



Fulford Non-Stipendiary Junior Research Fellowships

Somerville College invites applications for up to ten Fulford Non-Stipendiary Junior Research Fellowships for the period 1 October 2026 to 30 September 2028 (or for the duration of the postholder's post-doctoral appointment if this is shorter). The posts are open to applicants holding research posts, or who will definitely hold research posts by 1st October 2026, from across all four divisions (Medical Sciences, Humanities, Social Sciences, and Mathematical, Physical & Life Sciences). The posts are intended to provide the opportunity for outstanding early career researchers to benefit from association with a College, and to encourage interactions with the wider Somerville community. There is no stipend offered for these posts as they offer an association to the College, not employment.

Somerville College

Somerville College is one of 39 independent, self-governing colleges of the University of Oxford. Somerville takes great pride in its pioneering history, its academic excellence and its intellectual and social openness. It was founded in 1879 as a non-sectarian college as one of the first Oxford colleges to admit women tutors and students; it has been a mixed college since 1994. There are 200 graduate students currently reading for masters and doctoral degrees and about 400 undergraduates following three and four-year courses across a wide variety of disciplines. The undergraduate body includes a higher-than-average proportion of state-school students. Further information about the College may be found at <https://www.some.ox.ac.uk/>

Eligibility and selection criteria

You should hold a post-doctoral appointment or similar in a Department or Faculty of the University of Oxford and be doing research in a subject area where Somerville College has Fellows. In exceptional circumstances, those living and working in Oxford but holding a research post with another University may be considered

Applicants should have completed their doctorate or expect to have completed it before the start of the Fellowship. They should not have completed their doctorate more than five years before the start of the Fellowship, allowing for extensions due to caring responsibilities. Although the Fellowship is intended for a relatively junior scholar, this refers to the stage a candidate has reached in their career, rather than to the age of the candidate. The College welcomes qualified candidates of all ages and will take into account the individual circumstances of each in selecting the successful candidate.

A list of College Fellows and their subject areas can be found at:

<https://www.some.ox.ac.uk/people/>

Selection criteria will be based on: quality of research, academic fit with College Fellowship and resources, post-doctoral funding, and aptitude for teaching (if applicable). Preference will be given to applicants with an interest in public engagement and widening access work.

Benefits

- Each Fulford JRF will be paired with a College mentor, a more senior member of our academic community working in the same or a related field
- Full Common table rights i.e., free lunch and dinner whenever the College kitchens are open
- Guest membership of the Senior Common Room
- Opportunities for undergraduate teaching may also be available (which would be paid at the external tuition rates set by the Senior Tutors' Committee). If employment is offered at a later date, then this would be subject to satisfactory right to work checks and provision of a valid NI number.

How to apply

1. Applications should be made via the online at www.some.ox.ac.uk/jobs
2. You must submit all elements of your application by **12:00 noon on 23 February 2026**
3. Your application must include:
 - A letter of application explaining why you wish to be considered for this position, listing your source(s) of financial support, and providing up to 500 words describing the research you are doing at Oxford.
Please also include the name of the Fellow at Somerville whose research area is the closest match to yours (see www.some.ox.ac.uk/fellows for a list)
 - One sample of written work (up to 5,000 words), preferably a thesis chapter or an article
 - A curriculum vitae
 - Details of Two academic references (see below)
4. Candidates should ask their referees to write directly to tutorials@some.ox.ac.uk, and should supply each referee with a copy of these further particulars.
Please note that it is your responsibility to ensure that references are submitted promptly, as we will not approach your referees directly. **References must be submitted by the application deadline.**

The College wishes to take this opportunity to thank in advance those referees who write on behalf of applicants.
Further copies of these particulars may be found at www.some.ox.ac.uk/jobs
5. Completed applications will be considered on receipt, and we will aim to inform candidates by late April 2026 whether they will be invited for an interview.
6. **Interviews will be held on 14th and 15th May 2026**
7. Communication regarding the status and outcome of your application will be made via e-mail.

Data Protection

All data supplied by candidates will be used only for the purposes of determining their suitability for the post and will be held in accordance with the principles of the Data Protection Act 1998 and the College's Data Protection Policy.

Equal Opportunities statement

The policy and practice of the University of Oxford and of Somerville College require that all staff are afforded equal opportunities within employment. Entry into employment and progression within employment will be determined only by personal merit and the application of criteria which are related to the duties of each particular post and the relevant salary structure. In all cases, ability to perform the job will be the primary consideration. Subject to statutory provisions, no applicant or member of staff will be treated less favourably than another because of age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage or civil partnership, pregnancy or maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, or sexual orientation. Where suitably qualified individuals are available, selection panels will contain at least one member of each sex.

Pre-employment screening

If you are selected for the post, employment with the College will be conditional upon satisfying the following requirements.

1. Eligibility to work in the UK

The Immigration, Asylum and Nationality Act 2006 makes it a criminal offence for employers to employ someone who is not entitled to work in the UK. We therefore ask applicants to provide proof of their right to work in the UK before employment can commence.

Please note that you will need to provide original documents and where any documents are not in English a certified translation will be required. Do not include these documents with your application. You will be sent a request for the relevant information at the appropriate point in the selection process.

2. Medical fitness

Please note that any offer of employment will be conditional upon receipt of a completed pre-employment medical health assessment questionnaire and confirmation from the University of Oxford Occupational Health Service that the candidate is medically fit for the post (allowing for any reasonable adjustments that may be required, in line with the provisions of the Equality Act 2010).

The purpose of the pre-employment medical health questionnaire is to:

- assess the candidate's medical capability to do the job for which they have applied.
- determine whether any reasonable adjustments or auxiliary aids may be required to accommodate any disability or impairment which they may have.
- ensure that none of the requirements of the job for which they have applied would adversely affect any pre-existing health conditions the candidate may have.

The appointment will not commence until medical fitness for work, and any reasonable adjustments that may be required, is confirmed by the University Occupational Health Service.