

James Fellowship in the Social Sciences for 2026

Guidelines

Round Opens: 26 May 2025

Round Closes: 14 July 2025

Decisions announced: July 2025

For 2026, the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (FASS) will award one visiting research fellowship for an outstanding early and mid-career researcher in the social sciences to collaborate with FASS researchers at the University of Sydney.

Prospective Fellows are invited to be part of the intellectual life of FASS. The fellow will be hosted by a research discipline (to be named in the application) from within FASS at the University of Sydney. Applicants should approach potential collaborators in advance of applying for the proposed Fellowship.

The successful application will be selected by a committee including the Associate Dean Research, the Director of Research Development, and other internal and external colleagues as required.

Details of the James Fellowship in Social Sciences

Funded by the Ernest Athelstan James Bequest, which supports the furtherance of studies in the social sciences, this Fellowship is for a social sciences researcher.

Fellows will be housed in a discipline, within a school in FASS. Fellows must be distinguished researchers of international standing (relative to opportunity) in the social sciences. They will enhance research in FASS at the University of Sydney by:

- advancing their own research program.
- actively collaborating with one or more University of Sydney researchers, on new or existing projects, co-publications and/or external grant applications, as appropriate.
- giving presentations such as workshops, seminars in senior undergraduate or postgraduate courses or Higher Degree Research (HDR) master classes, with the scale of the presentation program negotiated in relation to the duration of the Fellowship.
- delivering at least two outward-facing public talks, panel discussions, podcasts or insight pieces facilitated by their school.

Eligibility

Institutional affiliation to a university or equivalent research or cultural organisation is required. Applicants must have a higher degree or equivalent professional or community experience, and a track record of research publications and/or external grant success as appropriate. Fellowships must be taken up and fully

spent in the calendar year allocated. The University is committed to equity, diversity and social inclusion. Applications from equity target groups and women are encouraged.

Selection Criteria

The applicant's proposed program of work should be in line with our research strategy that states that 'Our research is excellent, tackles the greatest challenges and contributes to the common good'.

The key criteria that the committee will consider are:

- degree to which the applicant is an outstanding researcher of international standing (relative to opportunity)
- quality of the proposed research program
- quality of statement of support from the FASS Academic Host and any other collaborators from the University of Sydney. The statement must clearly indicate that the Head of School supports the applicant being hosted within the relevant discipline.
- quality and quantity of anticipated research outcomes shared between the applicant and University of Sydney research collaborators, with special emphasis on the potential for future externally funded research projects
- degree to which the activities associated with the fellowship will enhance FASS's research reputation
- degree to which the proposed collaboration will yield new insights.
- commitment to prepare and submit a collaborative grant application with co-investigators from FASS, ideally with the University of Sydney as the administering organization (if appropriate). Priority will be given to the competitive development of grant applications that diversify or internationalize FASS's existing funding streams
- degree to which the proposed slate of work advances and raises the profile of research already underway in FASS.

Applicants must agree to the following requirements:

- visiting fellows should be present at the University of Sydney for the duration of the fellowship as specified in the letter of award
- target funding schemes and rounds should be clearly identified with eligibility confirmed in advance
- where relevant, grant applications should specify the University of Sydney as the administering organisation
- FASS should be acknowledged in all publications, presentations, and communications that proceed from the fellowship.

General Conditions

Fellowship applications must be developed in consultation with a FASS researcher who will host the Fellow. All applications must be accompanied by a letter of support from the FASS host indicating the nature of the collaboration, proposed research program, and any conflict of interest. FASS hosts can only provide one letter of support per Fellowship round and must provide current reports on outcomes from all previous Fellowships, including SSSHARC Fellowships, with which they have been associated.

Fellows must reside in Sydney for the duration of their fellowship, the substantial part of which must coincide with the Australian academic year (March to November). Fellowship support is available for up to AUD \$20,000 toward travel and accommodation while at the University of Sydney. The value awarded will depend on the Fellow's city of origin and the length of the Fellowship.

The length of the Fellowship is flexible depending on the Fellow's other commitments and subject to co-funding from another institution. However, no additional stipend or living allowance is attached to this fellowship.

Fellowships must be taken up and funding fully spent in 2026.

It is the Fellow's responsibility to ensure they have the correct visa and travel insurance required for their stay. The Immigration and Relocation department at the University of Sydney will provide a letter of invitation to successful applicants, which may be used for visa purposes.

Additional Support

Fellows and projects may be profiled on the FASS website and social media channels. The Fellow must arrange desk space, access to computing and printing facilities, and a Zoom-enabled meeting room as space permits, with their Academic Host. FASS can facilitate expert review of funding applications in development. An induction will be provided to the Fellow and Academic Host once the Fellow arrives.

Post-award

Fellows and hosts must submit a short report at the end of the fellowship, with a follow-up report due one year later. The first report is a brief pre-formatted document submitted to FASS Research outlining the research activities undertaken during the fellowship. The follow-up report asks for a full description of all outcomes derived from the fellowship (publications, grant applications, etc.). Report content may be published on the FASS website and included in FASS reporting as required. Copies of resulting applications, publications, and reports would be welcomed.

Timeline

Deadline for applications: 14 July 2025

Decisions announced: July 2025

To apply for a James Fellowship in the Social Sciences, please complete the online application form and attach the required documents.

Enquiries should be directed to: fass.research@sydney.edu.au