

IAS Fellowship
2023/24

Frequently Asked Questions: Information for Applicants

How do I find a suitable academic host?

Applicants may apply to collaborate on one of the four projects supported by the IAS in 2023/24, or applicants may undertake a collaboration with another Durham academic on a research proposal of joint design.

The four projects supported in 2023/24 are:

- *Justice and Artificial Intelligence*
- *Understanding Offence: delimiting the (un)sayabe*
- *Abusing Antiquity*
- *In Absence of Others*

If an applicant wishes to collaborate on one of the above, they need to approach one of the principal investigators (the links above denote the PIs) and complete the process noted below.

When approaching hosts we would suggest that applicants prepare a draft collaborative research proposal and current CV, which can then be refined in collaboration with the host. Hosts are required to complete the proforma, which is necessary as part of the application documentation. The purpose of this requirement is to ensure that all Fellows appointed are provided with appropriate support, and that the proposed research has strategic significance to the academic unit.

This section features useful links within the University's website to help applicants find a potential host. Applicants are encouraged to identify a host working in the proposed field of research. The IAS recommends using the Durham University Departmental Directory (<https://www.durham.ac.uk/departments/academic/>), the University Research Institutes and Research Centres website (<https://www.durham.ac.uk/research/institutes-and-centres/>) and Faculty websites:

- [Faculty of Arts and Humanities](#)
- [Faculty of Science](#)
- [Faculty Of Social Sciences And Health](#)
- [Faculty of Business](#)

Durham hosts should be employed by Durham University to ensure clear lines of accountability. Honorary post holders or emeriti may act as co-hosts as long as a colleague, employed by Durham University acts as host.

How do I contact a suitable academic host?

Applicants should contact a host directly and as soon as possible, allowing sufficient time for a potential host to respond and to develop a collaborative plan with the applicant. It would be unrealistic, for example, to approach a potential academic host the day before the application deadline with the expectation that a collaborative proposal could be developed in that timeframe, and submitted on time. Applicants should allow as much time as possible. Applicants should not approach several hosts at the same time and duplicate the process. We recommend that applicants systematically approach a host and if she/he is unable to collaborate, applicants should seek an

alternative.

Where can my host get their support proforma?

The Proforma can be downloaded from the IAS website at: <https://www.durham.ac.uk/media/durham-university/research-/research-institutes/institute-of-advanced-study/resources/final-Support-Proforma-for-IAS-Fellowship-202324.docx>

I am a postgraduate student. Am I eligible to apply for a Fellowship?

No. IAS Fellowships are not available to undergraduate or postgraduate students. The minimum entry requirement is an awarded PhD (see below).

What constitutes 'holding a doctorate' and post-doctoral experience?

Applicants following standard academic career paths must have successfully defended their thesis, and have a minimum of five years post-doctoral experience in an academic role by the closing date for applications.

I held an IAS Fellowship several years ago. Am I eligible to apply for a Fellowship?

No. Previous recipient of an IAS Fellowship are not eligible.

I am not an academic. Am I eligible to apply for a Fellowship?

Yes. The IAS welcomes applications from non-academics including artists, writers, policy makers, journalists etc. However, these applicants must also satisfy the criteria for a distinguished Fellowship and have an equivalent level of experience and track record. Non-academic applicants must still have an academic host and undertake collaborate research.

Are UK nationals eligible to apply?

Yes, applicants of any nationality are eligible to apply however, we note that one of the aims of the scheme is to build long-term international research links, and preference will be given to applicants from outside the UK. The IAS particularly welcomes applications from individuals from under-represented groups.

Where can I find Diversity & Equality information?

Durham University information can be found at:
<https://www.dur.ac.uk/equality.diversity/positiveworking/policies/eanddpolicy>

To whom should I address the letter of application?

Dear Selection Panel or Dear Professor Easton will suffice.

Letter of Application content?

Applicants must submit a letter of application, which contains the information required as outlined in the application procedure. In particular, it is essential that the applicant confirm the Fellowship term (e.g. Michaelmas or Epiphany). If this is not included, the IAS will allocate an applicant to either term, if an offer of a Fellowship is made.

The Letter of Application must indicate how the Fellow found out about the IAS Fellowship. This is particularly important to the IAS in tracking the effectiveness of its advertising.

What is Buyout and who is eligible to apply?

Buyout is an amount up to GBP £8000 paid to a Fellows' institution to release a Fellow from duties to take up a Fellowship. Only Fellows from less advantaged global areas can apply to the IAS for buyout, or academics whose institution does not provide research/study leave may also apply. In all other circumstances, the IAS expects applicants to apply for research leave for the duration of the IAS Fellowship.

Any request for buyout must be included in the Letter of Application.

College Accommodation. Can I express a preference to reside in a particular College

If an applicant has an existing connection with a Durham College, it may be noted; however, there is no guarantee a Fellow will be allocated to a particular College. Accommodation is allocated on availability and accommodation requirements.

Durham has very limited family accommodation, and the IAS cannot guarantee such accommodation to Fellows who wish to bring family members including dependent children. The standard of all accommodation is suitable to a couple only.

References and Referees

It is the responsibility of the applicant to arrange for their referees to submit references to the IAS Manager at ias.manager@durham.ac.uk by the closing date for application (midday GMT 17 June 2022). Any references not received by the application deadline will render the full application ineligible.

References should not be from referees within the applicants' own institution. Neither should a reference be submitted from an academic at Durham University. Referees need to be someone who is not actively sponsoring the Fellowship. For example, the Durham academic host should not act as a referee.

We encourage applicants to give guidance to their referees about the reference content, and to address key criteria, outlined in the application evaluation, which will be evaluated by the assessors. For example, to include comments about:

- the applicant's standing in their particular field;
- the quality of the applicant's research;
- the level of recognition that has been received for their research;
- the quality of the proposed research to be undertaken at Durham;
- the applicant's interdisciplinary experience;

How many references do I need?

Two.

Closing date. Is there any flexibility to submit after the closing date?

The closing date for all applications is midday GMT 17 June 2022. The advertising period for the IAS Fellowship is nine weeks, and the IAS cannot accept late applications beyond the closing date.

Who will be making the assessment and when will I find out if my Fellowship application has been successful?

The selection panel will comprise of senior Durham members of Faculty representing a broad disciplinary spectrum. Applicants will be advised of the outcome, by email, by the end of October 2022.

Further questions

If the above fails to address questions any applicant may have, please contact the IAS Manager, Linda Crowe, at ias.manager@durham.ac.uk.