



Call for Templeton Visiting Fellowships

New Horizons for Science and Religion in Central and Eastern Europe

The Ian Ramsey Centre for Science and Religion
University of Oxford

Summary

The Ian Ramsey Centre for Science and Religion (IRC), University of Oxford, is pleased to offer ten visiting fellowships for researchers in science and religion in Central and Eastern Europe (CEE). Successful applicants will be awarded up to US \$15,000 to support research visits at institutions outside of CEE. Grants are intended to afford researchers in CEE the opportunity to build networks with world-class researchers and institutions outside of the region. There will be two rounds of applications. Proposals submitted for the first round must be received by the IRC no later than **31 January 2021**.

Aims

Fellowships aim to give early-career researchers working on Big Questions at the interface of science, theology, and/or philosophy in CEE countries the opportunity to develop their work at world-class institutions outside CEE.

Eligibility

Applicants will normally be researchers currently or recently affiliated with institutions in CEE. This includes permanent and temporary faculty members, as well as researchers who have recently completed a doctoral degree, or postdoctoral post. Applicants will have appropriate research experience in science, theology and/or philosophy. Applicants will be early-career researchers. Usually this will mean that applicants are within eight years of completing their doctoral degrees. Applications are welcome from researchers working in any religious tradition, and from researchers working in no religious tradition. Prospective applicants unsure of their eligibility are encouraged to get in touch with the IRC at [contact details].

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

Big Question Research

Research proposals should focus on Big Questions at the interface of science, theology, and/or philosophy. The Project encourages applications that fall within three broad themes: science and religion in the CEE context; reason and faith; and persons, mind and cosmos. Suitable topics include:

- 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;
- How the history of CEE has influenced views on science and religion;
- 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, applicants are strongly encouraged to visit the project website, <www.cee.ianramseycentre.info>. Proposals with an interdisciplinary component are especially encouraged. Favourable consideration will be given to clear, focused research topics and questions, with the potential for broader implications.

Host Institutions

Applicants must identify host institutions in advance of applying. Host institutions will usually be world-class research institutions and must be located outside of CEE as defined in the previous section. Applicants are expected to contact their preferred host institution prior to application to obtain agreement that the visit may take place, and that the institution will provide appropriate facilities for its duration.

Host institutions must agree to provide successful applicants with access to appropriate research facilities (libraries etc.) and events. Host institutions are not required to provide a workspace, or further support. Applications that demonstrate enthusiasm on the part of the host institution to support the applicant's research will be favoured.

Financial Information

The monetary amount of each Fellowship has been set at US \$15,000. This is expected to cover research visits of three to six months. Applications for shorter visits should specify the sum requested. Fellowship funds will be delivered directly to applicants as a stipend. Fellowship funds may be used to cover the accommodation; books and supplies; personal expenses; covering research leave from your home institution; health insurance; tuition; travel to and from the home country and host institution; visa.

How to Apply

Applications will be accepted in two rounds in 2021 and 2022. Applications for the first round of awards should be sent to cee.irc@theology.ox.ac.uk by 31 January 2021. Please entitle your email "Fellowship Project Proposal: New Horizons in CEE". Applications must be written in English and will include the following documents:

- A letter of intent identifying the host institution, the length and nature of the visit, and explaining how the applicant will benefit (c. 500 words);
- A research proposal focused on Big Questions at the interface of science, theology, and/or philosophy (c. 500 words);
- A CV including a list of publications;
- A letter from the host institution confirming that it will host the applicant for the duration of the fellowship;
- A letter from the applicant's home institution confirming that it will release the applicant from any duties that might conflict with the Fellowship if applicable;
- Contact details of two referees whom the IRC may contact if the applicant is shortlisted.

The letter of intent should detail how the applicant will spend their time during the visit; why the host institution is appropriate; whether there are any researchers at the host institution whom the applicant will collaborate during the visit; and how the visit will benefit the applicant's future career. The research proposal should explain how the research project fits into the applicant's wider research, and should identify any potential outputs including publications and public engagement. Please also include anything further that you think is relevant.

Applications will be judged by the IRC in consultation with external academic advisors. We expect to inform applicants of the result of the first round by 30 April 2021.

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Who can apply?

Early-career researchers currently or recently affiliated with institutions in eligible CEE countries.

2. What is a 'host institution'?

A 'host institution' is the University that will receive you as a Templeton Fellow i.e. any university outside of CEE which is willing to host you for the duration of your visit.

3. Which institutions could receive me as a Templeton Fellow?

The IRC expects that applicants will apply to visit world-renowned universities outside CEE. There are no other restrictions on host institutions.

4. Can I apply to the Ian Ramsey Centre to be my host institution?

Applicants may apply to take up Fellowships at the Ian Ramsey Centre, University of Oxford. Please contact the Centre prior to application if you intend to do so.

5. Can I be a Templeton Fellow for longer than six months?

The Fellowships are for up to six months only. You may wish to extend your stay at your host institution at your own expense, but you will no longer be a Templeton Fellow for the additional period.

6. When is the deadline?

The deadline for receipt of applications is 31 January 2021.

7. Who can write my reference letters?

Reference letters will usually be requested from academic researchers who have taught or worked with the applicant. References from non-academic referees will be accepted where appropriate. Letters from relatives or friends of referees will not be accepted.

8. Can I submit two applications?

Each applicant can submit one application only.

9. Can I apply if I have participated in other activities of the IRC project?

Yes, there are no restrictions for participation in as many activities of the IRC project.

10. Which topics are acceptable?

Research proposals should focus on Big Questions at the interface of science, theology, and/or philosophy. Example questions the Project is working on can be found at the IRC website.

11. When will I get paid?

Templeton Fellowships will be disbursed in two stages, the first state will be shortly prior to the beginning of the visit.

12. Can I hold this Fellowship in combination with other grants?

Yes, you may hold the Templeton Fellowship in combination with another scholarship scheme as long as you can demonstrate that the two grants are complementary.