

Oxford Centre for Islamic Studies

A Recognized Independent Centre of the University of Oxford



VISITING FELLOWSHIPS

2019–20 APPLICATION GUIDELINES

The Centre's Visiting Fellowships and Scholarships programme plays a key role in its international activities. The Centre has developed an international network of personal and institutional contacts to foster liaison, dialogue and exchange between the Islamic and Western worlds of learning. Protocols of academic cooperation exist between the Centre and many institutions worldwide. 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 broad areas:

- Classical Islamic sciences
- Muslim societies past and present
- Identity and citizenship: with reference to Muslims in the West
- Islamic finance and economic and human development

However, the Centre welcomes applications from scholars pursuing research interests with a different focus.

Applications are invited for Visiting Fellowships at the Centre for the academic year 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 Academic Visitor awards with a closing date generally in May, also for October onwards entry. These awards generally incur a Bench fee 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

- These two Visiting Fellowships are offered to support research in any discipline within the arts, humanities and social sciences relevant to the study of Islam or Muslim societies without restriction to any period or region.
- Applicants will normally be academics with an established record in their discipline. However, scholars or writers at the postdoctoral or equivalent level are encouraged to apply: applications are judged on the merits of the research/work proposed.
- Each Visiting Fellow is provided with a stipend of £ 5,000 (with waiver of any Bench fees), shared office accommodation, membership of the Common Room, access to the facilities at the Centre, and introduction to the libraries in the University.

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 is given to those working in the field of classical Islamic sciences, but other fields in the humanities and social sciences will be considered. Applicants should normally be scholars at post-doctoral or equivalent level.
- Each Visiting Fellow is provided with a stipend of £ 4,000 (with waiver of any Bench fees), shared office accommodation, membership of the Common Room, access to the facilities at the Centre, and introduction to the libraries in the University.

The stipends for both categories of Visiting Fellowship 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 May of each year for entry in October or later. Academic Visitor 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 Bench fee. Bench fees are currently set at £ 1,500 per term.

Academic Visitors are normally expected to hold a doctoral degree or likely to do so by the time they visit the Centre. They may also be well established academics who wish to spend sabbatical time at the Centre.

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

Applying for a Visiting Fellowship

(Visiting Research Fellowship, Academic Visitor Award)

An **application form** can be completed online **and supporting documents** uploaded or emailed separately to the Centre:

- **Completed application form** (available via the Centre's website at <https://www.oxcis.ac.uk/visiting-fellowships>)
- **A brief description of proposed research (up to 1000 words)**
- **Samples of publications, if available (a maximum of two)**
- **A curriculum vitae**
- **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.**

All elements except the last (letters of recommendation) should be submitted via the Centre's website. Letters of recommendation should be sent to fellowships@oxcis.ac.uk or by post to: **The Academic Office, Oxford Centre for Islamic Studies, Marston Road, Oxford, OX0 3EE, 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 is requested. As a general 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, where relevant, 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 Bench fee applicable
- An offer of a non-stipendiary award with Bench fee applicable
- A notification that no award has been offered.

The Centre does not routinely provide feedback on applications. If an offer is made the applicant will receive a letter detailing the terms of the award including any stipend payable by the Centre or Bench fee payable to the Centre, together with the proposed dates of the fellowship.

Terms and conditions of Visiting Fellowships

Please note the following terms and 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 need to spend time at the Centre during vacations or for part of a term.
- Award holders are responsible for arranging their own accommodation in Oxford, although the Academic Office will assist where it can.
- 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 Academic office 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 seminars and lectures, delivering at least one Fellows' Seminar, and attending lunches.
- Visiting Fellows are expected to acknowledge the Centre in any publications related to their time at the Centre and to share copies of these with the Centre.
- Visiting Fellows are required to submit a brief report on their work at the Centre in a format suitable for inclusion in the Centre's Annual Report.

