Postdoctoral Prize Research Fellowships in Politics
(up to three posts)

Job description and selection criteria

College	NUFFIELD
Department	Politics and International Relations
Division	Social Sciences Division, University of Oxford
Location	The posts will be based at Nuffield College and at the Department of Politics and International Relations
Salary	£41,700 per annum
Start Date	1 September 2027 or as soon as possible thereafter
End Date	31 August 2030
Working hours	Full time (35 hours per week)

Nuffield College and the Department of Politics and International Relations intend to appoint jointly, with effect from 1 September 2027 or as soon as possible thereafter, up to three Postdoctoral Prize Research Fellows (PPRFs) in Politics, broadly construed to include political science, political behaviour, comparative politics, political economy, electoral studies, political theory, international relations, and political history. Applications are particularly welcomed from candidates who work in the fields of contemporary political theory, comparative government, and international relations, but this is not a requirement. The postdoctoral fellowships are available for up to three years, until 31 August 2030. Candidates who have not yet completed their doctorate at the time of application should note that to take up the Fellowship in September 2027, it may be necessary for them to have submitted their doctoral dissertation for examination by the end of May 2027.

The aim of the competition is to identify and attract candidates who are reaching or have reached the end of their doctorate and have the potential to produce high quality research and to become world-class scholars in the social sciences.

The key responsibilities of the Research Fellows are to engage in independent scholarly research, to take part in the intellectual life of the College and the Department, and to undertake teaching for the Department. Decisions about the nature and direction of the research undertaken will be wholly under the control of the Research Fellow, but the College and the Department will appoint academic mentors to provide support and advice. The specific teaching duties for the Department will be decided in consultation with the Head of Department and the relevant course directors in the Department. The amount of teaching to be undertaken is not expected to exceed 48 stint units per year [see Appendix for details of the Department's stint tariff].

PPRFs will normally be expected to engage in activities aimed at integrating them in the College and departmental life and in the broader Oxford community. To that end, they will be encouraged to organise research events such as workshops, seminar series or conferences (for which the College can provide administrative and financial support). These activities can be agreed in consultation between them, Nuffield Mentors and the relevant College and Department officers.

To be eligible, candidates should hold, or be close to the completion of, a PhD/DPhil in a relevant field. Eligible candidates are expected to have defended their doctorate (had the viva voce examination for their doctorate) on or after 3 December 2023, i.e. within three years of the closing date for Fellowship applications. However, applications are also welcome from those at a similar early-career research stage who have been required to take a career break following their doctorate due to personal circumstances (such as illness or caring responsibilities). If this applies to you and as a result it has been longer than three years since your doctoral defence date, please note this in your application. Preference will be given to candidates who have not previously held a research fellowship similar to that advertised for more than one year at the time of taking up the fellowship.

Appointments will be determined only by personal merit and the application of criteria related to the post. Subject to statutory provisions, no applicant 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.

The College and the Department value diversity in their Fellowship and are eager to receive applications from a diverse pool of candidates.

Any requests for further information about these posts or any queries should be addressed to the College Registrar at Nuffield by emailing pprf@nuffield.ox.ac.uk.

Main Responsibilities/Duties

Research

- To engage in advanced study and independent research in the field of politics, broadly construed to include political science, political behaviour, comparative politics, political economy, electoral studies, political theory, international relations, and political history.
- To disseminate research findings through the publication of peer-reviewed papers, participation in conferences and seminars.

Teaching and other academic duties

For the College:

- To participate in the intellectual life of the College by attending, and where possible by organising, seminars, workshops, conferences, and other academic events.
- To act as mentors for graduate students, where appropriate.
- To represent the College's body of postdoctoral research fellows on one of the College's committees and to take on College officerships, where appropriate.

For the Department:

- To undertake teaching of 48 stint units per year (the equivalent to teaching an eight-week 2-hour seminar series per year) within the collegiate University, as agreed between the appointee and (a) the Head of the Department of Politics and International Relations and (b) Nuffield College [see Appendix for details of the Department's stint tariff]. The Research Fellow will be

expected to contribute to the Undergraduate or Masters programmes covering Comparative Government, Political Theory, or International Relations (including the new MSc in Politics of Global Challenges), as well as providing graduate student supervision. More information about the undergraduate and graduate programmes are available from https://www.politics.ox.ac.uk/study.

- To participate in the intellectual life of the Department by attending, and where possible by organising, seminars, workshops, conferences and other academic events.
- To assist in examining and assessments of graduate and undergraduate students.

Selection criteria

Candidates will be judged on the basis of the following criteria and should ensure that their covering letter shows in their own words how they meet the criteria.

Essential:

- Hold, or be close to the completion of, a PhD/DPhil in a relevant field. Candidates should normally have had their doctoral defence/viva voce examination on or after 3 December 2023 (within three years of the closing date for Fellowship applications). Candidates who defended their doctorates before that date but who are at a similar early-career research stage due to a career break as a result of to personal circumstances (such as illness or caring responsibilities) will also be considered, and are asked to provide relevant information with their application. Preference will be given to candidates who have not previously held a research fellowship similar to that advertised for more than one year at the time of taking up the fellowship.
- Experience of carrying out independent research and a track record of excellent quality papers appropriate for and commensurate with their career level.
- The ability to provide excellent teaching to high-achieving students.
- Willingness to contribute to the intellectual life of the College and the Department.
- Excellent oral and written communication skills.

Desirable

- Publications in peer-reviewed journals commensurate with the candidate's career level.
- Research experience and/or interests in the fields of contemporary political theory, comparative government, or international relations.
- Experience of teaching undergraduates and/or providing mentoring support to graduate students.
- Demonstrable commitment to building an equitable and inclusive scholarly environment.

Terms and Conditions of Employment

The Postdoctoral Prize Research Fellow's salary is set at £41,700 per annum. Any cost-of-living awards will be effective from 1 August each year.

Subject to availability, Research Fellows may apply to rent single accommodation in College. Further information about accommodation in Oxford is available on the University website here. Fellows with children may apply for childcare places at one of the University nurseries. Demand for available places is high and places are not guaranteed. The University's Childcare Services can give advice on other childcare providers in Oxford (https://childcare.admin.ox.ac.uk/home).

Each Research Fellow will have access to office space in College, free lunch and dinner (when the kitchen is open), and two academic High Table dinner guests per term at the expense of the College.

Research Fellows are allocated a research budget of up to £3,784 per annum (2026/27 rate), which may be used for expenses incurred in the course of academic duty, such as support of fieldwork, attendance at conferences and other research assistance. Telephone, photocopying and postage expenditure incurred by a Fellow for academic purposes are met by the College. Each Research Fellow is allocated a computer supplied by the College for their use and software suitable for their research.

The College functions as an academic community throughout the whole year, so that research and teaching activities are not confined to the University's three terms. The College regards the holding of other positions (e.g. lectureships at other Oxford colleges) as incompatible with the terms of the Fellowship. No office or appointment may be accepted, whether paid or unpaid, without the permission of Governing Body. Research Fellows are normally required to reside within 25 miles of Oxford and are also required to obtain permission of the College if they wish to take leave of absence.

The College and the Department of Politics and International Relations value diversity in their Fellowship and particularly welcome applications from women, from disabled people, and from black and minority ethnic people, who are underrepresented in senior academic posts at the University of Oxford.

The Fellowships are full-time posts and are to be taken up on 1 September 2027 or as soon as possible thereafter. The appointment will normally end on 31 August 2030. Shorter-term appointments may be possible but are not encouraged. Candidates who have not yet completed their doctorate at the time of application should note that to take up the Fellowship in September 2027, it may be necessary for them to have submitted their doctoral dissertation for examination by the end of May 2027.

Successful applicants who do not currently have the right to work in the UK will need to apply for a UK visa. The College will discuss and provide advice on this, with help from the University's Staff Immigration Team, after an offer is made.

How to apply

To apply online for this vacancy, please click on the 'Apply' link below. This will take you to the Interfolio Web Recruitment System, where you will need to register for an account (if you have not done so previously) and log in before completing an online application.

For the online application you will be asked to complete an **application form** and a **recruitment monitoring form**, and to upload the following documents:

- A covering letter explaining how you meet the selection criteria for the Fellowship;
- A Curriculum Vitae including a full list of publications/working papers;
- A one-page description of your current research;
- A one-page description of the research you would plan to undertake as a Postdoctoral Prize Research Fellow; and
- One sample of your written work (for example, a research paper or thesis chapter), including an abstract up to one page in length.

On the application form you will be asked to provide the names, postal addresses, and email addresses of **at least two academic referees** to whom we may write at a later stage in the selection process to request references in support of your application. Please ensure that your nominated referees would be available to provide references in January-February 2027.

APPLY

If you have any technical difficulties submitting your online application, please contact Interfolio at help@interfolio.com. For other queries, please contact the Nuffield College Registrar at pprf@nuffield.ox.ac.uk.

If, for your convenience, you wish to submit a hard-copy application, please contact the Nuffield College Registrar at pprf@nuffield.ox.ac.uk. Interfolio is a US-based service which processes data on servers based outside the EEA. The Interfolio privacy policy can be viewed here: https://www.elsevier.com/legal/privacy-policy. Information submitted via hard-copy is not processed through Interfolio.

The deadline for receipt of applications is Thursday 3 December 2026.

Interviews are likely to take place in the week beginning Monday 8 February 2027. A short-list of candidates will be invited to give a short seminar presentation and to be interviewed. Interviews may take place via videoconference, or short-listed candidates may be invited to visit Nuffield College. In the event in-person interviews are held, the College will pay all reasonable expenses (including economy air fares) of candidates invited for interview.

Enquiries: e-mail pprf@nuffield.ox.ac.uk; tel. +44 1865 278 516

Further Information

NUFFIELD COLLEGE

Nuffield College is a graduate college within the University of Oxford which was founded in 1937 and specialises in the Social Sciences, particularly Economics, Politics, and Sociology. It aims to be one of the world's outstanding social science institutions, providing a stimulating research-orientated environment for postgraduate students, research fellows, and senior academics and promoting, according to its Charter, "the study by co-operation between academic and non-academic persons of social (including economic and political) problems". About 30 students are admitted each year to undertake both taught masters courses and doctoral research for many of whom the College provides financial support in the form of studentships. In total there are about 100 students enrolled at any one time, many of whom either live in College or have offices in College.

Postdoctoral Fellows are an integral part of the College and its academic activity. In 2026-27 there are 56 Research Fellows in College of whom 16 are College-funded Prize Postdoctoral Fellows, 6 are Prize Research Fellows funded jointly with the Economics Department, 6 are funded by Research Centres based in College, and the remainder are funded by external awards or by the Departments of Politics and International Relations, Sociology, Social Policy and Intervention, the Leverhulme Centre for Demographic Science, and the Rothermere American Institute.

The College has in addition 32 permanent academic Fellows (of whom 3 are College-funded Official Fellows); 26 non-academic Visiting Fellows drawn from the world of business, industry, politics and administration; and a number of Research Officers working on research projects run by the College's Fellows. The College enjoys strong links with the University's social science departments and works closely with the Social Sciences Division.

Nuffield College has been – and continues to be – the source of some of the major research developments in social science. These include the British Election Studies and the major programme of research on Social Mobility in Britain. It was the birthplace of the "Oxford School" of Industrial Relations; it pioneered the development of cost benefit analysis for developing countries; and it has made a major contribution to the methodology of econometrics.

Research Facilities

The size and specialised nature of the College enable its members to work closely with one another in a stimulating and research-orientated environment. A 'critical mass' of students and Fellows working in the social sciences is helpful both in terms of facilities and of intellectual activity, such as the active seminar and conference programme.

The College Library is one of the finest in the social sciences and functions as a research library, reflecting the academic interests of the Fellows. The Library is open shelf and Fellows also have access to all the facilities of the Bodleian Library, including full-text access to nearly all journals in the social sciences.

The College has an Information Systems Department to serve the computing needs of Fellows.

The College provides facilities and grants for Fellows to invite academic visitors to the College to enable them to carry out collaborative work.

Nuffield Politics

The current permanent Fellows in the College's Politics Group and their research areas are:

Ben Ansell (FBA) Comparative political economy and institutions. Main interests in democratisation, the politics of education, the politics of housing, social policy, redistribution, multi-level modelling, and models of political economy.

Rachel Bernhard Gender and intersectional identity in politics (with a focus on American elections), political psychology and behaviour (with a focus on voter information-gathering and decision-making), and survey and experimental design.

Pepper Culpepper Business and government, comparative political economy, comparative politics, European politics; current research investigates the feedback loops connecting policymaking, public opinion, and media coverage in the advanced economies.

Geoff Evans (FBA) Electoral behaviour and comparative political sociology.

Ezequiel Gonzalez-Ocantos Comparative judicial politics, public law and strategic litigation, with a regional focus on Latin America.

Jane Green Public opinion and electoral behaviour, especially relating to competence and reward-punishment voting and blame.

Desmond King (FBA, MRIA) Comparative government and American politics. Main interests in comparative public policy including welfare states and labour market policy; race and politics especially in American political development; democratization; immigration; and the politics of social research.

Cecile Laborde (FBA) Republicanism, liberalism and religion, theories of law and the state, and global justice.

Zeynep Pamuk Democratic theory, the role of expertise in politics, and the impact of artificial intelligence and automation on democracy.

Carlo Perrotta The impact of platforms, AI and automation on multiple aspects of education, from pedagogy to policy.

David Rueda Comparative political economy, the politics of industrialised democracies. His current research focuses on insider-outsider politics, the determinants and consequences of inequality, and the role of the welfare state in times of crisis.

Lauren Sukin Historical and contemporary challenges in international security, particularly the role of technology, including nuclear weapons, in alliances: military strategy, deterrence and reassurance, crisis politics, cybersecurity, and security challenges in Europe and on the Korean Peninsula.

Andrew Thompson The history of international aid; development and human rights during and after decolonisation.

In 2026-27, there are eight Postdoctoral Prize Research Fellows in Politics:

- Elsa Kugelberg (DPhil Oxford) On liberalism and time: How can we plan our lives based on reasonable expectations of the future, when rapid social change renders past experiences unfit to inform such expectations?
- Megan Erickson (Ph.D. Washington) Community responses to criminal actors: Variation in repetoires of resistance beyond vigilantism.
- Jasper Friedrich (DPhil Oxford) Social and political philosophy with a special interest in critical theory and the politics of emotions.
- Alexander Trubowitz (Ph.D. Yale) The political consequences of labor market change in western Europe.
- Jeongmin Park (Ph.D. Princeton) The distributional consequences of international conflict, with a substantive focus on historical political economy, gender, and labor.
- Anna Closas i Casasampera (Ph.D. UC Berkeley) The relationship between noncitizens and the state
- Joris Frese (Ph.D. EUI) comparative politics and political behavior: (1) How can political elites influence the policy preferences and behaviors of ordinary people? and (2) How can we enhance political participation in democratic societies?

- Tiphaine Le Corre (D.Phil. Oxf) British politics, public opinion and political attitudes, and the policymaking process.

There are a number of other research fellows in politics. Nancy Bermeo is a Senior Research Fellow working in the fields of political development; comparative politics; European politics; Latin American politics; and comparative public policy. John Darwin (FBA) is a Senior Research Fellow with expertise in the history of European imperialism, particularly the British Empire circa 1880-1970, as well as the history and politics of decolonisation. Andy Eggers is a Professor in Political Science at the University of Chicago and a Nuffield Senior Research Fellow, whose research focuses on electoral systems, strategic voting, and research methodology. David Miller (FBA) is a Senior Research Fellow working on contemporary political theory, especially theories of social justice and equality, democratic theory, nationality and citizenship, and global justice. Livia Schubiger is a Professor of International Relations and Data Science at ETH Zurich and a Nuffield Senior Research Fellow, working on the social and institutional implications of violence and conflict, and on avenues to reduce political and gender-based violence. Duncan Snidal (FBA) is a Senior Research Fellow with research interests in problems of international cooperation and institutions. Laurence Whitehead is a Senior Research Fellow with research interests in international aspects of democratisation, and the relationship between democratisation and economic liberalisation. Justin Robinson is a Nuffield Research Fellow and Postdoctoral Researcher on the on the Economic Insecurity and Politics project in the in the Nuffield Politics Research Centre. Cesare Vagge is a Nuffield Research Fellow and Postdoctoral Researcher in the Nuffield Humanitarian Forum. Lukas Schemper is a Nuffield Research Fellow working as a Postdoctoral Researcher on the Konrad Adenauer Synergy Research Project 'Rethinking Global Governance and Human Security'. Currently, there are two additional post-doctoral researchers employed by the Department of Politics and International Relations who hold affiliations with Nuffield as Non-stipendiary Research Fellows.

Nuffield Fellows are closely involved in research and teaching within the Department of Politics and International Relations and its relevant centres, including the Centre for the Study of Democratic Government, the Centre for International Studies, the Centre for the Study of Social Justice, the Latin American Centre, and the Rothermere American Institute. A Nuffield political scientist currently serves as editor of *Comparative Political Studies*.

About the University of Oxford

Oxford's departments and colleges aim to lead the world in research and education for the benefit of society both in the UK and globally. Oxford's researchers engage with academic, commercial and cultural partners across the world to stimulate high-quality research and enable innovation through a broad range of social, policy and economic impacts.

Oxford's self-governing community of international scholars includes Professors, Associate Professors, other college tutors, senior and junior research fellows and over 2,500 other University research staff. Research at Oxford combines disciplinary depth with an increasing focus on inter-disciplinary and multi-disciplinary activities addressing a rich and diverse range of issues.

Oxford's strengths lie both in empowering individuals and teams to address fundamental questions of global significance, and in providing all staff with a welcoming and inclusive workplace that supports everyone to develop and do their best work. Recognising that diversity is a great strength, and vital for innovation and creativity, Oxford aspires to build a truly inclusive community which values and respects every individual's unique contribution.

While Oxford has long traditions of scholarship, it is also forward-looking, creative and cutting-edge. Oxford is one of Europe's most entrepreneurial universities. It consistently has the highest external research income of any university in the UK (the most recent figures are available at www.ox.ac.uk/about/organisation/finance-and-funding), and is ranked first in the UK for university spin-outs, with more than 130 spin-off companies created to date. Oxford is also recognised as a leading supporter of social enterprise.

Oxford admits undergraduate students with the intellectual potential to benefit fully from the small group learning to which Oxford is deeply committed. Meeting in small groups with their tutor, undergraduates are exposed to rigorous scholarly challenge and learn to develop their critical

thinking, their ability to articulate their views with clarity, and their personal and intellectual confidence. They receive a high level of personal attention from leading academics.

Oxford has a strong postgraduate student body which now numbers over 10,000. Postgraduates are attracted to Oxford by the international standing of the faculty, by the rigorous intellectual training on offer, by the excellent research and laboratory facilities available, and by the resources of the museums and libraries, including one of the world's greatest libraries, the Bodleian.

For more information please visit www.ox.ac.uk/about/organisation

The Social Sciences Division

Oxford is a world-leading centre for research across the disciplines of the social sciences. Characterised by a wide range of methodologies, themes and fields of scholarship, multi-disciplinary research and innovative ideas thrive in an environment underpinned by excellence across the disciplines of the social sciences.

Our approach to supporting research across the Social Sciences Division has been highly successful in the last ten years, with the volume of research awards continuing to rise and the development of a large number of research centres and groupings. Researchers at Oxford receive significant support and guidance in the development of their research, including career development, research and impact funding, research project design and management, and research outputs from academic and administrative colleagues across the University, division and departments.

The Division delivers an exceptional range of high-quality educational programmes all underpinned by the innovative research being undertaken by our academics. The student body is made up of over 2,000 undergraduate students, nearly 3,000 students studying postgraduate taught programmes and 1,200 postgraduate research students. The programmes we offer are wide-ranging, often interdisciplinary and include professionally-oriented provision in areas such as business, law and education. The Division is home to several of Oxford's most widely recognised teaching programmes, such as Philosophy, Politics and Economics (PPE) at undergraduate level; and at the Masters level programmes such as the Bachelor in Civil Law (BCL), Environmental Change and Management, International Relations, and Social Data Science.

For more information please visit: www.socsci.ox.ac.uk

Department of Politics and International Relations

DPIR is one of the largest departments working in Politics and International Relations in the world, and is active in both undergraduate and graduate teaching. With around 90 academic staff, it is world class in international and national research and teaching. In September 2024, The Guardian UK ranked us the Number One University in the UK for Politics. We are home to major research projects, a vibrant community of academic visitors, and a strong group of post-doctoral researchers, supported by highly competitive research fellowships, working across a broad range of disciplinary fields.

The department attracts some of the best academics in the field to work here as permanent faculty, as part of major research projects or as academic visitors. There is a strong post- doctoral group supported by highly competitive research fellowships and working across a broad range of fields.

The Department is located in the Social Sciences building at Manor Road, along with the Department of Economics, the Centres for Criminology and Socio-Legal Studies, and the integrated Social Science Library. The building provides excellent facilities including a lecture theatre, a large computer laboratory and a range of seminar rooms as well as a cafeteria and common room for use by both staff and students. The Manor Road Building is served by a shared IT and web team.

An experienced Professional Services function supports the department's research and teaching activities. The department's core Professional Service is grouped into teams that provide dedicated support for: Courses, Research, Finance, HR, and Communications & Alumni Relations. The administrative teams work closely with each other as well as with staff in other parts of the University, in particular with the Social Sciences division, Personnel Services, and Research Services, as well as with the University's many colleges.

For further information, please visit: https://www.politics.ox.ac.uk

Nuffield College values diversity in its Fellowship and particularly welcomes applications from women, from disabled people, and from black and minority ethnic people, who are currently underrepresented in senior academic posts at the University of Oxford.

Nothing in these particulars constitutes a contract.

APPENDIX

Stint Tariff

Teaching	Stint Units
1-hour tutorial/thesis tutorial	1
1-hour graduate special supervision/tuition	1
1-hour lecture	3
2-hour lecture	5
1-hour class/seminar	3
2-hour class/seminar	6
Other teaching provision**	Apply for approval
Supervision	
Supervision of one DPhil student (during fee liability)	24 p.a.
Supervision of one DPhil student (first year beyond fee liability)	12 p.a.
Supervision of one DPhil student (second or later year beyond fee liability)	0
Joint supervision of one DPhil student (during fee liability)	12 p.a.
Acting as 'Second Supervisor' for ESRC-funded DPhil students, OR 'Departmental Assessor' for IR DPhil students.	4 p.a.
Supervision of one MPhil student (year 1)	8 p.a.
Supervision of one MPhil student (year 2)	12 p.a.
Supervision of one MSc student	12 p.a.

**Organising the main research colloquium for each pillar (Government, IR, and Political Theory) counts towards teaching stint at the same rate as a class/seminar (e.g. organising a 1-hour colloquium session counts for 3 stint units).

Units are divided pro rata where teaching/supervision is shared (e.g. 1.5 units per hour for a co-taught seminar, 12 units for a co-supervised DPhil) or where supervision is provided for part of a year (e.g. 16 units for supervising a DPhil student for 2 terms, 4 units for supervising an MSc student for one term).