Funding opportunity

International Placement Scheme 2026

Opportunity status:	Open
Funders:	**Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC)**, **Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC)**
Funding type:	Other
Total fund:	£250,000
Award range:	£6,000 - £16,200
Publication date:	7 January 2026
Opening date:	7 January 2026 9:00am UK time
Closing date:	19 March 2026 4:00pm UK time

Last updated: 7 January 2026 - **see all updates**

Apply for a funded placement at an international institution.

Placements are available at the following institutions:

- United States: Harry Ransom Center, Huntington Library, Library of Congress, Smithsonian Institution, Yale Centre for British Art
- Japan: National Institutes for the Humanities (NIHU)
- China: Shanghai Theatre Academy

You will receive £1,000 for travel and visa costs (£1,200 for travel to Japan and China) and £2,500 for each month of the placement. You can apply for two to six months of funding.

Please refer to the 'Additional Information' for more information on the aims of the scheme and an overview of each host.

Who can apply

This funding opportunity is open to organisations with standard eligibility. **Check if your organisation is eligible**.

This funding opportunity is open to:

- PhD students currently funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC)
- early career researchers (ECRs) in **any arts or humanities subject**

PhD students funded by the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) may apply for a placement at the Library of Congress.

AHRC applicants must apply to undertake primary research in an AHRC subject area for all hosts.

ESRC-funded PhD students are only eligible to apply to Library of Congress and must be applying to undertake primary research in an ESRC subject area.

AHRC applicants can apply for a placement at more than one institution in a single round, noting that separate applications need to be submitted. However, dates and applications must:

- be for separate and distinct research work packages
- not overlap
- take place in one continuous block of time
- not be interdependent

If applying for a placement at more than one institution, you should also check that there are no visa restrictions on returning to the host country within the same year.

You can only hold a placement at the same institution once in each stage of your career, for example once as a student and once as an early career researcher (ECR).

Deferred entry applications are not permitted. Equally, if your application is successful but you cannot undertake your placement, you must reapply the following year.

Before applying, PhD students must secure approval of their UK research organisation and their supervisor. Early career researchers and doctoral-level research assistants must secure approval from their head of department. This approval confirms that you can attend the placement in full if your application is successful.

Before applying for funding, check the **Eligibility of your organisation**.

UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) has introduced new role types for funding opportunities being run on the new UKRI Funding Service.

For full details, visit **Eligibility as an individual**.

Who is eligible to apply

Individual eligibility for PhD students

AHRC-funded doctoral students can apply to any host. ESRC-funded doctoral students can only apply to Library of Congress.

Placements must be undertaken during the funded period of your doctoral award.

PhD students must include their doctoral training grant reference in the 'About you' section of the application form.

Because these placements are intended to enrich and form part of the period of doctoral study, no additional time will be added to the doctoral award end date.

Individual eligibility for ECRs

Applicants are expected to either:

- hold a doctorate by the start date of the fellowship
- demonstrate equivalent research or innovation experience, training or both

There are no eligibility rules based on years since PhD or whether the applicant currently holds a permanent or open-ended academic position or job role. However, individuals who currently hold a permanent position are encouraged, but not required, to meet at least one of the following criteria:

- not previously been a project lead or co-lead on any funded academic project or led a significant programme of work in a commercial or non-academic setting
- precariously employed, for example currently employed via a temporary contract of employment
- recent returner from a career break, for example maternity, caring responsibility, sickness, unpaid sabbatical

- changing career track or returning after substantial administrative responsibility
- recent change in career, for example industry to academia or academia to industry

Please note that these criteria are considered desirable and will strengthen an application, but they are not mandatory. Please visit the UKRI website for further information on **career and skills development for early career researchers**.

Doctoral level research assistants are eligible. Therefore, you must:

- be of postdoctoral standing, having either a PhD qualification or equivalent research experience
- have a contract with a UK research organisation at the time of application that extends beyond the end date of the placement

You will be asked to provide evidence of how you meet these criteria. Failure to do so could result in your application being rejected. Where previous AHRC funding has been held, ECRs must include their previous grant reference in the application form.

Equality, diversity and inclusion

We are committed to achieving equality of opportunity for all funding applicants. We encourage applications from a diverse range of researchers.

We support people to work in a way that suits their personal circumstances. This includes:

- career breaks
- support for people with caring responsibilities
- flexible working
- alternative working patterns

UKRI can offer disability and accessibility support for UKRI applicants and grant holders during the application and assessment process.

Applicants with disabilities or caring responsibilities may request an appropriate amount of additional funding where this is essential to taking up the placement and where it cannot be provided by routes such as the **UKRI disabled students allowance**. Applicants requiring this additional support should contact AHRC for further guidance and to discuss how to reflect this request within the application form.

We are committed to promoting the values of equality of opportunity, diversity, and inclusivity. A dynamic, diverse and inclusive research and innovation system must be an integral part of UK society, giving everyone the opportunity

to participate and to benefit. Therefore, we particularly encourage applications from persons who identify as:

- an ethnic minority
- people with health conditions or impairments
- people with caring responsibilities
- persons of diverse gender identities and expressions
- persons identifying with other groups who are currently underrepresented

Applicants who identify with any of the protected characteristics listed above and who would welcome additional support, or who wish to discuss any perceived risks or concerns, are encouraged to contact AHRC and their prospective host institutions for further guidance and support.

Applications to UKRI through the new Funding Service can only be made if you have completed our EDI survey, which you are prompted to do when you open an account. However, diversity information will never be used in the assessment process nor to make funding decisions.

Host-specific eligibility

Engagement with the host and research institutions should be made as early as possible during the application stage and before the application deadline.

For NIHU, The Huntington Library and the Smithsonian Institution, you must contact the institutions to let them know what collections you want to access before applying. For the other hosts, it is optional but highly recommended. If you have any concerns such as access to collections, research topics, visa support or wellbeing, you may contact the hosts. Contact details can be found in the 'Contact' section of this page.

For NIHU, applicants must contact the institutions for prior consultation with a potential host for placement with sufficient time (at least two weeks) before applying.

Applicants to NIHU, looking to work with the following collections are required to speak and understand Japanese at an advanced level:

- National Institute of Japanese Literature (NIJL)
- National Museum of Japanese History (NMJH)
- International Research Center for Japanese Studies (IRCJS): eligibility is determined by the specific requirements of the chosen research field

Applicants to other NIHU institutes are advised that basic conversational Japanese is desirable, though not compulsory.

For The Huntington Library, the library has a residency requirement for placement participant to spend 20 working days per month in the library. A

'working day' is defined as any day the library is open for use. Please also note that, in Spring 2026, the library will undergo major multi-year renovations. Whilst the library will be open as normal, access to specific collections might be restricted. Please find details of who to contact in the 'Contact Details' section of this page.

Applicants should clearly state which materials and collections they will use for their project. They must explain why they need to come to The Huntington and why they require the requested length of time. This requirement is particularly important due to the planned closure of certain collections during the forthcoming renovations, and applications that do not identify specific Huntington collections are unlikely to be successful.

Applicants to the Smithsonian Institution must select, and approach a contact, to enquire about a specific collection at the institution in advance of submitting their application. This contact will act as an adviser should the respective application be successful. Please use the **Smithsonian opportunities for research and study guide** in order to contact an appropriate Smithsonian academic or staff member.

If your application to the Smithsonian Institution is successful, a Smithsonian Online Academic Appointment System (SOLAA) account must be created following your offer acceptance. AHRC will contact you by email with instructions on how to set up your SOLAA account at the appropriate stage.

What we're looking for

Scope

We're looking to fund eligible PhD students, doctoral level research assistants and early career researchers (ECRs) to complete a research placement at an international cultural institution for two to six months.

The International Placement Scheme (IPS) provides ECRs, Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC)-funded doctoral students and Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC)-funded doctoral students with inclusive and dedicated access to the internationally renowned collections, programmes and expertise held at IPS host institutions.

The scheme aims to enhance the depth, range, diversity, and quality of research activities conducted by scholars, including research exploring under-represented and under-researched cultures and histories.

IPS provides unique opportunities for networking with other international scholars based at these world-renowned institutions and can have a transformational impact on personal development and career progression.

The IPS host institutions for this round are:

- Harry Ransom Center
- Huntington Library
- Library of Congress
- National Institutes for the Humanities, Japan
- Shanghai Theatre Academy, China
- Smithsonian Institution
- Yale Centre for British Art

Your placement must be based on your area of current research (including your doctoral research if you are a PhD student). The proposed research activities and outputs from your placement should complement, strengthen, or build on your current area of research. You will need to propose a distinct package of research in your application and explain how this project relates to both your current research and the collections and expertise of your prospective host institution.

Full details of the documentation required can be found in 'How to apply', and the assessment criteria for applications to this scheme are available under 'How we will assess your application'.

Duration

Please refer to the Available Placements supporting document in the Additional Information section for information regarding the number of placements expected to be awarded by AHRC at each host, as well as the eligible period for undertaking a placement.

Funding available

With regards to costs and the application process, please note:

- all IPS placements will be between two to six months, except for the Harry Ransom Centre and Shanghai Theatre Academy (STA). The total awarded will be a £1,000 one-off stipend for travel and visa costs (£1,200 for applicants to NIHU and STA) and a living stipend of £2,500 for each month of the placement
- limited additional support may be agreed by AHRC on a case-by-case basis for applicants with disabilities, to support inclusive and accessible participation
- the stipends will be paid directly to the submitting UK research organisation (RO) at 100% full economic cost. It is a condition of the award that the RO pays funds to awardees in full, in advance of the placement. This will allow flights and accommodation to be booked by the awardee in advance of their placement. The RO will then recoup the funds when these are paid to them by AHRC

- IPS awardees will continue to receive any stipend or salary they receive as part of any current AHRC or ESRC award funding. PhD students will not be allowed additional time to be added to the AHRC or ESRC award end date or submission date to account for time spent on their placement
- you should discuss your work plan with your supervisor (if you are a PhD student) or head of department (if you are an ECR or research assistant). You should also discuss it with the IPS host institution. This ensures your proposed research will appropriately contribute to your current research or any AHRC parent project, can be completed within a realistic timescale and is relevant to the IPS host institution you are applying to
- there is no cap on the number of applications that can be submitted by a UK RO

Trusted Research and Innovation (TR&I)

UKRI is committed in ensuring that effective international collaboration in research and innovation takes place with integrity and within strong ethical frameworks. Trusted Research and Innovation (TR&I) is a UKRI work programme designed to help protect all those working in our thriving and collaborative international sector by enabling partnerships to be as open as possible, and as secure as necessary. Our **TR&I Principles** set out UKRI's expectations of organisations funded by UKRI in relation to due diligence for international collaboration.

As such, applicants for UKRI funding may be asked to demonstrate how their proposed projects will comply with our approach and expectation towards TR&I, identifying potential risks and the relevant controls you will put in place to help proportionately reduce these risks.

See further guidance and information about TR&I, including where applicants can find additional support.

How to apply

Preparing your application

You must identify and research the institutions' collections, fully familiarising yourself with them and how they are relevant to your own research. Please visit the institutions' individual websites as a starting point to investigate the collections and inform your choice. The institutions are:

- **Harry Ransom Center, Texas, US**
- **The Huntington Library, California, US**
- **The Library of Congress, Washington DC, US**
- **National Institutes for the Humanities, Japan**

- [**Smithsonian Institution, Washington DC, US**](#)
- [**Shanghai Theatre Academy**](#), China
- [**Yale Centre for British Art**](#)

Once this initial step is completed, you can proceed to directly contact the relevant International Placement Scheme (IPS)-host institution to discuss your potential application and for information about the collections.

We are running this funding opportunity on the new UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) Funding Service so please ensure that your organisation is registered. You cannot apply on the Joint Electronic Submissions (Je-S) system.

The project lead is responsible for completing the application process on the UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) Funding Service.

Only the lead UK research organisation (RO) can submit an application to UKRI. If a student's PhD is funded through a consortium of UK ROs, the application should be submitted by the student's home RO, rather than the consortia lead RO.

PhD students, doctoral level research assistants and early career researchers (ECRs) are eligible to apply as a project lead for this funding opportunity. UKRI expects that the RO will ensure that students do not apply for any other opportunities as a project lead unless it is specified that they are eligible to do so.

To apply

Select 'Start application' near the beginning of this Funding finder page.

1. Confirm you are the project lead.
2. Sign in or create a Funding Service account. To create an account, select your organisation, verify your email address, and set a password. If your RO is not listed, email [**support@funding-service.ukri.org**](mailto:support@funding-service.ukri.org)
   Please allow at least 10 working days for your organisation to be added to the Funding Service. We strongly suggest that if you are asking UKRI to add your organisation to the Funding Service to enable you to apply to this opportunity, you also create an organisation Administration Account. This will be needed to allow the acceptance and management of any grant that might be offered to you.
3. Answer questions directly in the text boxes. You can save your answers and come back to complete them or work offline and return to copy and paste your answers. If we need you to upload a document, follow the upload instructions in the Funding Service. All questions and assessment criteria are listed in the How to apply section on this Funding finder page.
4. Allow enough time to check your application in 'read-only' view before sending to your research office.

5. Send the completed application to your research office for checking. They will return it to you if it needs editing.

6. Your research office will submit the completed and checked application to UKRI.

Where indicated, you can also demonstrate elements of your responses in visual form if relevant.

When including images, you must:

- provide a descriptive caption or legend for each image immediately underneath it in the text box (this must be outside the image and counts towards your word limit)
- insert each new image on a new line
- use files smaller than 5MB and in JPEG, JPG, JPE, JFI, JIF, JFIF, PNG, GIF, BMP or WEBP format

Images should only be used to convey important visual information that cannot easily be put into words. The following are not permitted, and your application may be rejected if you include:

- sentences or paragraphs of text
- tables
- excessive quantities of images

A few words are permitted where the image would lack clarity without the contextual words, such as a diagram, where text labels are required for an axis or graph column.

For more guidance on the Funding Service, see:

- **how applicants use the Funding Service**
- **how research offices use the Funding Service**
- **how reviewers use the Funding Service**

References

References should be included within the word count of the appropriate question section. You should use your discretion when including references and prioritise those most pertinent to the application.

Hyperlinks can be used in reference information. When including references, you should consider how your references will be viewed and used by the assessors, ensuring that:

- references are easily identifiable by the assessors
- references are formatted as appropriate to your research
- persistent identifiers are used where possible

General use of hyperlinks

Applications should be self-contained. You should only use hyperlinks to link directly to reference information. You must not include links to web resources to extend your application. Assessors are not required to access links to conduct assessment or recommend a funding decision.

Generative artificial intelligence (AI)

Use of generative AI tools to prepare funding applications is permitted, however, caution should be applied.

For more information see our policy on the **use of generative AI in application and assessment**.

Deadline

The Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) must receive your application by 19 March 2026 at 4:00pm UK time.

You will not be able to apply after this time.

Make sure you are aware of and follow any internal institutional deadlines.

Following the submission of your application to this funding opportunity, your application cannot be changed, and submitted applications will not be amended. If your application does not follow the guidance, it may be rejected.

Personal data

Processing personal data

AHRC, as part of UKRI, will need to collect some personal information to manage your Funding Service account and the registration of your funding applications.

We will handle personal data in line with UK data protection legislation and manage it securely. For more information, including how to exercise your rights, read our **privacy notice**.

AHRC, as part of UKRI, will need to share the application and any personal information that it contains with host institutions so that they can participate in the assessment process.

Sensitive information

If you or a core team member need to tell us something you wish to remain confidential, email **international@ahrc.ukri.org**

Include in the subject line: [the funding opportunity title; sensitive information; your Funding Service application number].

Typical examples of confidential information include:

- individual is unavailable until a certain date (for example due to parental leave)
- declaration of interest
- additional information about eligibility to apply that would not be appropriately shared in the 'Applicant and team capability' section
- conflict of interest for UKRI to consider in reviewer or panel participant selection
- the application is an invited resubmission

For information about how UKRI handles personal data, read **UKRI's privacy notice**

Publication of outcomes

AHRC, as part of UKRI, will publish the outcomes of this funding opportunity at **What AHRC has funded**.

If your application is successful, we will publish some personal information on the **UKRI Gateway to Research**.

Summary

Word limit: 250

In plain English, provide a summary of your proposed placement that can be sent to your intended host organisation to determine if they think you are a good fit.

We usually make this summary publicly available on external-facing websites, therefore do not include any confidential or sensitive information. Make it suitable for a variety of readers, for example:

- opinion-formers
- policymakers
- the public
- the wider research community

Guidance for writing a summary

Clearly describe your proposed work in terms of:

- context
- the challenge the project addresses

- aims and objectives
- potential applications and benefits

Your summary must include:

- the name of the International Placement Scheme (IPS) host you aspire to study at (remember, if you are an Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) applicant you can only apply for the Library of Congress)

Core team

List the key members of your team and assign them roles from the following:

- project lead (PL)

PhD students, doctoral level research assistants and ECRs are eligible to apply under the PL role for this funding opportunity.

Only list one individual as project lead.

Application questions

Discipline classification: primary

Word limit: 5

Please provide the primary research area of your proposal.

What the assessors are looking for in your response

You must select from one of these research disciplines.

This information will be used for the purposes of processing your proposal and in the selection of appropriate assessors. The research disciplines are:

- archaeology
- area studies
- classics
- cultural and museum studies
- dance
- design
- development studies
- drama and theatre studies
- education
- history
- human geography
- information and communication technologies

- languages and literature
- law and legal studies
- library and information studies
- linguistics
- media
- music
- philosophy
- political science and international studies
- social anthropology
- theology, divinity and religion
- visual arts

Discipline classification: secondary

Word limit: 50

Please describe using keywords, the research area of your proposal and, where relevant, the approach, time period or geographical area.

Eligibility to apply for opportunity

Word limit: 200

Provide details about your eligibility status.

If you are a PhD student, please provide the following information:

- the title of your PhD
- the grant reference number for your current AHRC award (beginning 'UKRI/AH') or ESRC award (beginning 'UKRI/ES'). If that award is part of an institutional block grant or consortia grant, for example, Doctoral Training Partnership (DTP), Collaborative Doctoral Award (CDA) or Collaborative Doctoral Partnership (CDP), we also require that grant reference number. If you are unsure of your grant reference number, you must contact your research organisation
- confirmation that if the application is successful no additional time will be added to the doctoral award end date

If you are an ECR, please provide information detailing how you meet the eligibility criteria by confirming you either:

- hold a doctorate by the start date of the placement
- can demonstrate equivalent research or innovation experience, training or both

If you are a doctoral level research assistant, please provide information detailing how you meet the eligibility criteria by confirming, you:

- are of postdoctoral standing, having either a PhD qualification or equivalent research experience
- have a contract with a UK RO at the time of application that extends beyond the end date of the placement

Also please explain how you meet any additional host-specific eligibility as described in the 'Who can apply' section.

Purpose

Word limit: 500

Why is the travel needed?

What the assessors are looking for in your response

Explain why the proposed travel is necessary and where alternative approaches are not appropriate, including reference to:

- added value to existing or future research and innovation
- promotion of collaboration
- acquisition and development of skills
- benefit to the countries, organisations and regions involved where appropriate
- why you are the best person to carry out this visit
- why the place you are travelling to is the best place to go to, in terms of people and resources (including access to particular collections)
- a breakdown of how the time spent there would be used

Within this section we expect you to provide:

- a summary of the research you propose to conduct during your placement, indicating how it relates to your current research
- explanation of how your research objectives, methodologies, context or both could offer a unique contribution to your host community

You may demonstrate elements of your responses in visual form if relevant. Further details are provided in the Funding Service.

Applicant experience

Word limit: 600

Why are you the right individual to successfully deliver the proposed work?

What the assessors are looking for in your response

Evidence of how you have:

- the relevant experience (appropriate to career stage) to make best use of the benefits presented by this funding opportunity to develop your career
- the right balance of skills and aptitude (including language proficiency if relevant) to deliver the proposed work

Within this section we expect you to include:

- a brief summary of your current research to date (including any AHRC or ESRC funded grants)
- a timeline for the completion of any current research projects, showing the stage you are at now and the stage at which the placement would take place (you may include a table if it helps)

You may demonstrate elements of your responses in visual form if relevant. Further details are provided in the Funding Service.

Your supervisor's or head of department support

Word limit: 400

Provide a statement of support from your supervisor if applying as a PhD student or Head of Department, if an ECR or doctoral level research assistant.

What the assessors are looking for in your response

Reviewers will be looking for a strong statement of support.

The statement should include:

- why the proposed institution is appropriate for you to conduct your research
- details of the supervisory arrangements that will be in place whilst you are undertaking your research during this placement
- assurance that the time spent on the International Placement Scheme (IPS) will not result in extra time being required to complete the current research funded by AHRC or ESRC

You must also include the following details:

- the person's name and position
- an office address or web link

Upload details are provided within the service on the actual application.

How we will assess your application

Assessment process

We will assess your application using the following process.

All applications will be checked for eligibility after the funding opportunity closes.

Eligible applications will be shared with the respective placement institutions and will be reviewed by relevant experts at the institutions. Scores and comments from the host reviews will then be moderated by Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) and Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC).

Applications which do not meet the eligibility requirements of this funding opportunity will be rejected prior to the reviewing stage. We will notify the submitter for any applications rejected at this stage.

Outcomes

Funding decisions will be communicated to the persons who were selected as 'grant holders' on the application form. Where the applicant is a student, this email should be forwarded to them without delay.

The email will provide successful applicants with further information about their placement and will request confirmation of the start and end dates of each placement.

Principles of assessment

We support the San Francisco **declaration on research assessment** and recognise the relationship between research assessment and research integrity.

Find out about **the UKRI principles of assessment and decision making**.

Using generative artificial intelligence (AI) in expert review

Reviewers and panellists are not permitted to use generative AI tools to develop their assessment. Using these tools can potentially compromise the confidentiality of the ideas that applicants have entrusted to UKRI to safeguard.

For more detail see our **policy on the use of generative AI**.

Assessment areas

The assessment areas we will use are:

- eligibility to apply for opportunity
- purpose
- applicant experience
- supervisor's or head of department's support

Find details of assessment questions and criteria under the 'Application questions' heading in the 'How to apply' section.

Contact details

Get help with your application

If you have a question and the answers aren't provided on this page

The helpdesk is committed to helping users of the UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) Funding Service as effectively and as quickly as possible. In order to manage cases at peak volume times, the helpdesk will triage and prioritise those queries with an imminent opportunity deadline or a technical issue. Enquiries raised where information is available on the Funding finder opportunity page and should be understood early in the application process (for example, regarding eligibility, content or remit of a funding opportunity) will not constitute a priority case and will be addressed as soon as possible.

Contact details

For help and advice on costings and writing your application, please contact your research office in the first instance, allowing sufficient time for your organisation's submission process.

For questions related to this specific funding opportunity please contact **enquiries@ahrc.ukri.org**

Any queries regarding the system or the submission of applications through the Funding Service should be directed to the helpdesk.

Email: **support@funding-service.ukri.org**

Phone: 01793 547490

Our phone lines are open:

- Monday to Thursday 8:30am to 5:00pm
- Friday 8:30am to 4:30pm

To help us process queries more efficiently, we request that users highlight the council and opportunity name in the subject title of their email query, include the application reference number, and refrain from contacting more than one mailbox at a time.

For further information on submitting an application read **How applicants use the Funding Service**.

For questions relating to the host institutions (for example about collections or accommodation), a list of appropriate contacts at each placement institution who can be contacted to discuss the application is as follows.

Harry Ransom Center

Please consult the **collections page** for information on collections at the Harry Ransom Center. For additional information, please contact **ransomfellowships@utexas.edu**

Huntington Library

The **Library homepage** has links to the catalogues, **collection descriptions pages**, and '**Using the library**' information. Applicants should search the **Library catalogue**, the **Art catalogue**, and review the collections **Research Guides** for more information about specific materials and subjects. Please also consult the **Collections at The Huntington**, which allows users to search across The Huntington's three collecting divisions and provides links to the specific catalogues for more details on materials listed.

Please note that, in Spring 2026, the library will be undergoing multiyear extensive renovations which will restrict access to certain collections.

Reference queries should be directed to **reference@huntington.org** including questions about an estimate of the time required to work through a particular collection or part of a collection. However, please note that The Huntington staff will not read nor comment on a draft of your application.

Prospective applicants are encouraged to contact curators with questions related to the collections. Please note that the curatorial contacts are listed at the bottom of the **Library homepage**.

Please read the following information pages before contacting the curatorial contacts.

Please refer to **The Huntington Research and Fellowships page** for general information about The Huntington and the Fellowship Programme.

For links to the collections' descriptions and catalogues, please go to the **Art Museum homepage**.

For frequently asked questions (FAQs) about the placement programme, as well as a section specific to the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) participants, please refer to the **Fellowship FAQs**.

For all other queries, please contact Krystle Satrum, Fellowships Programme Coordinator at **fellowships@huntington.org**

Library of Congress

Please contact Travis Hensley, Program Manager, The John W. Kluge Center at **then@loc.gov** to be directed to appropriate individuals.

Smithsonian Institution

From the **Smithsonian website**, please select a name by clicking into the **2023 SORS** and searching for the appropriate individual. If successful, the selected individual will act as advisor during the applicant's time at Smithsonian. As such, applicants must include the name and department of their advisor when submitting their application form to AHRC. When contacting the Smithsonian, please **use this email template (PDF, 118KB)**.

You may also wish to contact the **Office of International Relations** for queries relating to visas, or contact Christian Kameni, Program Specialist at **kamenic@si.edu**

National Institutes for the Humanities (NIHU)

National Museum of Japanese History

International Exchange Section Department

Email: **kokusai-e@ml.rekihaku.ac.jp**

National Museum of Japanese History website

National Institute of Japanese Literature

General Affairs Division

Email: **study-ml@nijl.ac.jp**

National Institute of Japanese Literature website

National Institute for Japanese Language and Linguistics

Research Promotion Division

Email: **suishinka@ninjal.ac.jp**

National Institute for Japanese Language and Linguistics website

International Research Center for Japanese Studies

International Research Promotion Unit

Email: **koryu@nichibun.ac.jp**

International Research Center for Japanese Studies website

Research Institute for Humanity and Nature

International Affairs Subsection

Email: **kokusai@chikyu.ac.jp**

Research Institute for Humanity and Nature website

National Museum of Ethnology

International Cooperation Unit

Email: **kokkyo@minpaku.ac.jp**

National Museum of Ethnology website

Additional info

Successful applications

Once outcomes are issued, successful applicants will have 10 working days to confirm their start and end dates. Failure to do so will result in Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) using the dates originally selected in the application. Beyond this, applicants will be required to contact the host institution directly to discuss the feasibility of any changes before contacting AHRC to approve and process any changes.

Once successful applicants have confirmed their acceptance, an off-system offer document will be issued prior to the official system-generated offer. This document will include host-specific information and instructions for actions to be completed by the successful applicants prior to the placement.

Around 30 days from the first successful notification, the UK research organisation (RO) responsible for submitting the application will receive an official offer document from AHRC via our grants system confirming the dates and funding amount. This should be sent on to the successful applicant.

Finally, the applicant will receive documentation from their placement institution. Further details of this will be provided if their application is successful.

If successful, International Placement Scheme (IPS) awardees are responsible for booking travel and accommodation (including any travel insurance) and securing appropriate visa arrangements themselves. Local accommodation is available close to each host institution. Further information regarding accommodation options will be provided if you are successful.

The offer letter issued by AHRC and the paperwork from individual placement institutions will be sufficient to support a visa application, and the UK RO may be able to offer support for this process.

Please note that the visa process may take between one to three months. Successful applicants are advised to start the visa application process as soon as they are aware of their application outcomes (at least three months before the start of the placement), and to be aware that there is a short turnaround time between outcomes being issued and the earliest possible placement start dates.

Reporting outputs and impacts

All recipients of research council funding are required to enter the details of their outputs and impacts through the **Researchfish system**. Students are only required to enter details in Researchfish from the third year of their PhD onwards.

Early career researchers (ECRs) are required to enter details from the first year of their main research grant. Invitation emails will be sent to award holders at the point at which they are required to start using Researchfish.

For further information on supporting training awards please see:

- **UKRI training grant guide**
- **UKRI training grant terms and conditions**
- **find studentships and doctoral training**

Research and innovation impact

Impact can be defined as the long-term intended or unintended effect research and innovation has on society, economy and the environment; to individuals, organisations, and the wider global population.

Supporting documents

Available Placements document (PDF, 125KB)

Webinar for prospective applicants

We will hold two dedicated webinars for potential applicants to provide more information about the funding opportunity and a chance to ask questions.

Register to attend the first webinar on 21 January 2026 3:00 to 3.45pm UK time (UTC+0) and discover our placements in the United States of America (USA).

Register to attend the second webinar on 28 January 2026 9:00 to 9:45am (UTC+0) and discover our placements in Asia.

Research disruption due to COVID-19

We recognise that the COVID-19 pandemic has caused major interruptions and disruptions across our communities. We are committed to ensuring that individual applicants and their wider team, including partners and networks, are not penalised for any disruption to their career, such as:

- breaks and delays
- disruptive working patterns and conditions
- the loss of ongoing work
- role changes that may have been caused by the pandemic

Reviewers and panel members will be advised to consider the unequal impacts that COVID-19 related disruption might have had on the capability to deliver and career development of those individuals included in the application. They will be asked to consider the capability of the applicant and their wider team to deliver the research they are proposing.

Where disruptions have occurred, you can highlight this within your application if you wish, but there is no requirement to detail the specific circumstances that caused the disruption.

Updates

7 January 2026
Added full opportunity details.

15 December 2025
Removed 'organisations who are based overseas' from the 'Who can apply' section. This funding opportunity is open to organisations with standard eligibility only.

15 December 2025
Content updated under the 'Individual eligibility for ECRs' heading in the 'Who can apply' section.

17 November 2025
'Available Placements' document updated in the 'What we're looking for' and 'Additional info' sections.

17 November 2025
'fellow' amended to 'awardee' throughout.

17 November 2025
'fellowship' amended to 'placement' throughout.

17 November 2025
Funding type amended from 'Fellowship' to 'Other'.

Timeline

○ **7 January 2026 9:00am**
Opening date

○ **21 January 2026 3:00pm**
Webinar (placement opportunities in the US)

○ **28 January 2026 9:00am**
Webinar (placement opportunities in Asia)

○ **19 March 2026 4:00pm**
Closing date

Guidance on good research

Good research resource hub

https://www.ukri.org/opportunity/international-placement-scheme-2026