



Career Development Research Fellowships 2027

Career Development Research Fellowships for full-time research offered by St John's College 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. They provide an unrivalled opportunity to establish a research profile as a member of a collegiate community.

St John's College Oxford proposes, provided that suitable candidates present themselves, to elect up to six such Fellows, with effect from 1st October 2027 or as soon as possible thereafter, one in each of the following subjects:

- **Economics** – Economists in any field are welcome to apply, but we particularly welcome applicants working on the economics of science, research policy, or higher education. We interpret these areas broadly and welcome theoretical and empirical work, including experimental and quasi-experimental research and the design and evaluation of policy interventions. As part of this element of the role, the postholder may be offered the opportunity to work with the Fellow for Research on coordinating events and seminars relevant to their field
- **Asian and Middle Eastern Studies** -this post will have a focus on Modern Arabic Literature with a life writing element.
- **Anthropology of Forced Migration** – Applicants for this post will be expected to have an active research record in the field of forced migration, demonstrated by publications commensurate with their stage of career.
- **Philosophy** – Open Area of Specialisation. Applicants for Philosophy will be required to submit written work with their initial application as well as an up-to-date CV.
- **Human Sciences** -'Human Sciences' refers to the study of humans from multiple perspectives across the social and biological sciences, making connections between social, biological, and cultural phenomena. In Oxford, research disciplines relevant to the Human Sciences programme are demography, sociology, human evolutionary biology and ecology, and anthropology. A proposal of independent post-doctoral research relevant to Human Sciences in some combination of these disciplines, with the specific inclusion of a demographic focus, would be considered.
- **Biomedical Sciences** – For Further information about this post please see <https://www.sjc.ox.ac.uk/discover/vacancies>

Candidates must indicate for which subject they are applying. Interdisciplinary applications will be allocated within this list of subjects at the discretion of the College.

Applications for these posts are particularly welcome from candidates who are women, have a disability and those from black and minority ethnic backgrounds, who are under-represented in academic posts in Oxford.

Duties

The basic obligation of a Career Development Research Fellow is to engage full-time in research and its dissemination in some branch of the Humanities, Sciences or Social Sciences. 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.

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.

Holders of the Career Development Research Fellowship in the Anthropology of Forced Migration will be members of the Refugee Studies Centre (RSC), part of the Oxford Department of International Development (ODID). Forced Migration Fellows will be offered opportunities to engage with the RSC's intellectual community. These may include mentorship, access to workspace, structured engagement through seminars and research networks, and opportunities to contribute to teaching or training activities associated with the Centre.

Forced Migration Fellows will also be available to teach one eight-week Master's-level course on the M.Sc. in Refugee and Forced Migration Studies (taught in ODID by RSC academic staff). Such teaching is expected to be provided in three of the four years of the Fellowship, within the allotted 0.1 FTE fraction of time for academic activities other than research. The topic of the course will be agreed in collaboration with, and supported by, the RSC.

This engagement by Forced Migration Fellows, in the life of the RSC and with the M.Sc., is intended to support the Fellows' research development and complement their obligations within the CDRF scheme.

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.

Successful applicants will normally be required to spend most of their time in Oxford during the tenure of the appointment.

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 additional research funding from 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, or be close to completion and will have submitted their thesis no later than three months before the start date of this post. Those who formally submitted their doctoral thesis for viva voce examination 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 2024;
- 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 fellow professionals at national and international conferences or in professional 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 with the potential to make an outstanding contribution to the candidate's field of research;
- 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, and, in the case of Forced Migration Fellows, to the RSC.

How to Apply

Applicants are asked to indicate on their application their chosen subject area, from those listed, which best matches the area of research they would undertake should their application be successful. Applicants whose subjects might be thought to fall into more than one of the subject areas listed are asked to indicate this fact in their application and are invited to draw the attention of the College authorities to factors which they consider relevant to the classification of their research project.

Applications will be accepted only if made according to the following instructions:

- Candidates applying more than three years since submitting their doctoral thesis or since completing their professional training should bring to the College's attention any special factors to be considered.
- Candidates requiring laboratory or studio space must communicate with the relevant department at the time of application and will be required to submit a letter of support from the host department if they are called for interview.

The College cannot meet expenses associated with research beyond the annual allowance mentioned above.

- Applications should be submitted electronically via this website, where detailed instructions on how to complete the application can be found: <https://fellowships.sjc.ox.ac.uk/>

The closing date for receipt of applications is 1pm 23rd October 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.

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 by the closing date.

The closing date for receipt of references is 1pm 29th October 2026.

Selection Process

Interviewing and appointing procedures will be conducted in early 2027. Interviews will normally be conducted via Teams.

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, that they 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).

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

Applications and references should be submitted electronically to:
<https://fellowships.sjc.ox.ac.uk/>

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>

About the Refugee Studies Centre

The Refugee Studies Centre was founded in 1982 as a programme led by Professor Barbara Harrell-Bond OBE. The RSC has since established itself as the world's largest centre for research and teaching on refugees and forced migration, and is now an integral part of ODID (the Oxford Department of International Development). The RSC's aim is to build knowledge and understanding of causes, effects and experiences of forced migration. Research at the RSC has shaped the academic field of Refugee Studies, questioned entrenched assumptions about forced migrants and associated institutional responses, and had a powerful impact on practice. Its staff includes four permanent Associate Professors / Professors, and at any time, several teams of postdoctoral scholars. The disciplines of these academics include politics and international relations, law, anthropology and sociology, with regional expertise spanning Africa, Europe, the Middle East, and Australasia. The RSC runs a prestigious Master's degree in Refugee and Forced Migration Studies and a bi-annual Online School on Forced Migration for policymakers and practitioners that draws people from over 40 different countries. The RSC publishes the most widely read publication on forced migration in the world, *Forced Migration Review*, as well as the *Journal of Refugee Studies*. Further information about the Centre can be found at: www.rsc.ox.ac.uk