

Migrant Futures Postdoctoral Fellowships - Guidance for Applicants

Migrant Futures Postdoctoral Fellowships are central to the MFI's vision to advance innovative research and training in the field of migration studies and foreground migrant intellectual lives, creative endeavours and roles in advocacy and social change. They offer promising early-career researchers the opportunity to strengthen their experience of advanced research and practice, complete significant outputs, develop public engagement and impact and enhance their prospects for future careers within and beyond academia.

The following guidance sets out the categories of information required to apply for a Migrant Futures Postdoctoral Fellowship, along with some additional information on the process of selection. It is important that all applications are submitted and complete by the deadline stated.

In order to apply to the scheme, prospective applicants must also have identified and secured initial commitment of a member of Goldsmiths staff willing and able to act as a mentor for the postdoctoral fellow.

We strongly encourage and recommend that you discuss your application with your proposed mentor *prior* to commencing your application.

What is available?

Two Postdoctoral Fellowships for entry in 2025-26. MFI Postdoctoral fellowships include salary (starting at Grade 7, SP32, currently £44,186 with London Weighting) together with an annual research support fund of £5000. For the sake of clarity, the research fund must be used to support research activities, subject to approval and following college financial rules on expenses and procurement. International applicants are advised that MFI postdoctoral fellowships may only be held on a full-time (FT) basis. Applicants who have the right to work in the UK may apply to take up the award on a part-time (PT) basis, pro-rata, over four years (PT).

One of the two awards for entry 2025-26 will be open to applicants who identify as migrants or refugees and from racialised or minoritized backgrounds in *any* field of research and practice for which appropriate mentorship is available at Goldsmiths, University of London. To be clear, applicants considered for this award need not be working on a migration related topic, but they should be able to describe how their work will enhance their own economic, creative and intellectual lives and that of others.

The second of these two awards will be open to all applicants - irrespective of background and experience - whose proposed fellowship is focused on a topic related to migration, broadly conceived, including in relation to processes of race and racialisation and for which appropriate mentoring is available at Goldsmiths, University of London.

Proposals must be informed by the co-production of knowledge with people and groups from migrant and refugee backgrounds, and demonstrate potential for social and cultural impact.

Migrant Futures Postdoctoral Fellowship holders will, upon award, be designated as Senior Fellows of the Migrant Futures Institute. It is expected that 20% of their time will be devoted to directly supporting the work of the institute as agreed with the MFI director(s). More broadly, fellows will be expected to contribute actively to developing and enhancing the research culture of the institute through their research, creative practice and participation in MFI activities and events.

Start Date

October 2025 or as soon as possible thereafter

Eligibility criteria

Applicants will be early career researchers who have submitted their PHD thesis and successfully passed the PhD viva or be able to demonstrate equivalent research experience and normally be within three years from the date of their successful viva voce examination.

In keeping with the UKRI's Arts and Humanities Research Council, we do not consider years post-PhD or job title to be the sole marker of career progression and applicants will be invited to use their personal statement to describe their careers and experiences and indicate why they identify as an early career researcher. We also recognise that some applicants will have had career breaks post PhD and that they may have also had periods of parental or medical leave, caring responsibilities or other issues that may have significantly impacted their career development post viva. For both positions we are looking for people who have exceptional promise with potential to become leaders in their field.

In order to apply to the scheme, prospective applicants must also have identified and secured initial commitment of a member of Goldsmiths staff willing and able to act as a mentor for the postdoctoral fellow.

Application deadlines

17:00 on Monday, 18 August, 2025

How to apply

Applications will be made through the Goldsmiths Graduate School via Gecko form:
<https://app.geckoform.com/public/#/modern/21FO00hpsyazcw007k8ur5crzi>

We will be holding an applicant information webinar on Monday, 7 July, 2025, 14:00 – 15.00 on Teams. [Join the meeting here](#)

A recording of the applicant information session will be made available for those unable to attend and will be posted on the MFI website after the event.

You are advised to attend or review the recording and to read through the following carefully that outlines what is required in the application form. **Please note - your answers cannot be saved on the gecko form and submitted at a later date.** Therefore it is advised that you prepare and save the text for each section of your application (requested in sections 2 – 5) in a Word document or similar *before* you start this application:

1. Applicant details

You will be asked to supply your name, contact address, email and mobile numbers. You will also be asked the following:

- a) to confirm that you have secured initial commitment of a member of Goldsmiths staff willing and able to act as a mentor for the postdoctoral fellow. You will be asked to provide their name and email contact details.
- b) to indicate if you require a visa to live and work in the UK (the answer to this question will not be used as basis to assess your application).
- c) your gender identification.
- d) whether or not you identify as:
 - Having migrant or refugee background
 - Having a racialised minority ethnic background
- e) if you already have right to work in the UK, whether you intend to take up the award on a fulltime or parttime basis.

2. Proposal

Your proposal should respond clearly to the aims of this call and set out, in a proposal of no more than 2000 words, the following:

- a) summary of PHD thesis research and key contributions of that work
- b) summary of the work you are proposing to undertake during the postdoctoral fellowship: the latter should include any new research that you are proposing to undertake during the period of the postdoctoral fellowship, including research questions, practice and methodology, as well as ethical considerations;
- c) plans for publication and other outputs

- d) plans to develop and extend public engagement and impact
- e) timeline and schedule of work
- f) preliminary budget for the annual £5000 research fund (£10K over two years or four years if part-time)

NB.

While all proposals *must* include plans for producing research outputs, public engagement and impact and career development and training, as appropriate, there is no requirement to undertake new empirical research though some limited additional research may also be undertaken. New research may build on and extend PhD thesis research or could be an extended pilot study for a new or emerging area of interest.

3. Personal Statement

Please upload a personal statement of no more than 500 words that addresses the following:

- a) Please describe your background and your future aspirations. You should describe how your previous research/work/life/educational experiences to date have prepared you for and/or informs the research work proposed and your career development and planning. The latter may include reference either to your own migrant or refugee experiences and/or to work with and alongside people and groups from migrant and refugee backgrounds.
- b) Please describe why the Migrant Futures Institute is a good fit with your work and research interests and how you would contribute to its development.
- c) If there has been a significant career break since completing your PhD, please provide a short summary of relevant details.

4. CV

Please attach a current CV of no more than 3 pages to include educational background (post-secondary), postdoctoral work and research experience, research grants held, leadership roles, research outputs and public engagement and impact.

5. Two references (one of whom must be from a proposed mentor)

References should comment, as appropriate, on your research plans and your potential to become a leader in your field. Your proposed mentor should also describe how your proposed research fits with their expertise and the wider research environment.

Deadline for receipt of applications: Monday, 18th August (17:00 UK time)

Selection Criteria

- Research proposal's quality and feasibility of work plan as outlined in research proposal and in references (50%)
- Preparedness for and evidence of potential to become research leader in your field as outlined in the proposal, personal statement, CV and references (30%)
- Appropriateness and fit with mentor and contribution to Migrant Futures Institute and wider research environment at Goldsmiths, as indicated in personal statement and supervisor reference (20%).

As a reminder, it is anticipated that at least one award will be made to an applicant identifying as from a racialised or minoritised background and who has migrant or refugee experiences.

Selection Process

- All applications will be reviewed by an internal selection panel convened by the Academic Directors of the Migrant Futures Institute.
- **A shortlist of 6 candidates will be invited to interview: interviews are scheduled for Monday, 15 September. Candidates shortlisted for interview will be notified by Friday, 5 September.**
- All candidates will be notified of the outcome of the selection process by end of September with successful candidates invited to take up their fellowships on 1 October or as soon as possible thereafter (depending on personal circumstances and situation, including any required visa applications).

Contact details

If you have any queries, please contact that Graduate School (graduateschool@gold.ac.uk) using the subject heading 'Migrant Futures Postdoctoral Fellowship' and including your surname.