



All Souls College

University of Oxford

EXAMINATION FELLOWSHIPS 2026 – FURTHER PARTICULARS

The College intends to make up to two elections to Examination Fellowships on Saturday, 7 November 2026 if candidates of sufficient merit present themselves.

Eligibility

The examination is open to any candidate who meets **ALL** the following conditions:

- a) has a degree (or by 1 October 2026 will have a degree) from the University of Oxford; or is registered (or by 1 October 2026 will have registered) for a higher degree at the University; and
- b) has completed or is studying for a degree in the Humanities or Social Sciences; and
- c) has successfully completed all the examinations necessary for a first BA or equivalent degree whether at the University of Oxford or elsewhere; and,
- d) has successfully completed their first degree not more than seven terms before the relevant election., i.e. no earlier than Summer 2024.

Applications to adjust the eligibility criteria (for example due to illness or parental leave) will be considered by the College. Candidates wishing to make such an application should upload, as part of their main application, a letter explaining the details in their case, together with any supporting material, all of which will be considered by an Eligibility Panel. It is particularly important to provide supporting documentation at the time of submitting the main application. Please note that by uploading documents concerning eligibility, candidates automatically authorise the College to process the data, which will be treated confidentially and be visible only to members of the Eligibility Panel.

Terms of Fellowship

The Fellowships are for seven years. They are open to those who intend to pursue an academic career, and the College pays the University fees of Fellows registered for a higher degree at the University of Oxford. They are also open to those who, while intending to take up non-academic work (such as the practice of the law, politics, the arts, diplomacy, etc.), nevertheless wish to maintain and strengthen their links with Oxford academic life. It is therefore a requirement that all Examination Fellows in the first two years of their Fellowship pursue a recognised course of study or training approved by the College.

As a Fellow of the College and member of its governing body, you will also be a Trustee of the charity and required to fulfil the associated obligations under charity law. You should therefore read the Charity Commission's publication, [The essential trustee: what you need to know, what you need to do](#). You will be required to attend College meetings (some of which are held on Saturday morning) and be expected to serve on College Committees to which you are elected or co-opted. The College provides training on your role of Charity trustee.

Fellows will be entitled to a study, dinners, and lunches without charge, and may be assigned single accommodation in the College or one of its annexes or, if resident within 25

miles of Oxford, are eligible to receive a housing allowance. Fellows are conventionally required to dine in College at least twenty-eight times in each academic term of the first year of tenure. Non-academic Fellows can comply with this convention by, for example, spending the weekends during term in College and the weekdays working elsewhere. The College is prepared to consider deferment of this requirement in exceptional cases.

Remuneration, Allowances, and Entitlements

During the first two years Examination Fellows receive a scholarship stipend, currently £21,000 *per annum* (see Note below) and either free accommodation in College or a housing allowance of currently £6,761 *per annum*. At the end of that period the Fellowship will (with the approval of the College) be extended for a further five years, during which an Examination Fellow may decide to take up or continue:

- a) A DPhil at the University of Oxford supported by a scholarship stipend of £28,677 to £31,468 *per annum*, rising annually. (To qualify for the higher rate of pay in any academic year, you must give not fewer than sixteen hours of lectures (or equivalent) in the University in that year. The pay may be on an intermediate rate of pay if fewer lectures are given) plus a housing allowance of £9,368 *per annum* if eligible. The College will assume full responsibility for the payment of University of Oxford tuition fees;
- b) an academic or non-academic appointment elsewhere will receive a stipend currently £3,928 *per annum*.

Full-time academic College Fellows may draw on academic allowances currently £4,552 *per annum* and can apply for academic grants from the College's Academic Purposes Committee.

Note: All stipends and allowances are reviewed annually. In the case of Fellows who are already in receipt of another scholarship or Research Council funding, the College will top up the scholarship or grant to the same level given above for the remainder of the first academic year, after which the College will assume full responsibility for the payment of University of Oxford tuition fees and the scholarship and subsequent stipend.

Applications

Prospective candidates should make applications [online](#) by **4.00 pm (UK time) on Monday, 10 August 2026**. Those who for good cause do not meet the normal eligibility criteria but nevertheless wish to be admitted to the examination should make their case when prompted on the online application form.

All eligible applicants will be sent an email in the week commencing **7 September** and must respond to this email to confirm their place in the examination. Candidates who do not reply by the deadline specified in the email will not be admitted.

The online application system is hosted by the Colleges' Administrative Software Consortium Fellowship Application System (in Cambridge). All technical queries or inquiries about the application process and submitted applications should be made to the Academic Administrator (Examinations, Projects and Communications):

exams@all-souls.ox.ac.uk.

Examination Details

The examination will be held at the Examination Schools, High Street, Oxford starting on **Wednesday, 30 September at 9.30 am** and ending on **Thursday, 1 October at 5.30 pm**.

Candidates with alternative examination arrangements may sit their examination in an alternative location in Oxford, depending on the adjustments required.

The examination will consist of four papers of three hours each:

- two Specialist Papers in one of the following:
 - Classical Studies
 - Economics
 - English Literature
 - History
 - Law
 - Philosophy
 - Politics
- two General Papers

Candidates must select one and the same subject for both their Specialist Papers. While having a degree in a specific subject is not an absolute requirement for sitting a specialist paper in it (provided the degree falls within the Humanities or Social Sciences), experience suggests that candidates without prior formal education in that subject, or a closely related one, are very unlikely to be shortlisted.

Subject-Specific Notes

Classical Studies

Part A on each paper will include six skills questions and candidates must answer **one question**, demonstrating technical mastery of either language or archaeological or historical material:

- 1) a choice between two unseen passages for translation (in Greek for Paper I and in Latin for Paper II), which will be marked on both the accuracy and the elegance of the translation;
- 2) a choice between two questions concerning images in which candidates should display skill in the assessment and presentation of non-textual evidence;
- 3) a choice between two short passages of historical importance in the original language (in Greek for Paper I and in Latin for Paper II) on the content, the context and the significance of which the candidate will be asked to comment ('gobbet').

Part B on each paper will cover language, literature, history, archaeology, and philosophy of the Classical World (from the Homeric period up to and including the reign of Justinian in the sixth century CE) and candidates must answer two questions.

Economics

Both papers in Economics will include questions on a wide range of economics topics, drawn from subfields across the discipline.

English

The English Literature I paper may be answered with reference to any literature written in English. In the English Literature II paper, Section A is a compulsory practical criticism question. In Section B you may answer the questions with reference to literature written in languages other than English if you wish.

History

The History papers present questions relating to world history within the Common Era. Each paper contains two kinds of question: (i) period-specific questions, that stipulate a distinct time and/or place on which answers must focus; and (ii) any-period questions, that can be answered with reference to any period in the Common Era.

Law

Candidates must refer to English law when it is necessary to do so in order to answer the question set; but there are many questions for which that is not necessary, and candidates are encouraged to refer to the law of any jurisdiction that is useful to them in answering any question. The Law I paper includes more questions on private law, and the Law II paper includes more questions on public law, but as in recent past papers, the questions on both papers in the 2026 Examination are very diverse.

Philosophy

In the Philosophy papers candidates should feel free to answer questions that are not explicitly of a historical nature through the history of philosophy.

Politics

In the Politics papers, candidates should feel free to answer political theory questions that are not explicitly of a historical nature through the history of political thought.

General Papers

In the first General Paper, you have the opportunity to answer questions on a range of topics including the arts, science, politics, literature, current affairs, and issues in education and sport. These questions are not linked directly to the specialist subjects. In the second General Paper, the questions are broadly related to each of the subjects on which there are specialist papers. You can focus on the questions concerning your specialist subject, or answer questions relating to other subjects, or a mixture of the two. In both General Papers, you should write for an educated, but non-specialist, readership.

Assessment Criteria

The following criteria will be used in marking all papers:

Engagement

- Incisiveness of engagement with the question

- Range of issues addressed within or across essays
- Depth and sophistication of comprehension of issues and implications of the question
- Directness of answer to the question

Argument

- Coherence of argument
- Analytical clarity and power
- Intellectual penetration
- Originality and/or independence of thought

Information

- Relevance of the deployment of information
- Knowledge of original sources
- Range, depth, and detail of evidence cited
- Accuracy of information

Organisation & Presentation (See Note below)

- Clarity and coherence of structure
- Clarity, fluency, and elegance of prose
- Correctness of grammar, spelling and punctuation

Potential

- Potential for future intellectual development

Note: These criteria will be interpreted in the light of the University's policies and individual assessments regarding candidates with specific learning difficulties, e.g. dyslexia.

Most candidates have performed outstandingly well in their academic careers thus far, and the examination, including the viva, is designed to allow the College to distinguish among very talented people. We are impressed by thoughtfulness and scholarship beyond the level of Finals, but do not expect candidates to be perfectly right about everything: flexibility and responsiveness to argument count for a lot, both in the written papers and in the viva. The specialist papers contain a broad range of questions within each subject. On those papers, as in a Finals paper, you should write for specialists in your field. The College is seeking candidates who can display exceptional abilities in argument and analysis. Breadth of knowledge, independence of judgment and thought, clarity and carefulness of exposition and awareness of unresolved difficulties are all especially welcome. In the General Papers we look for signs of broad interests and awareness of the relevance of your particular areas of knowledge to wider issues

Past Papers

[Examination papers from previous years](#) may be seen on the College website.

Equal Opportunities

Applications are particularly welcome from women, non-binary and/or trans, black and minority ethnic candidates, who are under-represented in academic posts in Oxford. In order to enable the College to monitor the effectiveness of its equality policy and procedures,

all candidates are invited to complete a confidential recruitment monitoring form which is processed entirely separately from the applications, and plays no part in the selection process.

Requests for Alternative Examination Arrangements

Candidates who require any alternative examination arrangements to be made for them should indicate this on their online application. Supporting documentation will be needed, and we will be unable to make arrangements if this is not provided as part of the online application.

Visa Requirements

Applicants from outside the UK are asked to note the [UK's visa requirements](#).

Timetable

Tuesday, 29 September	4.00 pm	
	Candidates are invited to attend a meeting in the Hall when the Chair of Assistant Examiners and others will talk about the Fellowship and take questions.	
Wednesday, 30 September	9.30 am – 12.30 pm	Specialist Paper I
	2.30 pm – 5.30 pm	General Paper I
Thursday, 1 October	9.30 am – 12.30 pm	Specialist Paper II
	2.30 pm – 5.30 pm	General Paper II

Dress for examinations

Candidates are expected to dress smartly. Gowns should be worn, but sub-fusc clothing is **not** required.

Examination Format

The College is intending for all candidates to be able to type the examinations on a laptop, which the College will provide.

Candidates can request to handwrite the examination if preferred. Candidates who wish to handwrite the examination are requested to use BLACK ink or ballpoint pen for all scripts.

Mobile Phones

Mobile phones and other communication devices must not be taken into the examination.

Lunch and Accommodation

Candidates are asked to make their own arrangements for lunch and accommodation.

Short-listing of Candidates

The College will prepare a short list of candidates by Wednesday, 21 October, at the latest. Candidates not short-listed will also be notified by email on or around that date.

Viva for Short-listed Candidates

All short-listed candidates will be invited to a viva in the presence of Fellows of the College on the morning of Saturday, 31 October. Please ensure that you can travel to Oxford for this viva as your attendance is normally required. The vivas solely concern the candidates' scripts and issues raised by them.

Fellowship Election

The Fellowship Election will take place on Saturday, 7 November and Fellowships are normally tenable from that date, though in some circumstances deferral may be agreed.

All Souls College
May 2026