



All Souls College

University of Oxford

POST-DOCTORAL RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS - FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHAT IS MEANT BY 'AWARDED THEIR DOCTORATES' IN THE FURTHER PARTICULARS?

'Doctoral award' should be taken as the date of the successful defence of your doctoral dissertation. Where no viva was required, the 'Doctoral award' will be the date of award on your degree certificate.

I HAVE RECEIVED TWO DOCTORATES, THE MOST RECENT IS WITHIN THE ELIGIBILITY RANGE FOR THIS SCHEME BUT THE FIRST IS OUTSIDE OF THE DATE RANGE. AM I STILL ELIGIBLE TO APPLY?

All Souls College considers eligibility from the award date of your first doctorate, rather than the most recent. If your first doctorate was awarded prior to 1 August 2022 you would not be eligible to apply.

I HAVE SUBMITTED MY APPLICATION BUT MY REFEREES HAVE NOT YET RECEIVED AN EMAIL ASKING FOR THEIR REFERENCE.

Ask your referees to check their Junk email box to see if the email is there. If not, please log into your FAS account and check that you entered their email address correctly in your application. You will be able to amend the email address if necessary. Please contact pdf.admin@all-souls.ox.ac.uk with any queries.

CAN I INCLUDE MORE THAN TWO REFERENCES WITH MY APPLICATION?

No. To be fair to all candidates, the College can only accept two references per application.

CAN I SUBMIT MY APPLICATION VIA EMAIL OR POST?

No. Applications must be submitted online.

HOW CAN I VERIFY THAT ALL MY REFERENCES HAVE BEEN RECEIVED?

You will be able to log in to your application once submitted in order to check whether your references have been received.

CAN I CHANGE THE NAME AND CONTACT DETAILS FOR ONE OF MY REFEREES?

You can change referee details (e.g. correct or update details, or change referee entirely) by logging into your FAS. However, once a reference has been received, it will not be possible to change that referee.

CAN MY REFEREES SUBMIT A REFERENCE BEFORE I HAVE SUBMITTED MY APPLICATION?

Yes, instructions to your referees can be triggered manually by applicants during the application process, or will be automatically issued once your application has been submitted. Please be aware that the application and reference deadline is the same (6 September 2024). If triggering the email manually please ensure that you have already uploaded all relevant documentation for your referees to refer to in their supporting letters.

ONE OF MY REFEREES HAS NOT BEEN ABLE TO SUBMIT THEIR REFERENCE BEFORE THE DEADLINE. WILL LATE REFERENCES BE ACCEPTED?

Late references can be submitted and will be taken into account where possible, but the College cannot guarantee that they will be taken into account in assessing applications.

CAN I CHANGE OTHER DETAILS ON MY ORIGINAL APPLICATION?

No, not unless you are included on the initial shortlist. If included on the initial shortlist for this competition, you will be asked to supply a further sample of your work; if included on the initial or final shortlist, you will be given an opportunity to provide updated information, e.g. details of new publications or positions.

AM I ELIGIBLE TO APPLY IF I HAVE ALREADY HELD OR CURRENTLY HOLD A JUNIOR RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP OR POST-DOCTORAL RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP?

Yes, as long as you meet the eligibility criteria set out in the Further Particulars.

CAN I APPLY IF I AM NOT A UK OR EU CITIZEN?

The College welcomes applicants of any nationality as long as they meet the eligibility criteria set out in the Further Particulars. All appointments are subject to proof of Right to Work in the UK. If you need a visa, you will normally need to apply for a Skilled Worker visa <https://www.gov.uk/skilled-worker-visa>. The College and University of Oxford Immigration Team will assist you with this process.

WHAT DOES THE 'THESIS ABSTRACT' REFER TO?

The 'thesis abstract' refers to the abstract of your recently or almost completed doctoral thesis.

DOES THE WORD COUNT FOR THE 'STATEMENT OF PROPOSED WORK' INCLUDE FOOTNOTES AND A BIBLIOGRAPHY?

Yes, footnotes and bibliography are included in the word count.

WHAT SHOULD I DO IF MY DOCTORAL THESIS IS NOT WRITTEN IN ENGLISH?

The 10,000 word sample of written work to be submitted as part of your application should normally be in English. Candidates whose thesis is in a language other than English will be asked to submit an untranslated copy of their thesis (or work of equivalent length), together with a substantial piece of work in English.

HOW INDEPENDENT DOES MY RESEARCH PROGRAMME HAVE TO BE?

Collaboration on past and future projects is acceptable. However, if many of your papers are published with senior colleagues, the College would expect to see an explanation of your role in the conception of the work that is described.

I ALREADY HOLD FELLOWSHIP FUNDING THAT COVERS MY SALARY FOR PART OF THE TERM OF THIS SCHEME. CAN I APPLY AND ASK TO HOLD AN ALL SOULS PDRF ON A NON-STIPENDIARY BASIS?

All Souls PDRFs are stipendiary fellowships and cannot be held concurrently with other fellowship funding. They are not available on a non-stipendiary basis.

CAN I HOLD THE POST-DOCTORAL RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP AND WORK ON SOMEONE ELSE'S PROJECT?

The primary duty of a PDRF is to pursue in Oxford an independent programme of advanced study and research for publication. A research project that consists of work submitted and funded for a senior Principal Investigator grant is unlikely to be sufficiently independent for an ASC Fellowship, nor is the ASC fellowship intended as salary funding for a postdoctoral role in a senior person's project.

WHAT HAPPENS IF I BECOME PREGNANT OR HAVE A BABY BEFORE I TAKE UP THE FELLOWSHIP?

If you have a baby or adopt a child before you join the College, it may be possible to defer the start of your Fellowship and employment by the College. If you have taken up your Fellowship and commenced employment before your baby is born or your child is adopted and you assume the primary care responsibility, you will intermit your Fellowship and be eligible to receive maternity or adoption leave for up to 26 weeks at your normal full rate of pay, inclusive of any statutory maternity or adoption pay to which you may be entitled. You (or the parent with primary care responsibility for the child) may extend the period of your intermission and leave for up to 26 weeks' further leave, during which period you may be entitled to receive housing allowance but entitlement to any statutory benefits will depend on your visa status. The Fellowship will be extended to cover the period of your intermission.

MAY I APPLY TO MORE THAN ONE COMPETITION?

No.

FAQs FOR ACHAEOLOGY (EXCLUDING CLASSICAL ACHAEOLOGY)

ARE THERE ANY RESTRICTIONS ON PERIOD, REGION, OR SUBJECT?

We encourage applications from candidates working on the material culture of any geographical area or period with no restriction, save that Classical Archaeology is excluded.

HOW DO YOU DEFINE CLASSICAL ACHAEOLOGY?

Classical Archaeology is the art and archaeology of the Greek and Roman worlds in the period 1000 BC - AD 650. If your research lies in this field you should apply to the Classics competition. If your research falls at the margins of this period and you would like guidance on which competition is appropriate for you, please contact pdrf.admin@all-souls.ox.ac.uk.

MY RESEARCH CONCERNS THE HISTORY OF ACHAEOLOGY. AM I ELIGIBLE TO APPLY?

Yes, if your research is sufficiently grounded in the material culture of a site or region to count as Archaeology (i.e. to make you a credible candidate for a position in an Archaeology department at a university or museum). No, if your work is essentially intellectual history. If in doubt, please consult pdrf.admin@all-souls.ox.ac.uk.

MY RESEARCH CONCERNS MUSEOLOGY/HERITAGE MANAGEMENT. AM I ELIGIBLE TO APPLY?

Yes, as long as your research has a clear archaeological emphasis.

MY RESEARCH IS IN SCIENCE-BASED ACHAEOLOGY AND HAS A SIGNIFICANT LABORATORY COMPONENT. AM I ELIGIBLE TO APPLY?

Yes. Please consult <https://www.arch.ox.ac.uk/research-lab-archaeology-and-history-art> for an overview of facilities in the School of Archaeology. If you have questions about the viability of your research in Oxford, please contact pdrf.admin@all-souls.ox.ac.uk.

CAN I USE COLLEGE SUPPORT FOR LABORATORY CONSUMABLES AS A CONTRIBUTION TO LABORATORY EQUIPMENT?

If the research project is laboratory based, the College will provide additional funds for the Fellow's laboratory consumables and/or access to specialist shared-use equipment, up to a maximum of £5,000 p.a. Fellows may also apply for additional discretionary funds of similar scale. The College expects Fellow's laboratory work to take place in a properly equipped environment. The College provision is to cover expenses that are specific to the Fellow's own work.

FAQs FOR CLASSICS (EXCLUDING ANCIENT PHILOSOPHY)

WHAT IS MEANT BY 'CLASSICS (EXCLUDING ANCIENT PHILOSOPHY)'?

'Classics' is here defined as any aspect of the languages, literature, history, archaeology or visual culture of the Greek and Roman world in antiquity.

I WORK ON CLASSICAL ARCHAEOLOGY. CAN I APPLY?

Yes. Classical Archaeology is defined as the art and archaeology of the Greek and Roman world in the period 1000 BC - AD 650. If your research lies in this field you should apply to the Classics competition and not to Archaeology. Those working on earlier or later periods should apply to the Archaeology competition. If you are still uncertain about your eligibility, please contact pdrf.admin@all-souls.ox.ac.uk.

I ONLY WORK ON LATIN OR ON GREEK TEXTS. ARE THERE RESTRICTIONS TO APPLICATION?

You can apply as long as your research is focused on antiquity and/or ancient authors. Research in Neo Latin or on Byzantine (post-antique) Greek language and/or authors is not eligible for consideration.

I WORK IN CLASSICAL RECEPTION STUDIES. CAN I APPLY?

Eligible research must make an original contribution to knowledge of Greek or Roman antiquity. Work which is primarily directed to post-antique contexts of reception will not be eligible in this competition.

FAQs FOR MATHEMATICS

DOES THE COLLEGE HAVE LARGE-SCALE COMPUTING FACILITIES?

The College is not able to provide such facilities. If you are invited for interview and such facilities are important for your work, we may be able to put you in contact with Oxford academics who can provide information about university and national facilities.

FAQs FOR MODERN LANGUAGES

IN RELATION TO WHICH LANGUAGES, LITERATURES AND/OR CULTURES WILL YOU CONSIDER APPLICATIONS?

Catalan, Czech & Slovak, French, Galician, German, Modern Greek, Italian, Polish, Portuguese, Russian, other Slavonic languages, Spanish, Yiddish.

WILL YOU CONSIDER APPLICATIONS RELATING TO OTHER MODERN LANGUAGES?

No. Applications will be considered from those who are primarily researching language, literature, and/or culture in any of the languages taught and researched in Oxford's Faculty of Medieval and Modern Languages (<https://www.mod-langs.ox.ac.uk/languages>).

WHY NOT OTHER LANGUAGES TOO?

To keep application numbers manageable.

WILL YOU CONSIDER APPLICATIONS RELATING TO LINGUISTICS?

We will consider applications relating to linguistics if they relate primarily to the study of one or more of the languages listed above (e.g. sociolinguistics, philology, history of language).

IN WHAT DISCIPLINE SHOULD MY RESEARCH DEGREE BE?

We would normally expect your research degree to be in the discipline of modern languages, or of languages, or of (those relevant sub-areas of) linguistics.

MY RESEARCH IS ON POLISH CINEMA. CAN I APPLY?

Yes, film studies in relation to the above-mentioned languages is included.

MY RESEARCH IS ON FRANCOPHONE CARIBBEAN LITERATURE. CAN I APPLY?

Yes, Francophone, Hispanophone, Lusophone, etc. language, literature, and culture are included.

MY RESEARCH IS ON MEDIEVAL ITALIAN LITERATURE. CAN I APPLY?

Yes.

THE PRIMARY FOCUS OF MY RESEARCH IS COMPARATIVE LITERATURE. CAN I APPLY?

Yes, so long as your main language(s) of study are among those listed above.

FAQs FOR POLITICS

WHAT IS MEANT BY 'POLITICS'?

For the purposes of this competition, Politics is understood primarily as Political Science, with its traditional subfields of Political Theory, Comparative Politics, International Relations, and British Politics. We will also consider candidates from neighbouring fields such as Political Philosophy, Political Sociology, and Political Economy, provided that Politics remains the principal focus of the candidate's research. A good indication of whether such a candidate's research is sufficiently close to Politics

to be considered is whether some of it has been or is being considered for publication in Political Science journals. For a more detailed list of subjects that we consider to be within the remit of Politics, see the Politics course list for years 2 and 3 of the PPE degree <https://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/undergraduate/courses/course-listing/philosophy-politics-and-economics>.

DO I NEED TO HAVE A RESEARCH DEGREE IN POLITICAL SCIENCE?

Yes, that would be the normal expectation. That said, we are aware that some candidates are doing de facto Political Science research from within other degree programs, and we will consider those, provided that the link to Politics as defined above is clear from the candidate's research and publication record.

MY DEGREE IS FROM AN AREA STUDIES PROGRAM. CAN I APPLY?

Yes, provided that the main focus of the research falls within Politics as defined above.

FAQs FOR THEORETICAL PHYSICS

WHAT AREAS OF THEORETICAL PHYSICS ARE COVERED?

For the purposes of this vacancy, theoretical physics is to be understood in a broad sense.

MY RESEARCH INCLUDES BOTH THEORETICAL AND EXPERIMENTAL TOPICS, AM I ELIGIBLE TO APPLY?

The vacancy is intended for candidates whose research proposal is predominantly theoretical.