



## Application Guidelines

# Visiting Fellowships and Visiting Research Fellowships

2026 – 2027

Round 2

The Oxford Centre for Islamic Studies promotes excellence in the study of Islam and Muslim societies. The Centre pursues its aims through teaching, research and publication, and by promoting sustained dialogue and collaboration within the global academic community.

The Visiting Fellowships Programme plays a key role in the exchange of knowledge that lies at the heart of the Centre's mission. Since 1987, it has brought scholars from 57 countries in Asia, Africa, the Americas and Europe to Oxford.

Visiting Fellowships and Visiting Research Fellowships are primarily intended for academics who wish to spend up to a year at the Centre. Applicants should normally be at a post-doctoral or equivalent level by the time they join the Centre. Well-established academics who wish to spend their sabbatical leave at the Centre are welcome to apply.

The research to be undertaken during the tenure of the fellowship should be in an area relevant to the study of Islam or the Muslim world. Currently, research at the Centre is concentrated within the following broad areas, although applications are welcome from scholars conducting research in a diverse range of topics:

- Classical Islamic Sciences
- Muslim Societies Past and Present
- Identity and Citizenship: Muslims in Britain and the West
- Economic and Human Development and Islamic Finance
- Science, Technology and Environment in Muslim Societies

Each Visiting Fellow/Visiting Research Fellow will be provided with desk space, access to the Centre's library, membership of the Common Room, meals at the Common Table (when served), and advice with finding residential accommodation. They will be self-funded and a hosting fee of £1,500 per Term will be charged towards the cost of their stay at the Centre.

The closing date for applications is **27 May 2026**.

## **Applying for a Visiting Fellowship or Visiting Research Fellowship**

A full application consists of the following documents uploaded to the Centre's website (items 1-4 by the applicant and item 5 by the applicant's referees):

- (1) Completed application form (completed via the Centre's website at <https://www.oxcis.ac.uk/visiting-fellowships>) with the following documents (nos. 2, 3, 4)
- (2) A brief description of proposed research (up to 1000 words)
- (3) A curriculum vitae
- (5) Letters of recommendation (signed and dated) from two persons familiar with the applicant's work should be uploaded by the applicant's referees to: <https://www.oxcis.ac.uk/form/vf-vrf-round-2-reference-letter>. Please note it is the responsibility of the applicant to share this URL with their referees and notify them of the deadline.

Please note that a confirmation message will appear on the screen after submission of both your form/application materials and for the referees, their letter recommendation. Neither you nor your referees will receive separate automated submission confirmation emails.

## **Selection Process**

All eligible applications will be assessed by the Centre's Selection Committee. The criteria for selection of Visiting Fellowships and Visiting Research Fellowships are:

- evidence of academic excellence including quality of publications
- relevance of the proposed research to the overall aims of the Centre
- relevance of the proposed research to the current academic research priorities of the Centre
- potential to contribute to and benefit from interdisciplinary interaction with other Centre Fellows and/or Visiting Fellows and Visiting Research Fellows.

At the shortlisting stage applicants may be contacted to confirm that they remain interested in pursuing their application and have the financial means to take up their award if selected.

All applicants will be contacted with an outcome. The Centre does not routinely provide feedback on applications.

If an offer is made the applicant will receive a letter detailing the exact terms of the award.

## **Terms & Conditions of the Visiting Fellowship and Visiting Research Fellowship**

Please note the following terms and conditions for taking up a Visiting Fellowship or Visiting Research Fellowship:

- All Visiting Fellows/Visiting Research Fellows are expected to reside in Oxford or in the vicinity during Term. Award holders are responsible for arranging their own accommodation. The Home Bursary can provide information about accommodation options.

- Award holders are responsible for obtaining a visa necessary to take up their fellowships and for arranging their travel to and from Oxford. The Centre will provide on request a letter supporting visa applications subject to the necessary passport details being received.
- Visiting Fellows/Visiting Research Fellows are expected to play a full part in the life of the Centre during their stay. This normally includes attending seminars and any public lectures organised by the Centre, delivering at least one seminar, and actively participating in other academic and social activities.
- Visiting Fellows/Visiting Research Fellows are expected to acknowledge the Centre in any research publications originating from their time at the Centre and to share copies of these with the Centre.

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