Durham University
Institute of Advanced Study

2028/29 IAS Fellowship Nomination

Frequently Asked Questions: Information for Nominations of Major Project Fellows in Michaelmas and Epiphany term 2028/29

Who collates and submits the nominee CV: is it the Nominee (i.e. the nominated Fellow) or the Durham Nominator?
It is the responsibility of the Major Project applicant (i.e. the Nominator) to submit the Fellowship nominee details within the Major Project online application form to the IAS. This includes the submission of a CV for the nominee and other details. The IAS will not accept the nomination without the CV or all of the other details requested on the online form.

Does the Nominee have to collaborate on a Major Project supported by the IAS in 2028/29?
Yes.

Where can the Durham Nominator access the nomination Form?
The online submission form can be found on IAS (Opportunities and Funding - Durham University.

Can a postgraduate student be nominated for a Fellowship?
No. Fellowships are not available to undergraduate or postgraduate students.
The minimum entry requirement is an awarded PhD with five years' post-doctoral experience in an academic role **by the closing date for the major project application.**

Can a Fellow take up a Fellowship outside of the Major Project term of Michaelmas 2028 or Epiphany 2029?
No. It is essential that the Fellow takes up the Fellowship during the term of the Major Project.

The potential Nominee held an IAS Fellowship several years ago. Can they be nominated for a further IAS Fellowship?
No. Previous recipients of an IAS Fellowship are not eligible for a second IAS Fellowship.

Can the Durham Nominator nominate a Durham colleague?
No. Fellowships are not available to Durham academic staff.

The Nominee is not an academic. Can they be nominated for a Fellowship?
Yes. The IAS welcomes nominations from non-academics including artists, writers, policy makers, journalists etc. However, they must also satisfy the criteria for a Fellowship and have an equivalent level of experience and track record. Non-academic Nominees must still undertake collaborative research (with the Major Project).

Can a UK national be nominated?
Yes. Colleagues can nominate anybody of any nationality, who satisfy the nomination criteria, however, one of the aims of the Fellowship scheme is to build long-term international research links, and preference will be given to nominees from outside the UK.

The IAS particularly welcomes nominations of individuals from under-represented groups, and/or geographies.

What costs are covered by the IAS for a successful Nominee?
The IAS will pay for a successful nominated Fellow to travel to Durham: one return economy flight, or standard class rail/ferry etc. Accommodation, suitable for a couple in an apartment or similar, is provided in a Durham College and costs are paid for by the IAS to the College. The IAS also covers the meals costs for the Fellow in a Durham College. A Fellow is provided with a £2000 honorarium for a full ten-week Fellowship to cover incidental expenses.

Referees. Whose responsibility is it to seek and submit?
It will be the responsibility of the Durham Nominator to submit the online references by the specified deadline. References will only be requested for those Major Project applicants that are successful and awarded their project. **Decisions about projects will be conveyed on 14 April 2027**, and thereafter the IAS will make contact with the successful PIs and request they complete the **Online Reference Form** with required details by 14 May 2027. **References uploaded to the online form must be on formal letterhead from the referee**. Any references not received by the deadline will render the nomination completely ineligible.

Referees. Who can act as a referee?
Referees **cannot** come from within the Nominees' own institution or organisation.
Referees **cannot** come from an academic at Durham University.
The Nominator cannot serve as a referee.

References. What should the referee be asked to include within the reference content?
The IAS encourages the Durham Nominator to give guidance to the referees about the reference content, and to address key evaluation criteria. For example, to include comments about:

- the Nominees' standing in their particular field, relative to career stage;
- the quality of the Nominee's research;
- the level of recognition that has been received for their research;
- the quality of the proposed research to be undertaken at Durham;
- the contribution the Nominee could make to the IAS community, and communities at Durham beyond their project and outside their home discipline

How many references must be submitted on the online Reference form?
Two.

Acceptance Confirmation attachment. Must agreement be sought from the Nominee that they would accept a Fellowship?
Yes. It is essential for the IAS to know that the Nominee would accept a Fellowship offer, if successful. Once the Major Project is awarded, the IAS will ask the Project Investigator(s) to submit letters of References (online via the **Online Reference Form**) for their nominated Fellows, and at the same time we will ask the PIs to include a statement from the proposed Fellow that they would accept a Fellowship if offered (via the uploaded **template** to the **Online Reference Form**). Changes cannot be made to timings or conditions once a Fellowship is awarded.

This agreement statement must be uploaded to the **Online Reference Form**.

Closing date. Is there any flexibility to submit the Major Project Application after the closing date?
No. The closing date is midday **GMT 18 March 2027** which includes your Fellowship nominations (name, email, CV and completed question). The IAS will not accept any late material beyond this date and time, and the online submission form will close on this date and at this time.

We advise applicants to give sufficient time to consider nominations and how nominees complement the IAS Major Project.

Who will be making the assessment, and when will I find out if my major project application including nominations has been successful?
The selection panel will comprise the IAS Directorate. Applicants will be advised of the outcomes on **14 April 2027**. The Institute will then ask the successful applicant(s) to submit the references and statements of acceptance for their Fellows by 14 May 2027.
Once received, the IAS Director will fully assess and review the Fellowship nomination, including external assessment. It is responsibility of the IAS to make initial contact with those Nominees who are successful, and it is the IAS who will make an initial informal Fellowship offer. The IAS will copy the PIs into this informal offer. The IAS will not contact any unsuccessful Nominees, but will alert the Nominator of the outcome.

How is the Fellowship Nomination assessed?
Nominations are evaluated in accord with the IAS's established criteria for Fellowships. Nominees should be:

- world-leading researchers (or practitioners, for example writers, artists, policy makers etc.).
- they must have a well-established or strongly emerging international reputation.
- they must have made major contributions to their field and a substantial publication record (or equivalent achievements) relative to career stage;
- they must be able to provide substantial evidence of research leadership and/or public impact.
- they are expected to have played a significant role in shaping their discipline or field through their outputs, achievements and indicators of esteem.

In completing the Nominee details in the Major Project application Form please give all of the above consideration. It is these specific areas which will be evaluated:

- international standing and contribution of the candidate to his/her field, as appropriate to the career stage of the candidate. (40%)
  quality of proposal for research activities during the IAS Fellowship, and relevance to a relevant IAS Major Project in 2028/29. (30%)
- how Fellows engage outside their home discipline whilst in Durham. (30%)

If the above document fails to address any question a Durham Nominator may have, then please contact the IAS Manager, Linda Crowe at ias.manager@durham.ac.uk or the Director, or any Co-Director of the IAS.