

The Mohamed Ali Foundation Fellowship programme

Fellow: role and responsibilities

The Mohamed Ali Foundation

The Mohamed Ali Foundation is a UK charity whose aims include advancing the education of the public in the history of the Islamic World, of Egypt and of the Mohamed Ali Family in particular, especially the period of reign of Khedive Abbas Hilmi II (1892-1914).

The Abbas Hilmi II Papers

Among the rich archival resources at Durham University Library is the [collection of Abbas Hilmi II](#) (1874-1944), the last Khedive of Egypt (1892-1914), whose papers provide excellent research material on political, social, economic and cultural affairs in Egypt in the late 19th and first half of the 20th centuries, the British in Egypt and, to a lesser extent, the Sudan, and Egypt's relations with Britain, Turkey and the rest of Europe. The archive principally covers the period from the mid-19th Century up until the death of Abbas Hilmi II in 1944, but with some additional family material dating up to the 1960s. The collection was deposited in Durham by the Mohamed Ali Foundation in 1980. It contains material principally in Arabic, English, Ottoman Turkish, and French, but also some German, Italian, and Greek. Digitised copies of almost all of the Abbas Hilmi II Papers are also freely available online, linked from the [online catalogue](#).

The Fellowship Programme

The Fellowship Programme is established in order to support a programme of academic research in the Abbas Hilmi II Papers and to make the collection's strengths more widely known to scholars. It is hoped that this will foster deeper understanding of an important period of Egyptian history, and of a transformative era in East-West relations.

Annual fellowships will be awarded over several years at Durham University. Residencies will typically extend for the duration of the Easter term (late April to late June) and will be tenable in the Institute for Middle Eastern & Islamic Studies. Some fellows may reside in Cairo, Istanbul or elsewhere and consult the digitised collection online.

The Fellowship carries a grant, accommodation and all meals during the residency period. At Durham fellows will reside at Grey College where they are encouraged to take a full part in the life of the Senior Common Room during their residence. They will be entitled to full access to departmental and other University facilities such as Computing and Information Services and the University Library.

Role

The Fellow will research in the Abbas Hilmi II Papers, on an agreed topic, and deliver a lecture at Durham University in June.

Each lecture will be published as a paper in Durham University's [Middle East Papers](#) series.

Each such paper will become a chapter in a volume of high quality and original research to be edited by Dr Pascale Ghazaleh.

The breadth of material in the Abbas Hilmi II Papers will reward an interdisciplinary approach. Such is the richness of the photographic material in the archive that fellows are strongly encouraged to highly illustrate their work with examples from the collection. It is hoped a commercial photographic publication will be published during the fellowship programme drawing on this material.

In order to guide candidate fellows an outline plan of the collection's subject strengths is provided in the fellowship application documentation. This is not intended to be prescriptive and the Advisory Panel will consider alternative suggestions so long as they are well-grounded in the Abbas Hilmi II Papers and this is evidenced in the application proposal.

Responsibilities

The Fellow will:

- research in the Abbas Hilmi II Papers
- deliver a lecture, in person, at Durham based on this research
- produce to deadline a high-quality original book chapter on an agreed topic from work undertaken during her / his fellowship residency drawing upon material from the Abbas Hilmi II Papers
- help to promote the fellowship programme through appropriate networks

Person Specification

The Fellow will:

- be a specialist on 19th and early 20th-century Egypt
- be an established or an early career (post-doctoral) scholar
- have proven research experience
- and have a record of publication

The nature of the collection will often require good reading knowledge of Arabic, Ottoman Turkish, French, and English. The [online catalogue](#) of the collection indicates the languages of each file of material.

The Fellow will be a good networker who can promote the fellowship programme effectively to prospective fellows.

Residence

At least half of the fellows in the programme will reside at Durham during their fellowship, and all fellows will visit Durham at least once in order to deliver their lecture in June.

Fellows may request to reside elsewhere, perhaps when working with other related archival collections, and could then consult digital copies of the Abbas Hilmi II Papers online.

Fellows who reside at Durham will be encouraged to visit other countries with useful related archives. It would be beneficial for all concerned if visiting fellows were also able to participate in academic activities in universities or research institutes in Egypt, Turkey and elsewhere during their research visits. A research travel grant is available to each fellow to facilitate such activities.

Research Output

Fellows will assign their copyright in any relevant work produced during the fellowship to Durham University so that it may be published in the university's [Middle East Papers](#) series, in the edited volume (electronic and print editions), and in any other way that may promote the Abbas Hilmi II Papers and the Fellowship programme. Durham University will grant to the fellow a non-exclusive, irrevocable, royalty-free licence in any such relevant work.

The Mohamed Ali Foundation Fellowship and Durham University should be acknowledged in all publications.

Key Relationships

The Fellow will liaise with the Managing Editor Dr Pascale Ghazaleh and develop a good working relationship with the archivist responsible for the Abbas Hilmi II Papers at Durham.

The Fellowship Advisory Panel (FAP)

This comprises:

1. a senior Durham academic, who chairs the panel
Professor Anoush Ehteshami
2. a trustee of the Mohamed Ali Foundation
Mr Seif El Rashidi

three specialists on the Modern Middle East,

3. **Professor Khaled Fahmi** (Tufts University)
4. **Professor Nelly Hannah** (American University in Cairo)
5. **Professor Eugene Rogan** (University of Oxford)

the first Fellow and Managing Editor

6. **Dr Pascale Ghazaleh** (American University in Cairo)

and a representative from the University Library and Collections which holds the Abbas Hilmi II Papers

Duration of Professional Engagement

One academic (Easter) term, or two months, usually late April to late June.

Grants

£5,000 GBP, payable half upon commencement of the residency and half upon delivery of the completed book chapter (ready for publication).

A modest research travel grant during the residency period is also available.

Reasonable travel expenses incurred in order to take up the residency will also be provided.

Residence Requirements

A two-month residency in Durham or by negotiation elsewhere. Fellows will be required to visit Durham at least briefly in order to deliver the lecture in June.

Key Dates

The annual Call for Applications is published in June and closes Tuesday 20 October 2026. Applicants will be informed of the result of their applications by the end of November 2026.

If required, interviews of shortlisted candidates will take place in November 2026.

Residence in the Easter term (April-27 - June 2027). Alternative arrangements can be discussed.

Delivery of public lecture at Durham near the end of the residency in June 2027.

Delivery of completed book chapter (ready for publication) 4 months after the end of the residency.

Application Process

The application period for the 2027 fellowship begins in August 2026.

Applicants are required to undertake the following:

1. [Complete the Application Form](#)
2. Send a copy of your Project Proposal (2-3 pages) alongside a copy of your CV (Curriculum Vitae) in support of your application to maf.fellow@durham.ac.uk

*Please note you will be required to complete both stages of this process in order for your application to be considered.

The deadline for 2027 Fellowship programme applications to be received is **Tuesday 20 October 2026**. Enquiries can be directed to maf.fellow@durham.ac.uk