1. Wolfson College

Wolfson College, founded in 1965. The current website gives up-to-date information about the College:

2. Non-stipendiary Junior Research Fellowship under Title BI

Each year, the College offers up to ten non-stipendiary Junior Research Fellowships (JRFs) awarded based on open competition. The function of these Fellowships is to provide a formal, supported starting point for an academic career. Fellowships are for research at postdoctoral level and are open to scholars in all subjects and disciplines. They have a tenure of one year in the first instance, commencing 1 January, 1 April or 1 October 2022 (dependent upon funding), which may be renewed for a further two years. Successful candidates should have completed or made substantial progress towards completion of a PhD degree (or equivalent qualification) by the time they take up their Fellowship. JRFs are full members of the College’s Governing Body, with a responsibility for, and commitment to, the well-being of the College.

3. The Nature of the Competition

The timetable for the 2021 Competition is detailed at the end of these notes. The College elects its JRFs taking the following into account:

The candidate must demonstrate outstanding academic achievement with the potential for further intellectual development and scholarly creativity. To assist the College in its assessment, each candidate at the initial stage of application is asked to submit: a statement of not more than 1000 words about the interest and importance of their research, together with the names of two academic referees whom they consider to be familiar with their field of research and who would be appropriate assessors of their work. Both referees should be asked to write a reference to arrive at the College by midday on the closing date of the Competition (Monday 4 October 2021).

After reviewing the applications, the College will then invite a number of candidates to interview. If required, the panel might ask the applicant to submit samples of their research, which may take the form of articles, papers, or chapters from the candidate’s PhD thesis. This work will be forwarded to a specialist in the field, along with the candidate’s statement about their research, and they will be asked to advise the College about the candidate’s achievement to date, and the strength of promise for future research.

Having considered all the applications, the College will invite a selected number of candidates to attend an interview on Monday 30 November 2021*. The interview panels will contain some non-specialists and the purpose of the interview is to judge how well candidates can convey their knowledge and enthusiasm to a lay audience, and consequently to assess their capacity for interaction with Students, Fellows and Senior Members of the College, and their likely contribution to its intellectual life.

4. Financial Arrangements, Rights and Privileges*

Applicants must produce satisfactory evidence that they have adequate financial support and/or details of funding that they are applying for, which should be for the minimum of the first year of the Fellowship. Please provide funding body details, dates and notification dates for funding applied for if not yet known.

JRFs are entitled to all the social privileges of the Fellowship at large, meal allowance from Monday to Friday, two Formal Halls and certain other dinners at College expense. Subject to availability of rooms, JRFs may apply to live in College, for one year and only for new members to the College and Cambridge.

The Fellowships are non-stipendiary and do not cover departmental fees. There is an annual research allowance (currently £800) payable for expenses incurred in a 12-month period from their start date to support research, etc., for a maximum period of three years and only for so long as Fellowship is held.

*These rights and privileges are subject to periodic review.
5. Applications

Applicants should download the application form at wolfson.cam.ac.uk/applying/jrf/. Applications will only be accepted on this form, which should be completed fully, including a statement of not more than 1000 words, describing the work they would like to pursue during their tenure of a Fellowship. It should then be saved and emailed as per the instructions at the top of the form to registrar@wolfson.cam.ac.uk. Posted applications will not be accepted.

Applicants should also download the Referee Form, complete Section 1, save as instructed and email the form to their referees. The referees should complete Sections 2, save and submit by email as per the instructions at the top of the form to registrar@wolfson.cam.ac.uk.

Selected candidates may be required to submit written work in support of their application prior to the interviews.

Candidates will then be invited to attend an interview† according to the timetable below. All interviews are conducted in the morning on the same day.

Applicants from non-EU countries should check their visa position before applying, as tenure of a non-stipendiary JRF does not constitute grounds for the awarding of a work permit. Applicants from EU countries should refer to the UK Government’s website for the latest information regarding visas.

6. Acknowledgment

All applications and references will be acknowledged by email before or by 5 October 2021, with any outstanding paperwork followed up at this stage.

7. Timetable for the JRF 2022 Competition

1 August 2021 Competition officially opens
4 October 2021 Midday - closing date for receipt of applications and referees’ reports
During October Panel to assess all applications and to ask for further information if required
1 November 2021 Decision on short-list for interview by Fellowship & Membership Committee
3 November 2021 Applicants will be informed by email*
30 November 2021† Interviews and recommendations approved by Fellowship & Membership Committee by email circulation
1/2 December 2021 Applicants will be informed by email*
24 January 2022 Recommendations approved by College Council
25 January 2022 Candidates will be informed by email* of the decision made by Council with confirmation letters to candidates

*Note: A current email address is essential and candidates should ensure that the Registrar is informed of any amendments during the application process asap.

† COVID-19 - INTERVIEWS WILL BE CONDUCTED IN PERSON, SUBJECT TO ANY PREVAILING UK GOVERNMENT RESTRICTIONS.

We are committed to protecting your personal information and being transparent about what information we hold. Please consult our Data Protection Policy for further information.