



Sir Percy Spender Visiting Fellowship - Terms and Conditions

The Sir Percy Spender Visiting Fellowship was developed to recognise and support professors and senior legal professionals of high international standing who wish to make a genuine contribution to the research environment at Sydney Law School. The Visiting Fellows scheme aims to contribute to the Law School’s mission to be a vibrant, diverse, and innovative community of legal scholarship. Recipients of the Sir Percy Spender Visiting Fellowship will each receive funding of up to \$6000 AUD for international visitors and \$3000 AUD for visitors who reside in Australia.

The Sir Percy Spender Visiting Fellowship is named after Sir Percy Claude Spender KCVO KBE QC (1897-1985). Spender won Sydney Law School’s University Medal for Law in 1922 and was appointed to King’s Counsel in 1935. Spender acted as Treasurer under the Menzies Government and later served as the Minister for External Affairs, playing a critical role in securing the ANZUS Pact and Treaty of San Francisco. Spender went on to serve as Ambassador to the United States (1951-8) and President of the International Court of Justice (1964-7). Further details on Sir Percy Spender’s life and career can be accessed via the [Australian Dictionary of Biography](#).

The following document sets out the terms and conditions for this award.

Please contact law.research@sydney.edu.au if you have any questions.

2024 round - key dates

- Round opens: Monday, 31 July 2023.
- Deadline to contact a prospective academic host: Friday, 15 September 2023.
- Deadline for application: Monday, 25 September 2023, 11.59 pm (AEST, Sydney time).
- Decisions announced: October 2023.
- For visits within the period: March - November 2024.

Applications must be submitted via the [online application form](#) for the Sir Percy Spender Visiting Fellowship on the Sydney Law School [visitors program webpage](#).

Contents

Eligibility	2
Selection criteria	2
Academic host	3
Purpose of visit	4
How to apply	4
Requirements and conditions	5
Duration of visit	5
Funding	6
Visa	6
Additional support / facilities	7
Questions	7

Eligibility

The Sir Percy Spender Visiting Fellowship is open to professors with an established research record of international standing in law and legal studies, criminology, or other related areas. The scheme is open to both domestic and international applicants.

Applicants will typically be:

- Employed as a professor by a university, institute, or similar organisation, but exceptionally may be a judge, commissioner, or other senior legal officer.
- Seeking to spend a substantive period of time at the University of Sydney Law School (nominally, 2 weeks, but a longer visit may also be possible).

Visiting Fellows may be on sabbatical leave from their normal employment or sponsored directly by other organisations. Researchers who live in countries in the [Global South](#) are strongly encouraged to apply.

Selection criteria

Visiting Fellows will ideally contribute to Sydney Law School's mission *"to be a vibrant, diverse and innovative community of legal scholarship, recognised globally for our excellence; training tomorrow's leaders and addressing societal challenges through law reform and justice."*

Fellows are expected to make a genuine contribution to the research environment at Sydney Law School. Applications will be reviewed by members of the Law School's Research Committee and Associate Dean, Research. The following selection criteria will be considered:

- The applicant's research track record and standing including publications, grants, engagement, and research impact (relative to opportunity);
- The quality of the applicant's proposal document, including whether the applicant's research interests align with the Law School's research areas and strategic priorities;
- The extent to which the applicant has developed a clear research agenda for their proposed visit including why Sydney Law School is an appropriate venue to host their visit;
- The applicant's willingness and ability to engage with Sydney Law School's research community and share their expertise with staff and students e.g. workshops, seminars, panel discussions, or other knowledge exchange;
- The applicant's willingness to provide research mentoring based on their subject matter expertise or broader skill set as a researcher/legal professional;
- The applicant's potential to collaborate with Sydney Law School staff e.g. co-authoring publications, or collaborating on research projects, workshops, or grant applications;
- The potential for the applicant to contribute to the activities and initiatives of the Law School's Research Centres and Institutes (if relevant); and
- The quality of the letter of support from the applicant's Sydney Law School academic host.

Academic host

Applicants must secure the support of a Sydney Law School academic staff member to host their proposed visit. The academic host should have similar or complementary research interests to the applicant.

Applicants are required to provide a letter of support from their academic host which confirms the host's endorsement of the application. A [letter of support template \(doc, 26KB\)](#) can be downloaded from the Law School's website.

How to identify relevant Law School staff:

Applicants who do not have an existing connection to Sydney Law School can:

- [Refer to the list of academic staff](#); and
- [Search for academic staff](#) with specific research interests e.g. environmental law.

When contacting your prospective academic host, please provide:

- A copy of your CV and list of publications;
- A brief explanation of why you'd like to apply for the Sir Percy Spender Visiting Fellowship and the activities you'd like to undertake; and
- The potential dates of your visit (to ensure the host is available for that time period).

If you secure the support of an academic host, you will be required to provide a draft proposal outlining the purpose of your proposed visit including details of the research project or research related activities you intend to undertake during your visit (if applicable), opportunities for potential collaboration with Sydney staff, and the contributions you intend to make to Sydney Law School.

Applicants must agree to a program of work with their academic sponsor before completing their application.

Sydney Law School staff are likely to receive multiple enquiries and may not be able to accommodate every request to act as an academic host. In addition, the Spender Fellowships are competitive and not all applicants will be successful.

If an applicant is awarded a Sir Percy Spender Visiting Fellowship, their academic sponsor will:

- Facilitate the Visiting Fellow's participation in relevant School activities;
- Assist with the organisation of specific events and meetings outlined in the Visiting Fellow's application; and
- Assist the Visiting Fellow to prepare a research program for their visit (if a 408 research visa is required). The research program is a plan for what activities the visitor will undertake during their visit and is used by the Department of Immigration and Border Protection to assess the visa application.

Purpose of visit

Applicants are required to draft a proposal outlining the purpose of their visit (maximum 2 pages).

The proposal should include (where relevant):

- Details of the research project or research related activities the applicant would like to undertake during their visit;
- The contribution the applicant intends to make to Sydney Law School (e.g. seminar presentations, workshops, mentoring sessions, etc.);
- Opportunities for potential collaboration with Sydney Law School staff e.g. co-authoring publications, or collaborating on research projects, workshops, or grant applications; and
- The proposed benefits and outcomes of the visit.

The proposal must be reviewed and supported by the applicant's academic host prior to submission.

How to apply

To apply, please complete the online [application form](#) for the Sir Percy Spender Visiting Fellowship on the Sydney Law School visitors program webpage.

Applicants are required to upload:

- A brief CV (maximum 4 pages) that includes details of their employment, qualifications, and a list of publications;
- A letter of support from the applicant's Sydney Law School academic host confirming their support for the visit; and
- A proposal of up to 2 pages outlining the purpose of the visit (see the 'Purpose of visit' section above for further details).

If the applicant's CV and publications list are in separate files, please combine them into a single document.

Requirements and conditions

If the application is successful, the Visiting Fellow's employer would be expected to approve their research visit to Australia and their entering into an affiliation with The University of Sydney for the duration of their visit.

The conditions of the Sir Percy Spender Visiting Fellowship award are:

1. The Fellow is expected to (a) conduct research on their identified research project (if applicable); (b) present their research in a seminar, lecture, or workshop; (c) participate in an additional event with undergraduate, postgraduate, or higher degree by research (HDR) students; and (d) explore the potential for collaborations with researchers at the University of Sydney Law School.
2. The Fellow and their project may be profiled on the University of Sydney Law School website.
3. It is the Fellow's responsibility to ensure they hold a valid visa required for entry into Australia that allows them to engage in all the activities they wish to undertake.
4. It is the Fellow's responsibility to ensure they have appropriate travel and health insurance for their visit.
5. The Fellow is required to submit a brief report (approximately 1 page) outlining the research and related activities undertaken during their visit. The report should be submitted within two months of completing the Fellowship. Extracts from the report may be published on the Law School website and included in Law School Centre annual reports and promotional material.
6. All publications and outputs resulting from sponsored activities should appropriately acknowledge The University of Sydney. Copies of such publications would be welcome (where feasible).

Duration of visit

The length of the Fellowship is flexible depending on the Visiting Fellow's research priorities, external funding sources, and the availability of their Sydney Law School academic host.

It is expected the Fellow will visit the University of Sydney Law School for a period of 2 weeks, but visits may be up to 3 months. Longer visits up to 12 months may be considered in exceptional cases.

Visits of less than 2 weeks will not be funded, except where the nature of the visit is such that the visitor will make a substantial contribution to the research life of the Law School, via a series of events and other activities that will substantially contribute to the profile and mission of Sydney Law School.

Visiting Fellows are encouraged to visit during the Australian academic year (late February to end November) to ensure there are greater opportunities to engage with Sydney Law School staff and students.

Visits outside of this period will be considered as exceptional, and must be justified based on the applicant's proposed activities and the availability of the applicant's academic host.

Visiting Fellows may not visit during the University of Sydney's seasonal break which generally occurs during in the last 2 weeks of December and the first 2 weeks of January.

Funding

Recipients of the Sir Percy Spender Visiting Fellowship will each receive funding up to \$6000 AUD for international visitors and \$3000 AUD for visitors who reside in Australia.

The Fellowship can be used towards the Visiting Fellow's travel and accommodation expenses while in Sydney.

The funding awarded through this Fellowship should be considered a partial contribution towards the visit and may not cover all expenses. As part of the visa process, applicants will need to confirm they have other resources to financially support their visit.

It is expected the Fellow will visit the University of Sydney Law School for a period of 2 weeks or longer to be eligible to receive the Fellowship payment.

The Fellowship payment must be taken up during the 2024 calendar year.

Visa

Visiting Fellows are responsible for ensuring they hold a valid visa for entry into Australia that will allow them to engage in all the activities they wish to undertake during their stay.

Visitor visas (e.g. 600, 601, and 651) aren't suitable for Visiting Fellows who plan to undertake or collaborate on research during their visit.

Visiting Fellows will typically require a [408 Temporary Activity - Research Activities visa](#) or [400 Temporary Work \(Short Stay Specialist\) visa](#) depending on the nature and duration of their visit. The University's HR Immigration team can provide general advice on which visa is most suitable based on the purpose of the Visiting Fellow's visit and the activities planned.

If the Visiting Fellow intends to visit other universities during their trip to Australia, these institutions must be listed in their visa application.

The University of Sydney's HR Immigration team will provide a letter of invitation to successful applicants, which may be used for visa purposes.

As some visas can take up to several months to be approved, it is important for applicants to consider visa processing times when planning the dates for their proposed visit.

Additional support / facilities

As an affiliate of the University of Sydney, Visiting Fellows will have access to the following resources for the duration of their visit:

- Access to the University's Wi-Fi network, intranet, and other University systems.
- A University of Sydney email address.
- Access to the Library's online subscription databases and print collections.
- An affiliate card that provides access to:
 - Sydney Law School buildings;
 - Multifunction devices for printing and photocopying; and
 - Multiple libraries on campus.

Visiting Fellows will be provided with a desk, shared office space, and access to a desktop computer (if required). Visiting Fellows are also strongly encouraged to attend Law School events and functions, and to involve themselves in the life of the Law School in general.

Questions

If you have any questions or require further information about the Sir Percy Spender Visiting Fellowship, please contact law.research@sydney.edu.au