

British Academy Mid-Career Fellowship 2025-26 – Application Guidance

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Last review date	June 2025
Next review date	June 2026

Please read the scheme notes carefully. Incorrectly submitted applications will not be considered

1 New British Academy Policy

- 1.1 The British Academy has introduced a new requirement for all applicants wishing to apply to British Academy schemes. All academics must now register with ORCID and give their ID number in the application form (regardless of being the PI or Co-I). This is a free to use service which connects researchers to their outputs and can be used regardless of connection to institutions. If you do not already have an ORCID ID, you can register for the service on their [website](#).
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2 General Flexi-Grant Guidance

- 2.1 When completing your application on Flexi-Grant, it is recommended that you take note of the following points:
- 2.2 **Personal details:** When registered in Flexi-Grant, a user has the option to add or update personal information such as contact details, log-in details (including email address and password), interests, research and employment details, at any time. This does not form part of the specific application form for any individual scheme but represents a personal record of your account in the system. Please keep this information up to date.
- 2.3 **Automatic log-out:** You are strongly advised to save your work regularly to prevent accidental loss of text. The Flexi-Grant website will automatically log people out if no activity is detected. It is recommended that you work offline in a separate word processor and copy and paste completed text online once complete.
- 2.4 **Multiple sessions:** Do not have multiple browser windows/tabs of your application open at the same time as this may cause information to be lost. Only one user should edit an application at a time. Word limits: If you exceed the word limit, you will not be able to save the page you are working on. Longer-length text should be completed separately and backed up in a word processor.
- 2.5 **Plain text:** If entering plain text, please avoid using symbols as some may not be accepted by Flexi-Grant: This includes the following symbols: < >
- 2.6 **PDF documents:** If asked to upload PDF documents, please add your name and a heading at the top of every page to show what the document is (e.g. CV or list of publications). Please avoid uploading documents containing illustrations with fine details or colour as this can cause problems when creating a PDF of the application.

- 2.7 Email addresses:** It is essential that you ensure your email address is up to date and actively monitored, or you may miss important notification emails. Submission: You will not be able to submit your application until you have completed each section in full. You should submit your application for approval by your employing organisation at least five working days before the closing date to allow for your organisation's administrative procedures. **You should also check whether your institution has its own internal deadlines.**
- 2.8 Application sharing:** You can invite other contributors to join the application. All contributors must be registered on Flexi-Grant and mark their work as 'Complete' before you can submit your application.
- 2.9 Application deletion:** You can delete your application at any time although it is often a lot easier to just re-edit your existing application. We will be able to recover a 4 deleted application for a period of seven days after deletion. After this, it will be permanently removed from the system.
- 2.10 Application returned for editing:** The Organisation Approver can return your application to you for further editing, but the original deadline remains in place. **If your application is returned to you for editing, then you must resubmit it again before the deadline and allow enough time for your employing institution to approve it.**
- 2.11 Guidance:** In the tables below, you will find in the left-hand column each question as set out in the application sections and in the right-hand column useful guidance on its completion.
- 2.12 Further clarification:** If any of this advice is unclear, or you need further information, please do not hesitate to seek clarification from the British Academy's Research Funding Office (contact details at the end of these notes).

3 Completing the application form

- 3.1** The application can be completed by using the navigation tabs on the application summary page, with each page categorised as follows:
- Page 1: Eligibility Declaration
 - Page 2: Research Proposal
 - Page 3: Proposal Focus
 - Page 4: Applicant Details
 - Page 5: Applicant Career Summary
 - Page 6: Financial Details

Page 7: Nominated Referee

Page 8: Equal Opportunities

- 3.2** A full list of question fields to be completed as part of the application can be found in the following table.
- 3.3** Each box in the table represents a page of the application form. The left-hand column contains the questions within each of these pages. The right-hand column contains useful guidance on its completion. A red asterisk (*) indicates which questions are mandatory and therefore must be complete before the application can be submitted. Please read the table carefully before completing the form. **Please read both the Application Guidance and Scheme Guidance carefully before completing the form. You can find further guidance on making an application using the British Academy’s grant management system, Flexi-Grant, here: [British Academy Flexi-Grant® Guidance Notes](#).**
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4 Summary

4.1 Summary table *

When your application form is complete, the status for each page on the application summary page will say: ‘Complete’. However, only **AFTER** all invited contributors to your application have clicked the **‘Submit my Contribution’** button will your **‘Submit for Organisation Approval’** button appear.

All sections on this summary table will be marked as ‘Complete’. The ‘Complete’ status will only appear when all the mandatory fields in that section have been completed. All mandatory fields are marked with an asterisk ‘*’. Only then will a ‘Submit’ button appear for you to be able to submit your application.

If you are unable to see the submit button but your application appears complete on the Summary page, you will need to check the Contributors tab to ensure that your invited contributors have completed their pages and marked them as complete. Once this has been done, and all the other pages have been completed, the ‘submit’ button should appear.

5 Page 1: Eligibility Declaration

5.1 Eligibility Declaration*

Please answer the following questions to ensure that you are eligible to apply for the British Academy’s Mid-Career Fellowships. Please check the

Scheme Guidance for further information on the eligibility and exemption criteria. If any of the exemption criteria apply to you, please contact grants@thebritishacademy.ac.uk

6 Page 2: Research Proposal

6.1 Subject Area*

Please select the subject from the drop-down menu that is most relevant to this proposal

6.2 Title of Research Proposal*

In this field, please avoid using any unnecessary quotation or other punctuation marks (e.g. do not use quotation marks round the full title simply to indicate it is a title). Consider the presentation by checking the 'print application' option to ensure that the title appears as you wish it to.

6.3 Abstract*

Please provide a short abstract summarising your proposed research in terms suitable for an informed general audience, not one specialised in your field. This is a mandatory field, and the limit is 150 words.

6.4 Proposed Programme & Plan of Action*

Under 'Proposed Programme', please give a detailed description of the proposed programme of research and communication and public engagement, including methodology.

Applicants should be aware of the importance that assessors place on the viability, specificity and originality of the programme and of its achievability within the timescale, which should be specified under Plan of Action.

Applicants should keep in mind the timescale of the award (not less than 6 months and not more than 12 months) and propose a plan of action that is achievable. Both are mandatory fields, and the limits are 2000 words for the proposed programme and 800 words for the plan of action.

N.B In-text references and/or bibliography are not mandatory for this section, but if included will be counted as part of the word limit.

6.5 Planned research outputs/ Plans for publication and dissemination*

Please indicate in the 'Planned research outputs' field what the expected output(s) from your programme might be. As appropriate, these might include monograph, journal article(s), report(s), guidance notes, training

plan(s), book chapter(s), digital resources, other (please specify). This is a mandatory field and the limit is 300 words.

Under Plans for publication and dissemination, give more detail about plans for publication, and in a separate paragraph, state in more detail what plans you have for public engagement, noting the emphasis placed by the Academy on communicating findings to a broad audience. This is a mandatory field and the limit is 500 words.

The Academy attaches importance to the dissemination of research, and assessors will take into account how far the intentions for publication or other dissemination have been developed.

It is a condition of award that digital resources created as a result of research funded by the British Academy be deposited in an appropriately accessible repository. Of course, we do not expect confidential data to be readily available and neither do we expect all research to produce digital resources.

However, if applicable to this application, applicants need to provide details of how and where any electronic or digital data (including datasets) developed during the project will be stored, along with details on the appropriate methods of access.

Applicants should ensure that any necessary technical advice is obtained before commencing work that involves the creation of digital resources.

Please confirm whether the primary product of the research will be a digital resource, and if so how and where it will be deposited.

6.6 Start date/End date/Duration*

To select a date in the future using the calendar feature, click on the month and year in between the two arrows at the top of the box. To change the year, keep clicking on the box – a second click will produce a decade. Use the arrows to move back or forward in time. To change the month, a second box will appear where you can select the month you wish and then you can type the year you require in the box provided. Click on the date, and the calendar will take you to the month and year you have selected where you can select the relevant date for display.

Fellowships must be taken up between 1 September 2026 and 1 January 2027.

6.7 Overseas travel - Country, Institution*

If your proposal will involve travel abroad, please indicate up to three countries to be visited during the Fellowship, and any specific institution(s) to be visited or with which you will be collaborating.

6.8 Support of British International Research Institute Required/Granted*

This field refers not only to support that might be sought from British International Research Institutes, but to all appropriate links with them. The British Academy provides Government funding for the British Institute at Ankara, British Institute in Eastern Africa, British Institute of Persian Studies, British School at Athens, British School at Rome, Council for British Research in the Levant and Society for Libyan Studies.

All applicants with research interests in these parts of the world are invited to consider making approaches to the relevant School or Institute. More information can be found on the Academy's website at:

<https://www.thebritishacademy.ac.uk/international/research-institutes/>

If your proposal is relevant, please indicate in this field the way in which your programme could benefit from, or contribute to, the work or life of the relevant Institute. This is an optional field, and the limit is 700 words.

6.9 Endangered or Emerging Subject Areas*

Applicants for the Mid-Career Fellowship should be intending to pursue original, independent research in any field of study within the humanities or social sciences. There are no quotas for individual subject areas and no thematic priorities.

All applicants are invited to state how they see their particular programme, whether directly meeting current national challenges or not, contributing to the identification of future priorities and challenges. To amplify this final point, the Academy does not set thematic priorities to which all applicants are expected to relate their proposal. Rather the onus is on the individual to indicate if, and how, their research will contribute to meeting national challenges. The primary factor in assessing applications will remain the quality of the proposal.

This is an optional field and the limit is 300 words.

6.10 Language Competence

The Academy expects that applicants will have any language skills necessary to conduct the programme. If relevant, please state the level of language competence of the applicant and other participants or otherwise explain how the objectives of the programme will be met.

6.11 Ethical Issues*

It is expected that most ethical issues will be covered by standard codes of practice. It is only necessary to indicate here in detail any non-standard issues. Please note the Academy's ethics policy described in the Code of Practice. Approval to undertake the proposal must be granted by the relevant authority before any work requiring approval begins.

7 Page 3: Proposal Focus

7.1 Primary and Secondary Subjects*

Your application must be relevant to the Humanities and/or Social Sciences and you will need to select the relevant subject areas and fields from the drop-down list.

7.2 Interdisciplinary Proposal*

If your proposal is especially interdisciplinary, please use this field to explain the nature of the relevance to different fields of research. This field is optional and if used, we recommend no more than 500 words.

7.3 Time Period, Audiences, Regional Interests*

These fields provide the opportunity to give further indications of the relevance of your subject area. They are optional fields.

7.4 Employing Organisation*

Please be aware that it is your responsibility to ensure that you complete your application in time for your employing institution to process it and provide their approval by the closing date.

Please enter the organisation at which you are employed. Most appropriate establishments are registered in the system. If your organisation is not there, please contact the institution's research support services, or equivalent, and ask them to provide the British Academy's Research Funding Office with the contact details of an appropriate person in the organisation to act as an approver.

All applications must be approved by the employing organisation authorities e.g. research office, finance department, etc. The approving department will receive email notification once you have completed your application and submitted it. They will be asked to provide approval and then submit the application to the British Academy. It is strongly recommended that the applicant maintains an open dialogue with the approving department at their institution as the British Academy cannot be held responsible for emails being caught in spam filters or not being received.

It is recommended that you allow at least five working days for this process. Once they have checked your application, they will contact you if any changes are required. Please note, if changes need to be made, these must be done before the deadline otherwise you will not be able to 'resubmit' your application.

8 Page 4: Applicant Details

8.1 Lead Applicant Contact Details*

Please take care to review and complete your personal details accurately. Errors in this section can cause difficulties in the processing of your application.

8.2 Nationality*

Please state your nationality. Up to three choices may be selected.

9 Page 5: Applicant Career Summary

9.1 Statement of qualifications and career*

Please give details of up to four relevant qualifications, **in particular the award of PhD (if you hold one), which must be entered in the first box.** A brief CV must be uploaded as a **PDF document** in the later field 'curriculum vitae'.

9.2 Curriculum Vitae*

The curriculum vitae **must** be uploaded **as a PDF file**. It should be kept brief and it will not be necessary to include details of research grants held, prizes/awards won, conferences attended or external examining.

9.3 ORCID ID *

Please use this space to insert your ORCID ID number.

The British Academy now **requires** all academics to be registered with ORCID when applying for grants. This is a free to use service which connects researchers to their outputs in place of traditional publication lists.

If you do not already have an ORCID ID, you can register for the service [on their website](#).

9.4 Publications, Unpublished Research*

Please list principal publications to date **in reverse chronological order** under publications. In the case of planned, unpublished research, please give details of planned publication dates, or explain why the research has not yet been published. Assessors may take backlogs of publication into account.

9.5 Present Appointment, Employing Institution and Present Department*

Please give details of your current appointment. Applicants must be employed in an established post in which they have specific commitments from which they need to be relieved in order to concentrate on this award.

9.6 PhD confirmation*

Applicants working towards a PhD or awaiting the outcome of their viva/submission of corrections are not eligible to apply.

Please answer 'yes' if you have been awarded a PhD, and 'No' if you do not hold a PhD but have suitable equivalent experience (and explain this in the field below under personal statement). If you do not have a PhD, but are employed as a Lecturer etc., you are still eligible to apply as long as you are within fifteen years of your first academic appointment.

9.7 Personal statement*

Applicants are invited to include any information relating to their professional career which they may wish to be taken into account in assessing this application. For example, details of a career break, particularly in the case of applicants who were awarded a doctorate more than 15 years ago, or the effect of working on a part-time contract may be relevant. This field can also be used to explain eligibility for applicants who do not possess a PhD. This is an optional field and the limit is 150 words.

Assessors will use any information provided in this statement when considering the track record of an applicant in terms of the contribution they have made to their field, academic age and stage of career.

Applicants can use this space to outline any special considerations to be made, such as career breaks due to parental leave and caregiving responsibilities.

9.8 Next period of research leave; dates of research leave in the last five years; standard sabbatical arrangements; current commitments*

These fields call for details of the next period of research leave already granted, research leave already enjoyed in the recent past (sabbatical leave, unpaid leave and leave resulting from other research awards) as well as the normal leave entitlement offered by the applicant's employing institution; and information about current teaching (including numbers of PhD students supervised), curatorial, administrative and publication commitments, giving a clear indication of those from which the applicant would not be able to be released in order to work on the proposed programme. Details of current duties should mention specifics of teaching, curatorial and administrative commitments.

9.9 Previous support*

An application may not be eligible for consideration if there is a report outstanding on any previous award from the Academy to the applicant.
Failure to follow this guidance may result in your application being withdrawn from this round of competition.

Please give details of any applications submitted to the British Academy within the last five years.

Please note that a full report and statement of expenditure for any previous grant must be submitted, before further funding can be considered.

10 Page 6: Financial Details

10.1 Financial Details/Justification*

Please provide the Directly Incurred Salary Cost (this is the salary of the applicant only), the research expenses (this includes travel, accommodation, consumables and any other costs, and also that of a Research Assistant if applicable) and the Directly Allocated (including Estate Costs) and Indirect Costs. **All costs must be entered at 80% FEC.** The Host Organisation will be accountable for paying the additional 20% of the costs. Please do not use '£' signs in the amount boxes.

The main aim is to buy out the time of the Mid-Career Fellow. The Academy's contribution (80%) to the Directly Incurred expense of the Principal Investigator (the Mid-Career Fellow) will be capped at a maximum contribution of £80,000. A small element of research expenses (up to a maximum of £10,000 at 100% - £8,000 at 80%) may be included, provided the total Directly Incurred contribution from the Academy does not exceed £80,000. The total value of any single award, including the Full Economic Costing at 80% contribution, is not expected to exceed £152,000 over 12 months.

Please note that appropriate detail should be given under the justification field to indicate that the costs applied for are fully justified with a clear programme of research activity directly related to the research proposed for the Fellowship. The Academy, in making an offer of the Mid-Career Fellowship, reserves the right to vary the amount of research expenses that may be payable directly as part of this award.

10.2 Applications to Other Funding Bodies

Have you made any other applications in connection with this project? If so, with what results?

11 Page 7: Nominated Referee

11.1 Referee*

Applicants are required to nominate one referee and ensure that the supporting statement from their chosen referee is submitted on Flexi-Grant, in good time before the deadline.

Please note that the reference must be received before you can formally submit the application for approval, and you are strongly advised to ensure that your referee submits the reference well in advance of the final deadline for this round of competition, which is 5pm (BST) 20 August 2025. Please note this deadline is the final approving deadline.

Your referee should be familiar with your project and able to comment on its significance and feasibility, on your abilities, and be as independent from you as possible. The referee is not intended to be an advocate for the applicant – rather their role is expected to be to help provide a rounded assessment of the proposal indicating both strengths and weaknesses.

The reference may be supplied by a researcher based outside the UK if you wish. **Your referee MUST be drawn from outside your own employing institution.**

Before listing your referee on your application form, you should seek permission from them that they are happy to provide this before the deadline. It is essential that you enter the correct email address for your referee (especially if they are using more than one email address) otherwise your referee will not receive the automated messages delivered from **Flexi-Grant**.

We strongly advise that you submit your application as early as possible to allow your referee enough time to provide their reference in the system before the deadline for submission.

An application cannot be considered unless the reference has been submitted on time. **Please note that the reference must be provided through Flexi-Grant, it cannot be provided as an email attachment nor sent by post in hard copy.**

12 Page 8: Equal Opportunities

12.1 Equal opportunities

This section is optional; however, the Academy would greatly appreciate it if you can complete the details to assist us in our diversity monitoring.

The British Academy is committed to its policy of Equal Opportunity in the provision of its grants and awards. Please help us to monitor the effectiveness of this policy by providing information concerning your age, gender, ethnic origin and disabilities (if any).

This information will be kept separately from the rest of your application and will not be seen by those involved in making decisions in the selection process, including referees etc.

13 Submission of Application

13.1 Submission of Application

Once you have submitted your application for approval by your employing institution, an automatic email will be sent to the Organisation Approver for your employing institution. The Organisation Approver will either: approve and submit your application, 'send back' your application for edits/corrections or decline your application. You must complete your application with enough time for your institution to review and approve it. **They must record their approval by 5pm (BST) 20 August 2025.**

It is recommended that you allow at least five working days for this process. Please check with your employing institution as their internal timetables may require earlier submission. If your employing organisation approver requests modifications, they can return your application to you for editing. Once an application has been approved by the Organisation Approver, it cannot be returned. ***Please note that if your application is returned to you for editing, then you must submit it again to your Organisation Approver.***

Please note that once the closing date has passed, approvers cannot approve applications and submit them to the British Academy. Unapproved applications are removed from consideration. **No late applications can be accepted.**

It is recommended that you check that your application is submitted in time. To see the details of the Organisation Approver and to check the status of

your application, you should log into Flexi-Grant and click on the link to the Application Portal where a summary of your application will be displayed.

Please note that academic quality and the focus on communication are the primary bases on which assessment will be made and may be judged together.

Assessors will evaluate the proposal taking into account the following criteria as appropriate to the aims of the scheme: its originality, its relationship to, and the volume of, research already done in the field, the quality of the research proposed, the suitability of the methodology, the feasibility of the research programme, its timeliness, the communication plan and the public benefit of the intended outcomes. Assessors may take into account evidence of language competence where the understanding of material in a foreign language is crucial to the achievement of the research objective. Assessors will also evaluate the ability of the applicant to undertake the proposal, taking into account the contribution they have already made to their field, their academic age and stage of career. Backlogs of publication (including any reasons given by applicants) may also be taken into account in assessing the current proposal.

14 Outcome of Application

14.1 Outcome of application

Once your application has been submitted, you will not be contacted again by the British Academy until the decisions have been made (**around late March 2026**). You will not be required to do anything further in the Flexi-Grant system. You can track the progress of your application by clicking on the link to the Application Portal where a summary of your application will be displayed. Please note that the eligibility stage is an internal British Academy process and you do not need to do anything for this. **Applicants will be notified of the outcome of their application by late March 2026 by email to the email contact address given on their application form.**

Applicants in any doubt about any aspect of their application are advised to contact the Research Funding Office at the British Academy by emailing grants@thebritishacademy.ac.uk

Important Dates

Deadline for applications: **5pm (BST), 20 August 2025**

Please note: This deadline is the official deadline for employing institutions to submit applications to the British Academy. Applicants are advised to check with their Research Office (or relevant department) whether internal deadlines have been set by their own institution.

Results announced via email to applicant's address on the application: **late March 2026**