

# British Council 90th Anniversary Research Fellowships



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[iash.ed.ac.uk](http://iash.ed.ac.uk)

# What is IASH?

- Founded in 1969
- A home for visiting scholars from around the world
- International, interdisciplinary and autonomous
- Part of the University of Edinburgh, working across all departments in the College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences



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65 Fellows each year

Over 1,500 Fellows  
since 1969

Our 19<sup>th</sup>-century building by  
the Meadows holds up to 28  
Fellows at any one time



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British Council

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## Our vision

A more peaceful and prosperous world built on trust.

## Our purpose statement

We support peace and prosperity by building connections, understanding and trust between people in the UK and countries worldwide.

## Where we work

**We work with people in over 200 countries and territories and are on the ground in more than 100 countries**

## What we do

**Building connections, understanding and trust**

## How we do it

**Arts and culture  
Education  
English**

## Why we do it

The UK's global reputation, influence and prosperity is strengthened, supporting the international ambitions of all four nations of the UK in arts and culture, education and English.

The UK sectors build international partnerships in places that matter to them through improved networks, knowledge and understanding.

Leaders in overseas governments, institutions and organisations have a long-term and trustworthy partner committed to achieving mutual benefit.

Young people, educators and creatives transform their lives and shape a better world in partnership with the UK through increased skills, confidence and connections.

To support

**A more peaceful and prosperous world built on trust**

<https://www.britishcouncil.org/about-us/how-we-work/corporate-reports>

<https://www.britishcouncil.org/about-us/our-strategy>

# Focus on Arts and Culture, Education and English

4 long term outcomes	3 Sectors	11 Areas	What we do	2 Cross cutting themes
The UK's global reputation, influence and prosperity is strengthened, supporting the international ambitions of all four nations of the UK in arts and culture, education and English.	Arts and Culture	<b>Cultural exchange</b>	We connect UK's arts and culture sectors with their peers and with audiences internationally driving greater engagement with and favourability towards UK arts and culture.	<p>Making a meaningful contribution internationally to <b>equality, diversity and inclusion</b> for wider benefit.</p> <p>Supporting the UK's contribution to international leadership in <b>climate change</b> through arts and culture, education and English.</p>
		<b>Creative economy</b>	We develop the creative economy as a key driver of sustainable, dynamic and inclusive growth, with the UK being recognised as a global leader.	
		<b>Culture responds to global challenges</b>	We support the arts sector to respond to global challenges around inclusion and sustainability by capacity building and developing networks, celebrating best practice and giving people access to international showcasing platforms.	
The UK sectors build international partnerships in places that matter to them through improved networks, knowledge and understanding.	Education	<b>Student mobility, scholarships and alumni</b>	We support the Higher Education sector to attract international students to the UK and create international opportunities for UK students. We support a lifelong engagement with international students by providing development and networking opportunities for alumni.	
		<b>Education partnerships</b>	We facilitate Higher Education, Technical and Vocational Education and Training, Science and Schools partnerships between the UK and other countries to develop better quality, more inclusive and globally connected education systems and contribute the UK's knowledge to international education.	
		<b>Non-formal education</b>	We empower young leaders and influencers through skills development to contribute to trust-building, cohesion and stability in their societies and represent their communities on a local and national stage.	
Leaders in overseas governments, institutions and organisations have a long term and trustworthy partner committed to achieving mutual benefit.	English	<b>Qualifications</b>	We create opportunities for people everywhere to achieve their potential by taking UK school, university and professional qualifications.	
		<b>Systems</b>	We enable education systems to support inclusive, quality teaching, learning and assessment of English, widening the knowledge of the English language and empowering people to access global opportunities and connections.	
Young people and influencers transform their lives and shape a better world in partnership with the UK through increased skills, confidence and connections.	English	<b>Empowerment</b>	We support empowerment of girls' and those effected by conflict to make more informed life choices in the future through building their English language, digital and other life skills.	
		<b>Teaching and learning</b>	We support the professional development of individual teachers and teacher educators and teach English across all ages to help build core skills, critical thinking and shape new ideas.	
		<b>Assessment</b>	We provide English language assessments enabling individuals to access life, study or work opportunities internationally or in their own countries, and change lives.	

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# Uniquely placed to deliver

This combination of strengths is at the heart of the British Council's sparkle

We have unparalleled access to young people, influencers and future leaders around the world. We work with and for the four governments of the UK, UK sectors, overseas governments, partners, customers and beneficiaries.

Networks

We have built trust for almost 90 years ensuring the UK is able to be responsive and can engage with countries worldwide during times of calm and times of turbulence.

Trust

For every £1 the UK government gives us, we generate an extra £5, delivering £1bn worth of activity for the UK.

Value for money

We are leaders in our field, working in +100 countries, with relationships in +200. This year we will reach over 650 million people, of which 94 million will form a new partnership, study or learn with the UK.

Scale

We have deep expertise and insight in arts and culture, education and English, and the countries we work in. We share the best of the UK, learn from the best around the world.

Expertise

<https://www.britishcouncil.org/research-insight>

# Research and insight

Sharing new knowledge and the latest thinking on international cultural relations through arts, education and the English language.

To watch this video, visit <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6R4IfMyIZOU&t=4s>

Yvette Hutchinson  
Senior Consultant,  
Schools Global Programme



## Our World, Connected

Global Conversations with the British Council

PODCAST

<https://www.britishcouncil.org/research-insight/our-world-connected-podcast>

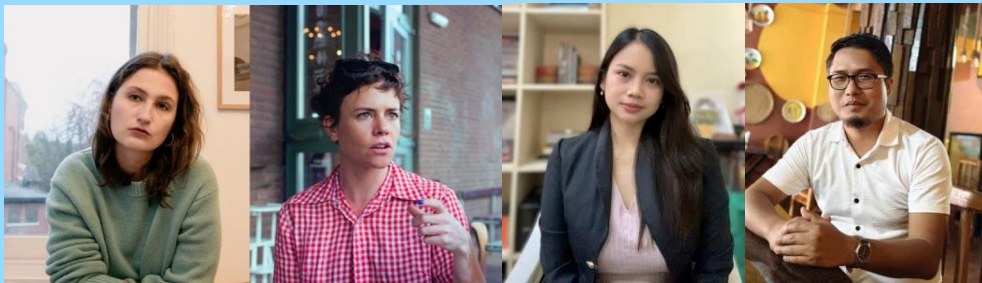
<https://www.britishcouncil.org/research-insight/about>

# British Council 90th Anniversary Research Fellowships

Two 12-month fellowships starting in Jan. 2027

Ten months at IASH + up to two months based in your home country for knowledge exchange with the British Council

Two previous rounds of fellowships have been completed or are underway!



## Objectives

- To **generate new knowledge** that builds on or complements British Council data, evidence, insight and expertise and supports British Council programming and strategy.
- To **diversify and broaden the British Council's knowledge base**, including through providing opportunities for knowledge exchange with researchers from regions and communities under-represented in global research production and discourse.
- To support the **international capacity building and professional development** of up-and-coming research experts from eligible countries.
- To **foster longer-term connections, networks and partnerships** between UK and international researchers and British Council staff.
- To promote the **academic engagement and professional networking** of British Council staff and partners.
- To **enhance the visibility, use and application of the data, evidence and other forms of knowledge and insight** generated through the British Council's programmes and network.
- To contribute more broadly to the **UK research and skills agenda**

## A British Council 90th Anniversary Research Fellowship provides:

- Research visit at the University of Edinburgh for ten months from January 2027, followed by up to two months based in your home country focused on knowledge exchange and dissemination
- Bursary of £2,500 per month for 12 months
- Dedicated office space, University e-mail and library access
- A University mentor from an area relevant to the Fellows' research interests

### Plus:

- Weekly Fellows' Lunch to build community
- Collegial work-in-progress seminar series for testing new ideas
- Calendar of engaging events at the Institute and College
- Opportunities to participate in and design funded workshops, colloquia, etc at the Institute



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## Eligibility:

You must be from an ODA-recipient country where the British Council operates.

Albania	Algeria	Argentina
Armenia	Azerbaijan	Bangladesh
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Botswana	Brazil
Cambodia	Cameroon	China
Colombia	Cuba	Egypt
Ethiopia	Georgia	Ghana
India	Indonesia	Iraq
Jamaica	Jordan	Kazakhstan
Kenya	Kosovo	Laos
Lebanon	Libya	Malawi
Malaysia	Mauritius	Mexico
Montenegro	Morocco	Mozambique
Myanmar	Namibia	Nepal
Nigeria	North Macedonia	Pakistan
Peru	Philippines	Rwanda
Senegal	Serbia	Sierra Leone
South Africa	South Sudan	Sri Lanka
Sudan	Syria	Tanzania
Thailand	Tunisia	Türkiye
Uganda	Ukraine	Uzbekistan
Venezuela	Viet Nam	Occupied Palestinian Territories
Yemen	Zambia	Zimbabwe



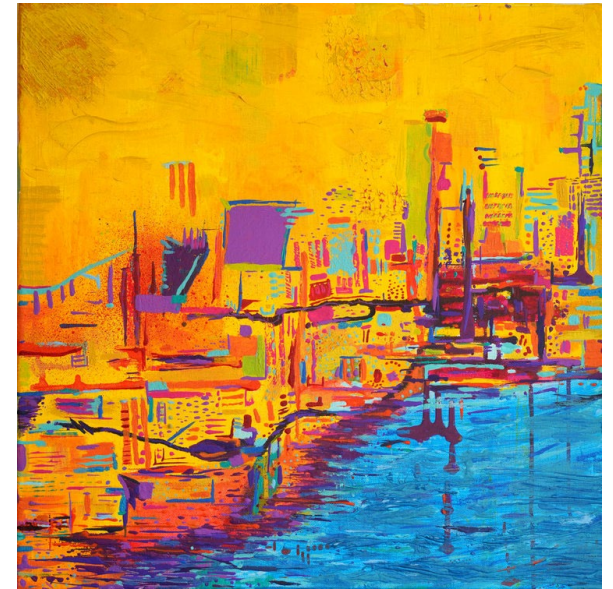
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## Eligibility:

Applicants must hold a doctorate / PhD at the time of application, and normally within the last seven years (i.e. you should have graduated between 2019 and 2026). Earlier graduates may be eligible if they have taken significant career breaks since completing their doctorate; if you have not yet graduated, you must be able to produce a transcript, testamur, or a letter of completion/eligibility to graduate as part of your application; you do not need to have actually graduated at the time you apply.

You should not have held a full-time permanent position at a university, or a previous Fellowship at IASH. Those who have held temporary, renewable, part-time and/or short-term appointments are eligible to apply.

If you have taken parental leave or other time away from academia, this will not count towards the seven-year limit, but we ask that you provide brief details of why and for how long you were not working.



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## Mentors:

Finding a suitable mentor based at the University of Edinburgh is a key criterion for the selection panel, as it provides evidence of prior contact with colleagues here at Edinburgh, and evidence of a good fit to the university's research priorities. A second mentor outside the University of Edinburgh is very welcome, but you must list at least one named mentor or collaborator in your application.

It is the applicant's responsibility to identify and contact potential mentors in advance and to secure their agreement – **IASH and the British Council cannot assist with this process.**

Full contact lists for all staff in the university are available on the websites for each School / department:

<https://cahss.ed.ac.uk/about-us/history-structure>

You can also search Edinburgh Research Explorer (<https://www.research.ed.ac.uk>) for more detailed searches that will show you relevant publications and projects by University of Edinburgh staff. Please note that Edinburgh Research Explorer contains links to staff no longer based at Edinburgh as it is a permanent archive, whereas the staff lists on individual School websites are more up-to-date.

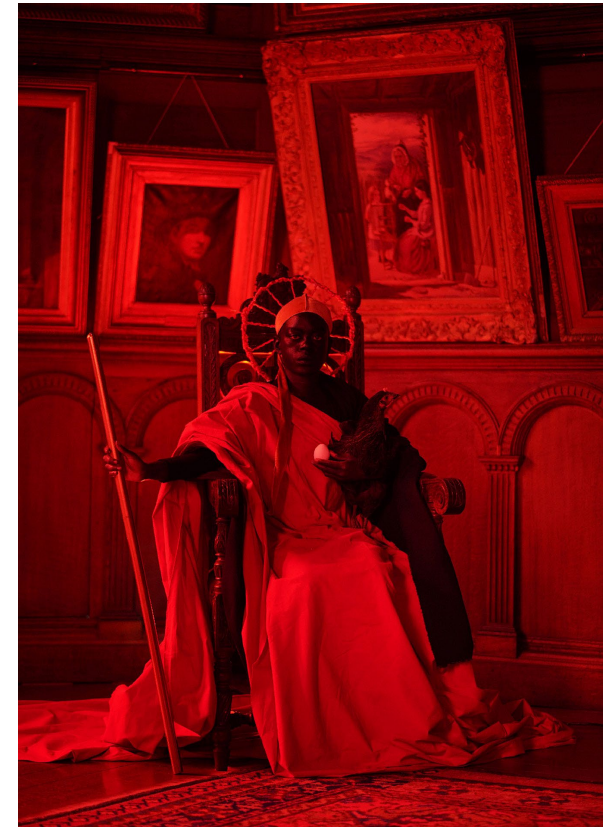


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## Application requirements:

- Online application form:  
<https://www.iash.ed.ac.uk/application-form>
- Cover letter outlining how your Fellowship project will support the British Council's objectives
- Your CV, showing qualifications and publication record
- Your research proposal
- Two academic references, to be submitted by email
- A named mentor from the University of Edinburgh – they must have agreed to be your mentor!

Deadline: 17:00 BST on Friday 31 July 2026



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Thanks for listening!

Apply: <https://www.iash.ed.ac.uk/british-council-90th-anniversary-research-fellowships>

Email: [researchglobal@britishcouncil.org](mailto:researchglobal@britishcouncil.org)



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