

Round Opens: 26 May 2025
Round Closes: 14 July 2025
Decisions announced: 28 July 2025

For 2026, SSSHARC will award up to 8 visiting research fellowships for outstanding mid-career researchers in sexuality studies to collaborate with researchers from the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (FASS) at the University of Sydney.

Successful applicants will be known as Hunt-Simes Visiting Chairs or Hunt-Simes Visiting Junior Chairs.

Visiting fellows will be hosted by a research collaborator (named in the application) from within the University of Sydney's Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences. Applicants should approach potential hosts in advance of applying for the proposed Fellowship.

The selection committee will include the Director of SSSHARC (Chair), Associate Dean Research, Director of Research development, and other internal and external colleagues as required.

Hunt-Simes Chair of Sexuality Studies Bequest

The University of Sydney has a generously endowed fellowship program in sexuality studies. Funded by the late Dr Gary Simes—a linguistic historian, bibliographer and University of Sydney graduate—the Hunt-Simes Chair of Sexuality Studies Bequest enables visiting fellowships until such time as a fully endowed Chair is appointed.

Hunt-Simes Visiting Chairs will be housed in the [Sydney Social Sciences and Humanities Advanced Research Centre \(SSSHARC\)](#). Fellows must be distinguished sexuality studies researchers of international standing (relative to opportunity) in the humanities or social sciences. They will enhance research in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (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
- contributing at least one outward-facing public talk, panel discussion, podcast or insight piece facilitated by SSSHARC.

Eligibility

Institutional affiliation to a University or equivalent research or cultural organisation is required. Applicants must have at least a higher degree or equivalent professional or creative practice experience and evidence of impact or standing. Fellowships are open to Australian (non-University of Sydney) and international researchers. The University of Sydney is committed to equity, diversity and

social inclusion. Applications from target groups and women are encouraged. Fellowships must be taken up and fully spent in 2026.

Selection Criteria

The applicant's proposed program of work should be in line with SSSHARC's mission to advance landmark research in the humanities and social sciences. SSSHARC defines landmark research as work that has value to its discipline via the advancement of critical scholarly research, policy or creative practice and its engagement with wider audiences.

The key criteria that the selection committee will consider are:

- degree to which the applicant is an outstanding researcher of international standing (relative to opportunity) in sexuality studies, including LGBTQI studies, queer studies, trans studies and their cognate fields
- quality of the proposed research program
- quality of statement of support from the FASS Academic Host and any other collaborators from across the University of Sydney
- quality and quantity of research collaborations and anticipated outcomes shared between the applicant and University of Sydney researchers. Priority will be given to the competitive development of grant applications that diversify or internationalize FASS's existing funding streams.
- degree to which the applicant will enhance SSSHARC's reputation for advanced and engaged research
- degree to which the applicant will enhance research culture in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences
- degree to which the proposed collaboration will yield new insights.

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
- SSSHARC should be acknowledged in all publications, presentations, and communications that proceed from the fellowship.

General Conditions

Fellowship applications should be developed in consultation with the 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 must be up to date with reports on outcomes from previous 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 (February to November) unless circumstances dictate other times. Fellowship support is available for up to AUD 10,000 per month (pro-rate if less than a month) 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. 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 will be profiled on the SSSHARC website and social media channels. SSSHARC can provide desk space, access to computing and printing facilities, Zoom-enabled meeting rooms and workshop space. SSSHARC can also facilitate expert review of funding applications in development across the Fellowship.

Post-award

Fellows and hosts must submit a summary of activities undertaken at the end of the fellowship and, one-year later, a report on outcomes derived from the fellowship (publications, grant applications, etc). Report content may be published on the SSSHARC website and included in the SSSHARC annual reports. Copies of resulting applications, publications, etc, would be appreciated.

Timeline:

Deadline for applications: 14 July 2025

Decisions announced: 28 July 2025

To apply for a SSSHARC Hunt-Simes Chair of Sexuality Studies Fellowship, please complete the online application form and attach the required documents.

Further information about SSSHARC can be found at www.sydney.edu.au/arts/sssharc

Enquiries should be directed to: Sydney Social Sciences and Humanities Advanced Research Centre
sssharc.research@sydney.edu.au