

Faculty of History

2026-27 British Academy Postdoctoral Fellowship competition Guidance for applicants

British Academy Process and Timetable

<https://www.thebritishacademy.ac.uk/funding/schemes/postdoctoral-fellowships/>

The call for applications has opened and full details of the BA's timeline for applications can be found on the BA's website, and are summarized below:

<p><u>Outline Stage 2026-27</u></p> <p>Scheme Opens: Weds 1 July 2026 Deadline for Submission: Wednesday 30 September 2026 Result of Outline Stage Announcement: Anticipated January 2026</p>	<p>Outline Stage applicants are invited to supply information about their past academic experience, publications and research proposal. A referee will be required to answer a questionnaire about the applicant and their research proposal. Outline stage applications do not need to include costings.</p>
<p><u>Second Stage 2026-27</u></p> <p>Scheme Opens: TBC, mid-early January 2027 Deadline for Applicants: TBC, mid-late February 2026 Result of Second Stage Announcement: TBC, June 2026</p>	<p>The Second Stage of application is by invitation only. The Second Stage requires the additional Head of Department Statement, details of the Full Economic Costing and research expenses.</p>

- The BA uses the online portal, [Flexi-Grant](#), which requires that **references** be submitted **before the application deadline** as otherwise the system will not allow submission of the application.
- Applications and references need to be submitted in Flexi-Grant **at least 5 working days before the BA's closing date** to allow for final review and submission to the BA by the University's central Research Services team. This means applications must be complete (including references) and submitted in the portal by **Wednesday 23 September 2026**. Applicants are advised to contact referees early to ensure they will be able to submit the reference before this date.
- In addition to stringent eligibility rules, British Academy does not allow resubmissions without invitation, **which in practice means that candidates can apply only once**. So, it is important for applicants to consider whether they are in a good position to apply and the proposal is strong enough, or if waiting another year would strengthen the application.
- Experience to date suggests that those applicants with at least 20-24 months postdoctoral experience and a promising publication track record stand a greater chance of success.

Faculty of History/Humanities Division Process and Timetable

In 2026, the Faculty of History is holding an Expression of Interest competition to select applications for support through to the British Academy's own deadlines.

<p><u>Wednesday 15 July 2026</u></p> <p>Internal Faculty deadline</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By this date, applicants must have sent in their EoI application. This must use the Faculty's template (this follows the headings and word limits of last year's BA's outline stage form) and be submitted via email, in Word or PDF format, to rf@history.ox.ac.uk • Mentors must also send their 400-word statement of support, using the template to rf@history.ox.ac.uk by this date. <i>Candidates should have the agreement of a member of the Faculty to act as a mentor before submitting their application, but should not expect any input, beyond the statement of support, into their expression of interest.</i> • Candidates may also provide a statement of any circumstances which they feel may have impacted on their research track-record, or career breaks for reasons such as maternity leave, illness, family commitments occurring after the date of the viva voce examination. Such statements will be treated in confidence and made available to the Faculty's Research Director, but not circulated more widely.
<p><u>Early August</u></p> <p>Outcome of Faculty selection notified</p>	<p>Successful applicants who are selected through the Faculty's pre-competition will receive full comment on their draft proposal, and will be supported in preparing their application for submission to the BA by Wednesday 30 September. It is unlikely that we will be able to provide feedback to unsuccessful applicants, due to the very large volume of applications we typically receive for this scheme.</p>
<p><u>Early September</u></p> <p>Humanities Division workshop for applicants selected by the Faculties</p>	<p>The Divisional Research Facilitation team will host a workshop for applications going forward to the BA. Further details will be shared with successful applicants when they have been confirmed by the Division.</p>
<p><u>Monday 14 September</u></p> <p>Final Faculty deadline</p>	<p>Final complete applications must be received for review by the Faculty by this date. This ensures time for Faculty and University approval processes ahead of the BA deadline of 30 September.</p>

The Faculty of History's internal selection will be rigorous, and we will only put forward the strongest applications. **In the interest of fairness, we will be unable to accept any incomplete applications or those received after the internal Faculty deadline of Wednesday 15 July.**

The primary selection criteria the Faculty panel will use are:

- The strength and coherence of the project
- The strength of the applicant's CV

The secondary criteria are:

- The quality of the candidate's written English
- The extent to which the mentor statement engages in detail with the process