



CHRIST CHURCH

JUNIOR RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS 2026/27 (SCIENCES)

Post	Junior Research Fellowships (Sciences)
Location	Christ Church
Salary	National Spine Point 30: £40,514 per annum (<i>current rates</i>)
Hours	Full Time, 37.5 hours per week
Contract type	Four-year fixed term, from 1 October 2026 or as soon as possible thereafter
Responsible to	Senior Censor
Application deadline	Noon Monday 12 January 2026
Vacancy reference	MT25_006

Overview

Junior Research Fellowships are full-time research posts offered by Oxford colleges to early career researchers and provide an unrivalled opportunity to establish a research profile as a member of a collegiate community.

Christ Church invites applications for up to two Junior Research Fellowships in the Sciences from the subjects listed below, with effect from 1 October 2026 or as soon as possible thereafter.

- Mathematics
- Physiology and Medicine
- Psychology

Christ Church

Christ Church, one of the largest colleges of Oxford University, is strongly committed to teaching and research. The College has around 470 undergraduates and 250 graduates, and around 200 senior members. Our academics teach their students in tutorials, a system which enables undergraduates to work with experienced tutors in small groups. The subjects offered at Christ Church cover the whole spectrum, including Arts, Social Sciences, Medical Sciences and Physical Sciences. Christ Church tutors strongly believe in the joint pursuit of teaching and research. For more information please visit: <https://www.chch.ox.ac.uk/>.

Christ Church provides all our staff with a welcoming and inclusive workplace that enables everyone to develop and to do their best work. Join us and you will find a friendly, vibrant, democratic, and international community, with a great range of staff benefits.



Duties of the post

The basic obligation of a Junior Research Fellow is to engage full-time in research and its dissemination in some branch of the Sciences or Social Sciences. The successful candidate will be expected to:

- propose, plan and manage a high-quality programme of original research
- publicise the outcomes of that research through presentation of papers and publications
- take part fully in life and activities of the College

JRFs are also strongly encouraged, if they are given the opportunity, to:

- undertake teaching up to a maximum of six hours a week during full term when offered (this would be paid in addition to the basic salary). The understanding is that Christ Church will have first refusal of any teaching offered by a Junior Research Fellow
- act as an advisor or mentor, where appropriate, to post graduate students
- assist in work associated with Christ Church's admissions process when offered.

Selection Criteria

- Hold a doctorate or be close to completion. Applicants will have submitted their thesis no later than three months before the start date of this post. Those who formally submitted their doctoral thesis for viva voce examination prior to 1 October 2024 are not eligible, unless they have had a career break (e.g. a period of parental leave, family commitments, illness or other circumstances), or there are exceptional circumstances. Students (such as medical students) whose doctorate interrupted their professional training should have completed their professional training by October 2024.
- Have research expertise in their chosen field as demonstrated by a completed (or close to being completed) doctoral thesis and/or published or forthcoming books, or articles in referred journals, as relevant to the candidate's field; or promise of such achievement, as relevant to the candidate's field.
- Can present research findings effectively to fellow professionals at national and international conferences or in professional research seminars.
- Have a coherent plan of research for the duration of the appointment which can either be the further development of doctoral work or an entirely new area and which promises to make a valuable contribution to the candidate's field.
- Have not already held a comparable career development appointment at Oxford or another university. A comparable appointment is deemed to be a salaried research-only appointment for the purposes of self-directed research.
- Successful candidates will be expected to contribute fully to the life of the College.

If the research project is laboratory based, candidates will be required to provide a letter of support from the host department confirming that laboratory space can be provided without cost to the college. A copy of this letter must be submitted if candidates are called for an interview. Candidates should therefore initiate discussion with the relevant department at the time of application.



Terms and Benefits

Junior Research Fellowships are fixed-term posts, for four years. The start date of a Fellowship may, with the agreement of the college, be brought forward or delayed in exceptional cases, to accommodate personal circumstances; if so, the fixed term expiry date will be adjusted accordingly. The Fellowships cannot be extended.

- Salary £40,514 per annum: National Pay Spine 30 (current rates). The salary will normally be adjusted if the Fellow is in receipt of other remuneration.
- Membership of the Senior Common Room.
- Seven free lunches and dinners per week when the kitchens are open.
- Entertainment allowance up to a maximum of £408 per annum (current rates).
- Subject to eligibility Fellows may apply to the Governing Body for grants towards certain research expenses.
- Eligible staff may join or remain a member of the Universities Superannuation Scheme. Details are available on the website at [Universities Superannuation Scheme \(USS\) | Finance Division](#).
- Family leave provision comparable to the University of Oxford.
- A health care scheme at a substantial discount on normal rates paid.
- The opportunity to participate in tax-free bicycle hire/purchase salary sacrifice scheme.
- Season ticket loans.
- Employee Assistance Programme alongside access dedicated support both within the college and wider University for your personal and career development.

Pre-employment screening

Standard checks: If you are offered the post, the offer will be subject to standard pre-employment checks. You will be asked to provide proof of your right to work in the UK and proof of your identity. You will also be asked to complete a health declaration so that you can tell us about any health conditions or disabilities for which you may need us to make appropriate adjustments. For some posts, such as those involving 'regulated activities' with children and other vulnerable groups in the course of normal duties, a Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check will also be required.

If you require a visa, we have a dedicated Staff Immigration Team to support successful applicants through the immigration process (for Global Talent and Skilled Worker visas) from job offer through to arrival in the UK. This is subject to the eligibility criteria being met for the respective visa routes.

How to Apply

Please apply using the online application form available at https://fas.chch.ox.ac.uk/fas_live/chchjrfsc/ no later than the deadline of **Monday 12 January 2026**. Applications received after this time will not be considered.

- Mathematics
- Physiology and Medicine
- Psychology



Applicants are asked to indicate on their application form a single subject area, chosen from the list above, which best matches the area of research they would undertake should their application be successful.

Applicants whose subjects might be thought to fall into more than one of the subject areas listed (are asked to indicate this fact in their application and are invited to draw the attention of the College selection panel to factors which they consider relevant to the classification of their research project.

Applications should include:

- Covering letter or statement explaining how you meet the criteria set out above using examples of your skills and experience - this may include experience gained in education or employment - and also outlining your reasons for applying for this post at Oxford,
- Academic CV, including a list of publications.
- Research statement proposing the future direction of your research highlighting how your research has evolved and your key achievements for the selection panel to assess. - this should not exceed a total of 1,000 words (excluding references).
- The titles of up to three pieces of published or other work you would be prepared to submit if shortlisted for the post. Applicants in Experimental Psychology or Physiology & Medicine will need to provide a letter or statement from the head of the relevant department in Oxford, saying that they will be able to work within an existing team or laboratory in their area. Applicants in Mathematics do not need to provide this letter.

Applications will be judged only against the criteria which are set out in the job description, and applicants should ensure that their applications show clearly how their skills and experience meet these criteria.

Christ Church is committed to fairness, consistency and transparency in selection decisions. Members of selection committees will be aware of the principles of equality of opportunity, fair selection and the risks of bias. There will be both female and male committee members wherever possible. Applications are particularly welcome from women, and black and minority ethnic candidates, who are under-represented in academic posts in Oxford.

If, for any reason, you have taken a career break or have had an atypical career and wish to disclose this in your application, the selection committee will take this into account.

Christ Church welcomes applications from candidates who have a disability or long-term health condition and is committed to providing long term support. Please let us know if you need any adjustments to the recruitment process, including the provision of these documents in large print, audio or other formats. If we invite you for an interview, we will ask whether you require any particular arrangements at the interview.

References

Every applicant is asked to name two references and are responsible for requesting references from their referees. Referees should submit references online by the closing date of **Monday 12 January 2026**. Once applicants have provided their details in their online application, referees will be sent an email containing a link to do this.



Candidates should therefore give referees enough time to write in their support. The college will not request references directly from the referees.

Christ Church is grateful to referees for their assistance; and it hopes that they will understand the impracticability of acknowledging receipt of referees' letters.

Interviews

Interviews for the position are expected to take place in the week commencing **16 February 2026**.

If you need help

If you have any questions regarding the application process, please contact academic.recruitment@chch.ox.ac.uk. All enquiries will be treated in strict confidence and will not form part of the selection decision.

Please note that you will receive an automated email from our e-recruitment system to confirm receipt of your application. **Please check your spam/junk mail** if you do not receive this email.

Important information for candidates

Data Privacy

Please note that any personal data submitted to Christ Church as part of the job application process will be used only for the purposes of determining suitability for the post and processed in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) and related UK data protection legislation. For further information, please see the Christ Church Privacy Notice available at: <https://www.chch.ox.ac.uk/privacy-policy>.

Due to the large volume of recruitment that Christ Church administers we are unable to provide feedback to non-shortlisted applicants.

Equality of opportunity

Christ Church is committed to equality of opportunity. It is our policy and practice that entry into employment and progression within employment will be determined only by criteria which are related to the duties of a particular post and the relevant salary scale. No applicant or member of staff will be treated less favourably than another because of their age, disability, ethnicity, marital or civil partnership status, parental status, religion or belief, sex, or sexual orientation.

Offer of employment

Applications for this post will be considered by a selection committee. The selection committee is responsible for conducting all aspects of the recruitment and selection process; it does not, however, have the authority to make the final decision as to who should be appointed. The final decision will be made by the Governing Body of Christ Church based on a recommendation made by the selection committee. No offer of appointment will be valid, therefore, until and unless the recommendation has been approved by the Governing Body, and a formal contractual offer has been made.