



Career Development Research Fellowship (Post-Doctoral Fellowship) in Psychology, 2026

This Career Development Research Fellowship in Psychology is a full-time four-year research position with effect from 1 October 2026 or as soon as possible thereafter. It is open to early career researchers who have recently completed or are close to completion of a doctorate (and will have submitted their thesis no later than three months before their start date of this post), or who have recently been awarded a doctorate. It offers an outstanding opportunity to establish a research profile as a member of a collegiate community and the wider University of Oxford.

Duties

The primary obligation of this Career Development Research Fellowship (CDRF) is to engage full-time in psychological research and its dissemination. The successful candidate will be expected to propose, plan and manage a high-quality programme of original research; publicise the outcomes of that research through presentation of papers and publications; and engage in the life and activities of the College.

The Career Development Research Fellow in Psychology will become a member of the psychology community at St John's. This comprises Tutorial Fellows Professors Kate Nation and Laurence Hunt, Supernumerary Fellows Professor Elizabeth Wonnacott and Lucy Foulkes, Emeritus Research Fellow Professor Margaret Snowling and Honorary Fellow Professor Dorothy Bishop, as well as Undergraduate and Postgraduate students in psychology, and related disciplines. While a full-time employee of St John's College, we anticipate that the CDRF will have an intellectual home at the University of Oxford and we encourage potential applicants to review the breadth of psychological research undertaken at Oxford, primarily via the Department of Experimental Psychology, and via collaboration with the University of Oxford Centre for Integrative Neuroimaging, Nuffield Department of Clinical Neurosciences and the Department of Psychiatry, and other departments as appropriate for the research specialism.

Applications are welcomed from candidates with research excellence in any area of psychology, including cognitive and behavioural neurosciences, provided that the proposed research is feasible via appropriate resources and infrastructure within Oxford, and that these are available to the applicant.

While the principal focus of the CDRF post will be on the postholder's programme of research, it will also include a proportion of time, approximately equivalent of 0.1 FTE, devoted to academic work other than research. This may be undergraduate teaching, or could include leading masters-level classes and seminars, giving lectures, access or outreach work, teaching outside of Oxford, or other academic service, as determined by the College in consultation with the postholder. The aim is to offer the individual postholder development opportunities and integration with the academic life of the subject in College and in Oxford.

Terms and Benefits

Career Development Research Fellowships are fixed-term posts, tenable for four years. The start date of a Fellowship may, with the agreement of the college, be brought forward or delayed in exceptional cases, to accommodate personal circumstances; if so, the terminal date will be adjusted accordingly.

The CDRF is intended to allow postholders to develop their early career by completing a research project, without embarking upon a medium-term or permanent appointment. Having taken account of the Fixed-term Employees (Prevention of Less Favourable Treatment) Regulations 2002, the college would not regard appointment to a CDRF as entitling the Fellow to permanent employment on the following objective grounds:

- (a) It is the College's policy that Career Development Research Fellowships should provide opportunities for academics at the beginning of their careers;
- (b) In order to achieve a turnover of appointments in a wide range of subjects so that this policy can continue into the future for a succession of academics at this stage of their careers, it is an essential feature of these Fellowships that they are limited in duration.

The annual salary is equivalent to point 7.5 on the University Scale (currently £42,254) plus a pensionable £1,730 per annum Oxford University Weighting payment which will be paid in equal monthly instalments and pro-rated for part time appointments. The appointee will automatically be enrolled in the Universities Superannuation Scheme pension. Further details can be found here - [USS](#)

The salary will normally be adjusted if the Fellow is in receipt of other remuneration and may be subject to annual increment.

CDRFs will enjoy full dining privileges in the Senior Common Room (access to lunches and dinners without charge when the kitchen is open). They will have a research & development allowance, currently £3k/year. CDRFs will be eligible to apply for certain competitive College grant schemes.

The College offers parental leave provision comparable to the University's. Further details are available on request. St John's College has a purpose-built college nursery which provides places for children of College and University staff and students. Further information is available at <http://www.baintonroadnursery.co.uk/>

Selection Criteria

Candidates should:

- hold a doctorate in psychology or a cognate discipline, or be close to completion and will typically have submitted their thesis no later than three months before their start date of this post, and must have submitted their thesis before September 2026. Those who formally submitted their doctoral thesis for viva voce examination (i.e., defence) prior to 1 October 2023 are not eligible, unless they have had a career break (e.g. a period of parental leave, family commitments, illness or other circumstances), or there are exceptional circumstances. Students (such as medical students) whose doctorate interrupted their professional training, should have completed their professional training since 1 October 2023;
- have research expertise in their chosen field as demonstrated by a completed (or close to being completed) doctoral thesis and/or published or forthcoming books, or articles in refereed journals, as relevant to the candidate's field; or promise of such achievement, as relevant to the candidate's field;
- have the ability to present research findings effectively to at national and international academic conferences and research seminars;
- have a coherent plan of research for the duration of the appointment which can either be the further development of the doctoral work or an entirely new area and which has the potential to make an outstanding contribution to the candidate's field;
- demonstrate how the proposed research will be feasible given available resources and infrastructure in Oxford;
- have not already held a comparable career development appointment at Oxford or another university. A comparable appointment is deemed to be a salaried research-only appointment for the purposes of self-directed research.

Successful candidates will be expected to contribute fully to the life of the College.

How to Apply

Applications should be made electronically through <https://fellowships.sjc.ox.ac.uk/>:

- You will be asked to upload a research statement to this system. Your research statement should be a **single pdf document (Maximum 1 MB), made up of 2 parts:**
 - A statement of at most 6 pages (including any references; minimum font size Arial 11), which describes the candidate's research achievements to date and their research plan for the period of the fellowship. The first page of the

statement should put the work into a broader context and summarise both the achievements to date and future plans in terms that are accessible to any researcher in the psychological sciences.

- A statement of at most 1 page describing how the candidate's research fits into the research environment at the University of Oxford. This should include a clear indication of which research group or groups at the Department of Experimental Psychology, and/or other relevant departments and institutes in Oxford, the candidate would expect to associate with.
- There is a field in the application system to upload a list of publications. Please subdivide your publications into peer reviewed articles, and preprints which have not been peer reviewed, providing stable URLs for all articles. Please indicate your two most significant articles in your publication list with a *.
- In addition to using the Research Record text box to provide details of invited talks, visits and other similar events, please use this space to provide a short list of any relevant teaching experience.
- Candidates requiring laboratory space or access to specialist infrastructure and resources must communicate with the relevant department at the time of application, and may be required to submit a letter of support from the host department if they are called for interview. A letter of support is not required at the time of application. The College cannot meet expenses associated with research beyond the annual allowance mentioned above.
- Candidates applying more than three years since submitting their doctoral thesis should bring to the College's attention any special factors to be considered.
- If asked to submit written work, please submit your two most significant articles or published pre-prints. If no pre-prints or papers are available, please submit a chapter of your doctoral thesis.

Applications will be accepted only if made according to the above instructions. Hard copy applications are not necessary.

The closing date for receipt of applications is noon on 21st May 2026. Late applications will not be accepted. Please ensure you check all junk and spam folders for communications.

References

Every candidate is asked to name two referees in their application and referees will be e-mailed to asked to provide a reference. Hard copy references should NOT be sent. References should be received by the College by **noon on 26th May 2026**.

Candidates are responsible for notifying referees that the college will be contacting them to provide a reference; they should therefore give referees enough time to write in their support.

Selection Process

Interviewing and appointing procedures will be conducted in June 2026.

St John's College is committed to equality of opportunity. It is the policy and practice of St John's that entry into employment and progression within employment will be determined only by criteria which are related to the duties of a particular post and the relevant salary scale. No applicant or member of staff will be treated less favorably than another because of their age, disability, ethnicity, marital or civil partnership status, parental status, religion or belief, sex or sexual orientation.

The appointment will be subject to the provision of proof of the right to work in the UK.

If you require a visa, we have a dedicated Staff Immigration Team to support successful applicants through the immigration process (for Skilled Worker visas) from job offer through to arrival in the UK. This is subject to the eligibility criteria being met for the required visa route. In particular, you must have sufficient English language skills (evidenced by having passed a secure English Language Test at CEFR B1 or above, *or* coming from a majority English-speaking country, *or* having taken a degree taught in English).

You are also asked to note that the visa application process will require you to submit no later than three months prior to the start date of this post, either a copy of your doctoral award certificate, or an academic reference confirming that your doctorate has been awarded, or an academic reference confirming that you have submitted your thesis, if you have not yet completed.

About St John's College

Established in 1555, St John's College fosters excellence in education and research. It is one of the largest among Oxford Colleges and nearly every subject studied at the University has its representation. Today, St John's is home to approximately 390 undergraduates, 250 graduate students, 100 fellows and 25 College lecturers. A vibrant international community, it fosters intellectual rigour, creativity, and independence in its students, teachers, and researchers. The College supports a range of research activities including discussions, seminars, workshops, public lectures and visiting scholar schemes. While scholarly publication is naturally at the heart of our research endeavours, the fellowship is also committed to informing policy and public debate, and to teaching that is informed by research findings. Further information about the College is available at <http://www.sjc.ox.ac.uk>