

British Academy Postdoctoral Fellowships 2026

Internal selection process: guidance for applicants & Faculties

Research Strategy & Development
April 2025

King's College London would like to invite outstanding applications to BA Postdoctoral Fellowship scheme. The scheme provides three-year fellowships for early career researchers within three years of submission of PhD (who have completed their viva voce between 01 April 2023 and 01 April 2026). Fellowships are tenable in all fields within the humanities and social sciences. This is a highly competitive scheme: the success rate is typically no more than 10%. The Academy expects to award 45 Fellowships for 2026.

Each year the Arts & Sciences Faculties support a limited number of applications, in response to the BA's demand management recommendations and to ensure the high quality of the applications put forward to the BA.

Those who are successful will join a vibrant community of postdoctoral research fellows at King's who have been supported through this and other external and internal competitions in recent years. King's is committed to supporting the scholarship and career development of these fellows, and each will be fully integrated into the life of their host Department/School.

Overview

King's invites prospective candidates to contact a mentor in their proposed Department/School, who will consider the subject area and applicant CV and confirm their support and its fit with the research profile or priorities of the department. If candidates do not have in-principle support from a mentor, they will not be considered at the next stage.

King's will then consider and select candidates through Faculty-level assessment. Successful candidates will be invited to develop their proposals for submission to the British Academy with King's as their host institution. We anticipate submitting around 25 applications across the Arts & Sciences Faculties. **Please note that we will not accept or support applications that do not adhere to the internal selection and application process.**

Internal selection process timeline

The timeline for the application process is set out below.

Date	Action	Notes
Now & by 27 th June	Prospective applicants contact their proposed mentor	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Read the full details of the scheme at the BA site to ensure eligibility to applyApplicants should make contact with an academic member of staff closest to their research area, to include an academic CV and a short paragraph of their proposed research programme.
27 th June (4pm)	Complete online	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Applicants should fill out this MS Forms eligibility check: https://forms.office.com/e/QJ1capTy4k

	eligibility check	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This will ask for details such as your PhD institution, viva date, prospective mentor & department at King's and will be checked by the King's Research Development Team. Information will not be shared any further outside of the team. Please ensure that you carefully read through the BA guidance on eligibility which can be found in the scheme notes here: https://www.thebritishacademy.ac.uk/documents/5446/Postdoctoral-Fellowship-Outline-Stage-2024-25-Scheme-Guidance-Notes.pdf Receipt of your submitted form will be sent within two working days and you will be advised if we cannot accept an EOI due to ineligibility.
Now	Listen to the information session, delivered by the Research Development team	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This information session gives details about the scheme, the elements of a strong application and what makes a competitive candidate, and the King's application process, and can be watched at any time. Please contact susanna.cornick-willis@kcl.ac.uk who will send you the link and note your interest.
By Wed 16th July (4pm)	Develop your EOI with your mentor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Submit your EOI to Susie Cornick-Willis (susanna.cornick-willis@kcl.ac.uk) This should be one PDF document saved as SURNAME_BAPOSTDOC_EOI It should contain: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> A 2pp CV A 2pp summary of your research proposition (sans serif font, size 11), which must include (including any references & bibliography): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Name and contact email address Project title Proposed mentor and host department, & why they are the best host for you & your project (~100 words) Abstract written in non-specialist language (~100 words) Details of current and past research (~200 words) Proposed research project (~500 words) An email from your mentor confirming their intention to support your application to the British Academy. <p>Some guidance for your research project summary:</p> <p>Project</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> What are your project objectives? How does the project go beyond the state of the art? How is your project a step-change from your PhD thesis? What is your methodology and how will it help you deliver your project objectives? <p>Impact</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> What skills do you want to develop? How do you think your research and training activities will enhance your career prospects, whether inside or outside academia? With which target groups will you communicate or engage about your project? Which target groups (e.g., scientific community, end users, financial actors, public at large) would benefit from your project, and what kinds of impact are you hoping to make?

		<p>Implementation</p> <p>i. What are your key deliverables and milestones?</p> <p>ii. How will your work with your mentor towards these?</p> <p>All word limits are suggestions rather than binding limits, so long as the research proposition document is no more than 2pp.</p> <p>Abstracts from previous awards can be found on the BA website for inspiration and information.</p>
w/c 21st July	Research Development Managers will do initial assessment of Eols	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Research Development Team will review EOLs and provide recommendations to HoDs, VDRs
By end July	Faculties to consider Eols	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HoDs & VDRs then confirm who will proceed to development stage Note: BA Postdoc Fellowships should be considered as a fairly significant recruitment/investment decision: HoDs should consider issues such as teaching opportunities, space requirements, REF eligibility (for example, applicants to produce at least one 4* output, and/or potential for impact case study) HoDs to consult the Faculty Research Development Manager (RDM) in case of any doubt
By end July	Prospective applicants informed of outcome of review	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Successful applicants are given feedback by their relevant RDM and invited to begin full applications online via FlexiGrant, the British Academy portal (https://britishacademy.flexigrant.com/) Successful applicants should maintain contact with their mentors, local research support staff and the relevant RDM for advice and guidance (contact details below) Successful applicants will be sent guidance and Faculty-specific contact details for the budgetary aspects of the application
Ongoing	Application development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Read the online applicant guidance and help notes on the BA's website Successful applicants should maintain contact with their mentors, local research support staff and the relevant RDM for support, advice and guidance You may wish to view previously successful proposals. Candidates internal to King's can access these via the Successful Application Bank. External candidates are welcome to contact Susie Cornick-Willis who will forward a couple of options for you to view. Contact your proposed referee <i>as early as possible</i> to make arrangements for them to submit their statements online. N.B. your referee must submit their reference by the King's internal deadline of 24th September (see below) Candidates will need to contact their RDM and local Faculty Research Team for support on budget & logistics, depending on requirements.
1st Sept 2025	Selected applicants to submit draft to RDM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For feedback from RDM, applicants selected by the Faculties should submit a first draft (download from BA application portal) to RDM Applicants will submit their drafts for feedback by Monday 1st September at the latest; feedback will be provided to applicants (from the Research Development team) by the 12th September
24th Sept 2025 Please note that this	King's internal submission deadline	<p>Applicants must submit their application via FlexiGrant by the internal deadline, which is one week before the British Academy's deadline of 1st October.</p>

deadline is final and non-negotiable		
1st Oct 2025	BA final external submission deadline – outline application	Once applicants submit their applications the Pre-Award team make final checks of the application and submit on behalf of the institution to the BA. Applicants receive an automatic email notification of submission.
Jan 2026	BA notifies applicants	Those successful at outline stage will be asked to develop their application into a detailed application; the deadline for this was TBC at the time this guidance was finalised Please remember to inform susanna.cornick-willis@kcl.ac.uk of your outline outcome.
FAQs		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Please ensure that you carefully read both the online applicant guidance and help notes on the British Academy’s website. Answers to many Frequently Asked Questions can be found on these pages. • For queries that cannot be answered on these pages, please contact Camilla Darling (camilla.darling@kcl.ac.uk)

Research Development Managers – contacts

Faculty	RDM	Email
Arts & Humanities	Emma Jay	Emma.jay@kcl.ac.uk
Dickson Poon School of Law	Gil Toffell	Gilad.toffell@kcl.ac.uk
King’s Business School	Sarah Evans	Sarah.l.evans@kcl.ac.uk
Social Science & Public Policy	Gil Toffell	Gilad.toffell@kcl.ac.uk