



Career Development Research Fellowship (Post-Doctoral Fellowship) in Law, 2025

This Career Development Research Fellowship (CDRF) in Law is a full-time, four-year research position with effect from 1st October 2025 or as soon as possible thereafter. It is open to early career researchers who have recently completed or are close to completing a doctorate (and will have submitted their thesis no later than three months before the start date of the 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. Applications for this post are particularly welcome from women and Black and minority ethnic candidates, who are under-represented in academic posts in Law in Oxford.

Duties

The primary obligation of this Fellowship is to engage in full-time research in Law and its dissemination. The successful candidate is expected to propose, plan, and deliver a high-quality programme of original research; publicise the outcomes of that research through conference presentations and publications; and engage in the life and activities of the College.

The CDRF will join the vibrant community of academic lawyers at St John's College. This includes the teaching fellows for the College (Tutorial Fellows in Law, Professors Richard Ekins KC and Ian Williams), the Junior Research Fellow in Law, Dr Priya Urs, and the Professor for English Law, Professor Ben McFarlane. The College has a number of graduate students undertaking the BCL or MJur taught degrees in law, as well as the MPhil and DPhil research degrees in law, and typically a cohort of around 24 undergraduate students reading for degrees in Law or Law with Law Studies in Europe. While a full-time employee of St John's College, it is anticipated that the CDRF will have an intellectual home in the Faculty of Law at the University of Oxford, working with other colleagues across the collegiate university. We encourage potential applicants to become familiar with the breadth of research in law undertaken at Oxford.

While the principal focus of the post will be on the postholder's programme of research, they will also be required to undertake a small amount of teaching for the College. This will typically involve giving an average of three to four "tutorials" in each week of term, usually to pairs of undergraduate students on courses from the Final Honours School (FHS) programme that are related to the expertise of the CDRF, ideally Contract Law and Tort Law. The postholder will also participate in our undergraduate admissions exercise and contribute towards any engagement and outreach work the College undertakes in relation to law. The expectation is that over the academic year these activities will occupy around

10% (0.1 FTE) of the CDRF's working time. The aim is to offer the individual postholder broader development opportunities and integration with the academic life of the subject in College and at Oxford. Additional details on tutorial teaching can be found at the end of these Further Particulars.

Applications are welcomed from candidates who can demonstrate research excellence in private law.

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 early in their career by completing a research project or projects 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 may 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 £40,521) plus a pensionable £1,500 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. 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.

Successful applicants will normally be required to spend most of their time in Oxford during their 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 in law, 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 (*i.e.*, defence) prior to 1st October 2022 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 other exceptional circumstances.
- have research expertise in private law as demonstrated by a completed (or close to being completed) doctoral thesis and/or published articles in refereed journals or preprints, 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 at national and international academic conferences and research seminars;
- have a coherent, ambitious and feasible plan of research for the duration of the appointment which can either be the further development of the candidate's doctoral work or an entirely new project and which has the potential to make an outstanding contribution to the candidate's field;
- have the ability to deliver or potential to deliver high quality tutorials on courses relevant to the research interests of the candidate from the Final Honour School (FHS) programme, ideally Contract Law and Tort Law;
- have not already held a comparable career development appointment at Oxford or another university. A comparable appointment is deemed to be a salaried, research-focused 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 enter a research statement to this system. Maximum of 1000 words, alternatively you can upload a pdf document, which cannot exceed 1 MB. The Statement must cover the following:
 - A statement of at most 6 pages, which describes your research achievements to date and your 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 law.

- There is a field in the application system to upload a list of publications. Please indicate your two most significant articles in your publication list with an *.
- 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 relevant teaching experience, if any.
- Candidates applying more than three years since submitting their doctoral thesis (or equivalent qualifications) should bring to the College's attention any special factors to be considered.

Applications will be accepted only if made according to the above instructions.

The closing date for receipt of applications is noon on 24th October 2024. Late applications will not be accepted. Please ensure you check all junk and spam folders for communications.

References

Every candidate is asked to supply names and email addresses for 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 31st October 2024**

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 for this post will be conducted in December 2024 and January 2025. Interviews will take place online by Microsoft 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, 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, 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.

Informal queries can be sent to Professor Richard Ekins KC (richard.ekins@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 410 undergraduates, 310 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/>