International Fellowship;
 - hold a permanent or fixed term contract in the UK-based research institution recognised by the Academy where the award will be held. In the case of fixed term contracts, employment must continue for at least the duration of the award.

12 Commitments from the Host Organisation

- 12.1 It is required that the host organisation provide the award holder with the necessary departmental and institutional support to complete their award successfully, including adequate office and laboratory space and access to essential equipment, software, and facilities.

- 12.2 In addition, it is required that the host organisation adhere to the principles of the [Concordat to Support the Career Development of Researchers \(2019\)](#). This includes providing appropriate training and development opportunities for the award holder as early career researchers.
- 12.3 The Academy is committed to increasing diversity in the research workforce recognising this is a key part of ensuring research excellence. Host organisations are expected to provide supportive workplace structures to ensure diversity, this includes consideration of the diversity of applicants that they support to apply to the scheme.
- 12.4 International Fellowship award holders must be appointed on terms that are no less favourable than those of comparable posts in the host organisation.

13 Participants

- 13.1 To complete and submit the application form, the lead applicant is required to provide supporting statements or references from the following individuals:

13.1.1 **Departmental support**

- The UK-based Head of Department is expected to detail your suitability for the department and the intentions for your career development and must confirm that the host organisation will give the award holder the necessary departmental and institutional support to complete their Fellowship successfully, including adequate office and laboratory space and access to essential equipment, software and facilities. This must include that the award holder will be appointed on terms that are no less favourable than those of comparable posts in the host organisation.

- 13.2 **UK Sponsor**

14 Assessment Criteria and Review Process

- 14.1 Applications will be assessed against the following criteria:

- 14.1.1 **Applicant:** The suitability of the individual for the fellowship and their potential to develop an independent research career. Track record commensurate with actual research experience to date including past achievements, research career to date, publication record, awards, datasets held in repositories, software, keynote lectures and current and previous grants; how the candidate intends to use the fellowship to further their research career.

14.1.2 Research Proposal: The importance and academic merit of the proposed research and the clarity, quality and originality of the proposed project and likely contribution to the research field. If the research plan is clearly defined and feasible

14.1.3 Host Organisation & UK Sponsor:

- The suitability and strength of the UK Sponsor, including their track record in the area of proposed research as well as in supervising and mentoring early career researchers.
- The suitability and strength of the host department and/or institution for the proposed research i.e., access to appropriate expertise/equipment/facilities/resources and space during the award period as well as the suitability of the host organisation for the applicant's career development e.g., appropriate level of support and training opportunities.

14.2 All applications to the International Fellowships are reviewed and assessed by relevant assessors who have appropriate research expertise.

14.3 Please be assured that the British Academy specifically requests anyone involved in reviewing applications to consider them in confidence. More information on the Review Process can be found in the Application Guidance notes.

14.4 All applicants will be notified of outcomes via email.

15 Risk management

15.1 The Academy expects applicants funded under this programme to highlight and manage any risks related to the award. We expect an assessment of any risks entailed within the programme of work to be outlined in the proposal (for example, risks associated with the delivery of the programme of work, financial management, and oversight/governance).

15.2 If there is a risk that the programme of work will be in an area of civil unrest, violence/crime, applicants will be required to indicate if (and where) they intend to undertake the programme of work in such areas.

15.3 For countries/regions considered by the UK Government's Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office as a host nation of medium or high risk, applicants will also be required to demonstrate that the Principal Investigator (PI), and the PI's host institution, understand the risk management implications and can monitor and manage the risks effectively.

15.4 This should include, but not be limited to, any risks that researchers will encounter in an area of civil unrest, violence and/or crime

15.5 Risk management will be explicitly covered in the approval of any application by the appropriate authorities at the Lead's host institution, to confirm that the duty of care responsibility rests with the host institution.

16 Additional Needs Fund

16.1 The British Academy has set aside specific funding to support additional needs that applicants and award holders may require. This funding would be in addition to the amount already requested for research expenses. Each request will be considered on a case-by-case basis. This additional financial support cannot be guaranteed but the British Academy is keen to be as inclusive as possible in supporting applicants and award holders with any additional needs to facilitate the best possible research. Some examples of what may be considered for this funding are:

- Specific equipment to overcome barriers to people with disabilities undertaking research.
- Assistance to allow applicants living with sensory impairment to carry out their research.
- Bids for the cost of child, parent or other caring responsibilities may be considered if the carer is conducting research away from home and it is not possible to make alternative arrangements.
- The costs of normal regular care whilst at home are not eligible for support.

17 Code of Practice

- 17.1 The British Academy has a [Code of Practice](#), setting out the principles of equity, integrity and confidentiality governing the treatment of all applications for funding. The Code of Practice also covers Data Protection, the British Academy's ethics policy and the appeals procedure.
- 17.2 Feedback is not a feature of this programme, and the Academy is, regrettably, unable to enter into correspondence regarding the decisions of the awarding committee, which are governed by the Code of Practice. Please note that by applying to this programme, applicants undertake to accept the terms under which applications are assessed.

18 Equitable partnerships

- 18.1 It is expected that this application and the activities it would undertake will be underpinned by partnerships between people with responsibility for research management, institutions and wider stakeholders. Equitability is key to ensuring that these partnerships are effective.
- 18.2 Applicants are required to justify the equity within their proposed partnerships. Any applications that are deemed to not support equitable partnerships will not be funded.
- 18.3 Applicants will be required to detail how their project will ensure equitable partnerships, including how it will take note that partnerships should:
 - be transparent and based on mutual respect,
 - should aim to have clearly articulated equitable distribution of resources, responsibilities, efforts and benefits,
 - should recognise different inputs, different interests and different desired outcomes,
 - and should ensure the ethical sharing and use of any outcomes which is responsive to the identified needs of society.

19 Contact details

- 19.1 Please contact overseas@thebritishacademy.ac.uk for further information
- 19.2 For Royal Society enquiries email: info@newtonfellowships.org or telephone +44 (0)207 451 2666. (Please read Royal Society Scheme Notes)

19.3 **Please quote your application reference number in all correspondence to the British Academy.**