

## NON-STIPENDIARY JUNIOR RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP (TITLE BI) 2026 COMPETITION FURTHER PARTICULARS

### 1. The Competition

Each year, [Wolfson College](#) offers up to **ten** non-stipendiary Junior Research Fellowships (JRFs) awarded in 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, who are employed within Cambridge University or its associated institutions for the duration of their tenure. Preference will be given to those whose research is within the scope of one of our five [Interdisciplinary Research Hubs](#).

### 2. Isaac Newton Trust non-stipendiary Junior Research Fellowship

In addition for this year's competition, with the support of the [Isaac Newton Trust \(INT\)](#), the College welcomes applications for one [Isaac Newton Trust non-stipendiary Fellowship](#) from across the STEMM subjects. For the INT non-stipendiary Junior Research Fellowship, a maximum of four teaching hours per week only is allowed.

Fellowships are initially for one year, commencing on **1 January, 1 April or 1 October 2026** (dependent upon funding), which may be renewed for a further two years. Successful candidates should have completed or have 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 and FAQs for the 2026 competition are 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 is asked at the initial stage of application to apply via the link provided on the website.

After reviewing the applications, the College will then invite a number of candidates to interview on the morning of **Tuesday 25 November 2025**. If necessary, the panel may ask candidates to submit samples of their research, which may take the form of articles, papers, or chapters from the candidate's doctoral thesis. This work will be sent, together with the candidate's application, to a specialist in the field who will be asked to advise the College on the candidate's achievements to date and the strength of their future research potential. Selected candidates will be contacted directly by email.

The three interview panels are Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences, Biological Sciences and Clinical Medicine and Physical Sciences and Technology and normally consist of three to four Fellows, some of whom will be non-specialists. The purpose of the interview is to judge how well candidates can communicate their knowledge and enthusiasm to a lay audience, and consequently to assess their ability to interact with students, Fellows and all other members of the College, and their likely contribution to its intellectual life.

### 4. Financial Arrangements, Rights and Privileges *(These rights and privileges are subject to periodic review)*

Candidates **must** provide satisfactory evidence that they have adequate financial support for a post and/or details of the funding that they are applying for, which should be for the minimum of the first year of the Fellowship. Please provide details of funding body, dates and notification dates of 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, termly Formal Hall allowance with provisions for professional guests and certain other dinners at College expense. Off-peak parking and free 4-hour room bookings for meetings are also available.

Subject to availability of rooms, JRFs may apply to live in the College, for one year (for new members to the College and Cambridge only). Subject to availability, JRFs may also book overnight accommodation and conference facilities in College.

The Fellowships are non-stipendiary and do not cover departmental fees. There is an annual research allowance (currently £800) payable towards expenses incurred in a 12-month period from their start date to support research-related activities, for a maximum period of three years and only for so long as the Fellowship is held. JRFs are also eligible to apply for a grant (maximum £500) for research purposes/projects.

## 5. Obligations of Junior Research Fellows

As well as enjoying the social side of College life, JRFs are expected to attend Governing Body meetings (which are held five times a year) and to contribute to the intellectual life of the College by, for instance:

- Joining the [Early Career Researchers Programme](#)
- Attending events relevant to your field of research
- Joining committees and societies, both social and educational
- Giving and attending [Lectures and Seminars](#)
- Engaging with students/signing up to the [Graduate Mentoring Scheme](#)
- Offering a talk or workshop session for the [WolfWorks](#) programme
- Assisting with the annual [Wolfson Research Event](#)
- Engaging with a College [Interdisciplinary Research Hub](#)

(**Note:** There is no requirement for JRFs to teach, but they are encouraged to undertake a limited amount of undergraduate teaching, provided this does not conflict with their primary research activities.)

## 5. Applications

Interested candidates should [click through to apply via the CASC Fellowship Application System link on our website](#). For any further information, please email the Registrar, Michelle Searle, at [registrar@wolfson.cam.ac.uk](mailto:registrar@wolfson.cam.ac.uk).

A complete application will comprise of:

- Personal details and academic record.
- Questionnaire which includes details of your current employment, statement of your current and proposed research (1000 words or one-page maximum) and your contribution to the life of the College.
- A concise two-page Curriculum Vitae, including your most important publications.
- Two academic references. Academic referees\* should be familiar with the applicant's recent research and other activities and should be able to provide an appropriate assessment of the applicant's work.

**Please ensure the name of your Funding body/Fellowship and its start/end dates are clearly stated.**

\*Your referees will automatically be asked for a reference via the CASC online system. Postal references will not be accepted. Both referees will be asked to complete a reference to arrive at the College by midday on the closing date of the Competition (**Wednesday 1 October 2025**).

Candidates will then be invited to attend an interview† according to the timetable detailed below. All interviews will take place in the morning on the same day and may be conducted via Zoom/Teams.

Applicants from outside the UK or Ireland should check their visa status before applying, as being a non-stipendiary JRF is not grounds for a work permit. Please check the [UK Government's](#) website for the latest information on visas.

## 6. Acknowledgment

Confirmation of a completed application and references will be acknowledged by the CASC online system.

## 7. Timetable for the Junior Research Fellowship 2026 Competition

1 August 2025	Competition officially opens
1 October 2025	Midday - closing date and time for receipt of applications and references
During October	Panel to assess all applications and to ask for further information if required
10 November 2025	Decision on short-list for interview by Fellowship & Membership Committee
12 November 2025	*Candidates will be informed by email with details of time and details for the interview

**++ If selected for interview, please ensure you are available on the morning of 25 November 2025, in person or via Zoom/Teams ++**

25 November 2025	<b>Interviews</b> (held in the morning) and recommendations approved by Fellowship & Membership Committee by email circulation
26 November 2025	*Candidates will be informed by email if they have been successful or not
Late November 2025	Recommendations approved by the College Council. Candidates will be informed by email* of the decision made by the Council with confirmation letters to follow.

\*Note: A current email address is essential, and candidates should ensure that the [Registrar](#) is informed of any changes as soon as possible during the application process.

## 8. Frequently asked questions and information

- There is no age limit, but you must be within five years of completing your doctoral studies.
- You are eligible to apply if you are a PhD student (or equivalent qualification) provided you are submitting **before** the start of your Fellowship.
- The main criteria are academic achievement and potential relative to your academic research career to date, with priority given to those early in their careers.
- Only open to applicants who are or will be employed in CU departments, faculties or associated institutions and who will continue to be employed for the duration of the Fellowship.
- Only open to applicants with no other **active** college affiliation.
- If your research area is interdisciplinary, your application will be considered by panel members from each discipline area, but you will only be interviewed by the panel based on your main department/faculty.
- A JRF appointment is initially tenable for one year and renewable for a further two years from the start date, subject to funding being in place and are making good progress along with contributing to College life. This allows those without funding in the latter years to secure funding at a later stage. There is no selection process for the second and third years; however, the Fellowship and Membership Committee will ask you to report annually on the work which has been carried out during the previous year.
- If you are invited to an interview, you will be advised of the date and time, the composition of the panel and what visual aids are permitted.

(**Note**: The College is usually unable to reimburse interviewees' travel expenses. Subject to availability, accommodation may be available at your own expense. Please contact the [Registrar](#) for details.)



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*We are committed to protecting your personal information and being transparent about what information we hold. Please consult our [Data Protection Statement](#) for further information.*