



HUMANE
PHILOSOPHY
SOCIETY



Humane
Philosophy
Project



Blackfriars Hall
University of Oxford

New Generation Research Exchange Call for Applications

Summary

The Humane Philosophy Society, in collaboration with the Faculty of Philosophy, University of Warsaw, the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Zagreb, and Blackfriars Hall, University of Oxford invite applications for the New Generation Research Exchange programme. The exchange programme will give young scholars in Central and Eastern Europe (CEE) working on research projects engaging with Big Questions of fundamental human importance the opportunity to participate in three fully funded workshops taking place at the Universities of Warsaw, Zagreb and Oxford. Participants will have the further opportunity to apply to continue the research they undertake as Marek Matraszek Scholars, during a term of supervised research at the University of Oxford. Participants' research projects will be assessed by an external committee after the final workshop takes place to determine possible supervisors for the Matraszek Scholars 2027. The NGRE programme will conclude with an alumni workshop in the summer of 2027 in Trogir, Croatia.

Eligibility

Applicants will normally be MA or early PhD students at Central and Eastern European research institutions, or young scholars from CEE on equivalent degree programmes outside the region. The programme is intended to support research projects of successful candidates during the final year of their MA course, or developing their MA research topics for publication, or with a PhD application in mind, as well as those beginning to work on a PhD. Applicants from any academic discipline are welcome. Proposed projects should broadly fall under the project themes, which are outlined below.

For the purposes of the project, Central and Eastern Europe (CEE) is defined as: Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czechia, Estonia, Georgia, Hungary, Kosovo, Latvia, Lithuania, Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia and Ukraine.

Activities

Successful candidates will participate in a series of three masterclass workshops during the course of the programme. The meetings will take place over three days each at the Universities of Zagreb, Warsaw, and Oxford. Participants will have the opportunity to discuss their work as a group and with IRC-appointed tutors, as well as participate in seminars led by prominent visiting speakers. The Fellowship will cover all the costs of participating in each masterclass including travel and accommodation. The fellowship will conclude with an alumni workshop in the summer of 2027 which will cover all participant costs except travel. The total value of the Fellowship is 4000 USD.

Two participants will have a further opportunity to continue their research as Marek Matraszek Scholars during a term at Oxford University, where they will be able to work closely with a secondary supervisor to advance their work. The funding for research visits at Oxford University will cover accommodation, living costs, college fees, and supervision and have a total value of 6000 USD.

Supported Research Themes

The programme will support research which engages with Big Questions of universal human importance. We are especially interested in research into fundamental issues which straddle boundaries between disciplines including philosophy, psychology, physical sciences, social sciences, theology, literature and cultural studies. Applicants will be expected to engage with recent developments in their disciplines, and demonstrate a high standard of academic rigor. Suitable topics include, but are not limited to:

- The significance of theological traditions for scientific practice today;
- The relations of brains, minds and human persons;
- Whether physical cosmology can explain the origin of the cosmos;
- The role of religion in the historical development of science;
- The place of values in the natural world;
- The relevance of literary works and traditions for understanding and interpreting Big Questions;
- Phenomenology of human life and interpersonal relations;
- Intellectual traditions in CEE and their import for Big Questions;
- Free will and scientific determinism and/or divine foreknowledge;
- Empirical psychology and the second person perspective;
- Phenomenological approaches to religion;
- Understanding notions of God, good and evil in a scientific age.

For further example areas that explore Big Questions applicants are strongly encouraged to visit the Humane Philosophy Society's website where example areas of interest are listed.

For more information on the NGRE fellowship programme as well as on NGRE alumni visit: www.humanephilosophy.com

Application process

Applications for NGRE fellowships must be submitted no later than **25 September 2026** for the cycle of the programme starting November 2026. Applications must include the following documents.

- A proposal describing the research the candidate is carrying out, how far the research is advanced, and an outline of the work the candidate expects to complete during the course of their final year.
- A full curriculum vitae, and a statement saying how the candidate expects to benefit from participating in the programme
- An academic reference preferably from the candidate's supervisor if the research project is part of an MA or PhD degree.
- A confirmation from the candidate's institution stating that they are allowed to participate in the programme during the academic year 2026–7 will be required to confirm participation from all candidates who are made an offer.

All application materials should be submitted via email to info@humanephilosophy.com stating in the subject line: "NGRE application". The results of the competition will be announced in early **October 2026**.

By submitting an application for the New Generation Research Exchange candidates accept and acknowledge the terms of processing their personal data for the purpose of the application process. For further information concerning the processing of personal data by the University of Warsaw see the personal data information sheet on the Humane Philosophy Society's website in the NGRE tab. If you have any questions please contact Dr Mikołaj Sławkowski-Rode: m.slawkowski-rode@uw.edu.pl