



CHEVENING

— UK GOVERNMENT SCHOLARSHIPS —



Foreign &
Commonwealth
Office



OXFORD
Centre for Islamic Studies

Chevening – OCIS Fellowships 2017-18 FAQs

What are the Chevening - OCIS Fellowships?

The Oxford Centre for Islamic Studies and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office have been in successful partnership for a number of years with an academic research fellowship running out of Turkey. Starting with the 2016/17 academic year, the FCO and OCIS formalised the relationship to offer more awards to a wide range of countries. Fellows undertake a six-month period of independent study and research at the Centre, focusing on the culture and civilisation of Islam and all aspects of contemporary Muslim societies in the global context.

How many fellowships are available?

A maximum of four fellowship awards are available each academic year – one local award is reserved for a Turkish national under the Abdullah Gul-OCIS Chevening award, with up to three central fellowships awarded from additional eligible countries.

What type of fellowship is this?

This is an academic research fellowship and the area of study is determined by the applicant, providing it is in line with the Centre's strategic and focus areas. Fellows should be willing to contribute to the Centre's objective to encourage and promote sustained dialogue and collaboration within the global academic community of the culture and civilisation of Islam, and contemporary Muslim societies. Activities during the fellowship will include networking events, giving seminars on their research and participating in Centre and University of Oxford academic culture.

What are the target areas of the Centre?

Islamic history, classical Islamic sciences, economics and Islamic finance, and the study of Muslims in the West. Other areas of study relating to Islam will not be excluded but the Centre can better support these areas of research.

Which countries are eligible?

For 2017/18 the eligible countries are Afghanistan, Algeria, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Brunei, Burma, Egypt, Indonesia, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Libya, Malaysia, Maldives, Mauritania, Morocco, Nigeria, Pakistan, Palestine, Philippines, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Syria, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan.

How long is the fellowship?

The fellowship is 6 months.

What are the dates of the fellowship?

The fellowship starts on the first day of Michaelmas term at the University of Oxford, 1 October 2017 and runs for six months until 29 March 2018.



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How do we carry out selections?

The selection timeline and process is the same as scholarships.

- The application window: 8 August – 8 November.
- All eligible applications will be passed to reading committee for assessment.
- Post will be asked to shortlist and interview fellowship applicants at the same time as scholarship candidates.
- Following interviews, all selected applicants will be passed to OCIS who will undertake a second round of interviews and will determine the final three selected central recipients.
- Post will then be notified of the OCIS decisions after the partner review period.

If we put forward a candidate for selection after first round of interviews, will they be selected?

OCIS will review all candidates recommended by post and will possibly do a second round of interviews. They will determine final selections based on the pool of candidates from the eligible countries. There is no guarantee your recommended candidates will be selected.

What kind of candidates should we be targeting?

Besides the standard Chevening Fellowship qualifications such as being able to:

- Demonstrate the potential to rise to positions of leadership and influence
- Demonstrate the personal, intellectual, and interpersonal attributes reflecting this potential
- Have a postgraduate (PG) level qualification (or equivalent professional training or experience in a relevant area) at the time of application
- Have significant professional and/or academic research experience (at least five years)

Successful candidates should have:

- A degree in a relevant subject, normally at post-graduate level (preferably at doctoral level or equivalent), in areas such as social or cultural history, economics, finance, classical Islamic sciences, Islamic studies
- Evidence of meeting the minimum English language abilities for Chevening awards

Applicants with some of the following may be successful:

- Fieldwork or desk-based research experience
- Work experience in a government ministry, national museum or cultural organisation
- Research experience in relevant subject areas at universities or other organisations
- Interest in national policies and strategies regarding any of the target areas
- Experience working in a government ministry or department relating to target areas

What does the fellowship award package include?

- Monthly non-London stipend at the fellow rate
- Arrival allowance
- Research allowance
- Departure allowance
- Travel top-up allowance
- Support from OCIS staff

Where does the funding come from?

Three fellowships are funded centrally (the fourth is funded locally via Turkey) and are in addition to your country allocations.