



Visiting Fellowships

2020 – 2021 Application Guidelines

The Oxford Centre for Islamic Studies promotes excellence in the study of Islam and Muslim societies. The Centre has developed an international network of personal and institutional contacts to enable liaison, dialogue and exchange between the Islamic and Western worlds of learning. Protocols of academic cooperation exist between the Centre and many institutions worldwide, facilitating the exchange of scholars and researchers. The Centre's programme of Visiting Fellowships and Scholarships plays a key role in these international activities. Since its inception in 1987 the programme has brought scholars and students from more than 50 countries in Asia, Africa, the Americas and Europe to Oxford.

Currently, research at the Centre is concentrated within the following four broad areas, although we welcome fellowship applications from scholars conducting research in a diverse range of topics:

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

Applications are tenable at the Centre for the academic year from October 2019 to June 2020. Non-stipendiary Visiting Fellowships also are available for shorter periods.

The Centre generally holds two application rounds during each academic year:

- 1) **Application Round 1**, with an application closing date in January for October onwards entry, includes the stipendiary Visiting Fellowships and Visiting Research Fellowships. Those wishing to apply for any funding from the Centre will need to apply in this round.
- 2) **Application Round 2**, for non-stipendiary Scholar-in-Residence awards with a closing date generally in May, also for October onwards entry. These awards generally incur a fee to contribute to Centre costs and are subject to there being available spaces at the Centre.

Application Round 1

There are two categories of stipendiary visiting fellowships:

Abdul Aziz Al-Mutawa and Muhammed bin Ladin Visiting Fellowships

- Two Visiting Fellowships are offered to support research in any area of the arts, humanities or social sciences relevant to the study of Islam or the Muslim world, including but not limited to anthropology, economics, geography, history, international relations, law, literature, philosophy, politics, religion, and sociology.
- Applicants will normally be established academics but scholars or writers at the postdoctoral or equivalent level are also eligible. Each Visiting Fellow is provided with a stipend of £5,000 (with waiver of any bench fees), shared office accommodation, and membership of the Common Room.

Imam Bukhari and Imam Tirmizi Visiting Research Fellowships

- These Visiting Research Fellowships are open to citizens of countries in Asia or Africa and are intended to encourage interaction among academics from different traditions of learning. Preference will be given to those studying classical Islamic sciences, although other areas in the humanities and social sciences will be considered.
- Applicants should normally be at the postdoctoral or equivalent level. Each Visiting Research Fellow will be provided with a stipend of £4000 (with waiver of any bench fees), shared office accommodation, and membership of the Common Room.

The stipends for both categories of Visiting Fellowships are intended as a supplementary award and may be held in conjunction with other research grants, stipends, or sabbatical salaries. Visiting Fellows are expected to devote their time to research and writing and to participate in the Centre's academic activities.

Application Round 2

Where space at the Centre is available, a second round of applications will be run in March to June of each year also for entry in October onwards. Scholar-in-Residence awards are primarily intended for academics who wish to visit the Centre for less than a full academic year and who are self-funding and generally able to pay a contribution towards the cost of their stay at the Centre. Fees are currently set at £1,500 per term, payable to the Centre.

Scholars-in-Residence should normally be academics who as a minimum expect to have obtained a Doctorate or equivalent degree by the time they visit the Centre and may in fact be well established academics who wish to spend sabbatical time at the Centre. The research topic should be in any area of the arts, humanities or social sciences that has relevance to the study of Islam or the Muslim world.

The application process is the same as for Round 1 applicants.

Applying for a Visiting Fellowship (Visiting Research Fellowship, Scholar-in-Residence Award)

A full application consists of an application form completed online via the Centre's website plus supporting documents uploaded or emailed separately to the Centre:

- (1) **Completed application form (completed via the Centre's website at <https://www.oxcis.ac.uk/visiting-fellowships>)**
- (2) **A brief description of proposed research (up to 1000 words)**
- (3) **Samples of publications, if available (a maximum of two)**
- (4) **A curriculum vitae**
- (5) **Letters of recommendation (signed and dated) from two persons familiar with the applicant's work, to be sent directly to the Centre. They will not be acknowledged.**

Items 1-4 above should be submitted via the Centre's website. Letters of recommendation (5 above) should be sent to fellowships@oxcis.ac.uk or by post to: **The Academic Office, Oxford Centre for Islamic Studies, Marston Road, Oxford, OX3 0EE, United Kingdom.** It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure that all application materials including recommendation letters are submitted by the closing date. Complete applications will be acknowledged.

Selection Process

All eligible applications will be considered by the Centre's Visiting Fellowships Selection Committee, through screening, shortlisting and selection stages. This can take some time and the patience of applicants whilst this process completes is requested. As a guide outcomes for Round 1 are generally notified by early March and for Round 2 by early July.

The criteria for selection of Visiting Fellows 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

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

All applicants will be contacted with an outcome:

- An offer of a stipendiary award (if applied for in Round 1 and a stipendiary award is requested)
- An offer of a non-stipendiary award with no fee payable to the Centre (even if a stipendiary award was applied for in Round 1)
- An offer of a non-stipendiary award with a request for fees to contribute to Centre costs.
- A notification that no award has been offered.

Please note that the failure to award a visiting fellowship does not necessarily reflect on the deemed quality of the application and therefore the Centre does not routinely provide feedback on applications. There is a limited number of available spaces at the Centre and the criteria above may mean that one high quality application is favoured above another.

If an offer is made the applicant will receive a letter detailing the exact terms of the award including any stipend payable by the Centre or fee payable to the Centre, together with the proposed dates of the fellowship.

Terms & Conditions of Visiting Fellowships

Please note the following terms & conditions for taking up a Visiting Fellowship (Visiting Research Fellowship, Academic Visitor award):

- All visiting fellows are expected to reside in Oxford during term time (Oxford University term dates can be found at <https://www.ox.ac.uk/about/facts-and-figures/dates-of-term>). Exceptions are for short term Academic Visitors who may be requesting to spend time at the Centre during vacations or for less than one term.
- Award holders are responsible for arranging their own accommodation in Oxford, the Academic Office will try to assist where possible. The Centre can offer some accommodation options which will be notified in the offer letter.
- Award holders are responsible for obtaining any visas necessary to take up their visiting fellowship, and for arranging their travel to and from Oxford. The Centre will provide supporting letters for visa applications.
- Visiting fellows are expected to play a full part in the life of the Centre during their stay. This normally includes attending Centre and Special seminars, any public lectures, delivering at least one Fellows' Seminar, and attending lunches routinely.
- Visiting 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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