

2026/27 IAS Fellowship Nomination

Frequently Asked Questions: Information for Nominations of Major Project Fellows in Michaelmas and Epiphany term 2026/27

Who collates and submits the online form: is it the Nominee (i.e. nominated Fellow) or the Durham Nominator?

It is the responsibility of the **Durham Nominator** to submit the online form to the IAS. The IAS will not accept the nomination material from the Nominee.

Does the Nominee have to collaborate on a Major Project supported by the IAS in 2026/27?

Yes.

Where can the Durham Nominator access the nomination Form?

The online submission form can be found on IAS website and will be available from January 2025.

Can a postgraduate student be nominated for a Fellowship?

No. Fellowships are not available to undergraduate or postgraduate students. The minimum entry requirement is an awarded PhD with a minimum of five years post-doctoral experience in an academic role by the closing date for nominations.

Can a Fellow take up a Fellowship outside of the Major Project term of Michaelmas 2026 or Epiphany 2027?

No. It is essential that the Fellow takes up the Fellowship during the term of the project, along with the full cohort of IAS Fellows.

The potential Nominee held an IAS Fellowship several years ago. Can they be nominated for a further IAS Fellowship?

No. Previous recipients of an IAS Fellowship are not eligible for a second IAS Fellowship.

Can the Durham Nominator nominate a Durham colleague?

No. Fellowships are not available to Durham academic staff.

The Nominee is not an academic. Can they be nominated for a Fellowship?

Yes. The IAS welcomes nominations from non-academics including artists, writers, policy makers, journalists etc. However, they must also satisfy the criteria for a Fellowship and have an equivalent level of experience and track record. Non-academic Nominees must still undertake collaborative research (with the Major Project).

Can a UK national be nominated?

Yes. Colleagues can nominate anybody of any nationality, who satisfy the nomination criteria, however, one of the aims of the scheme is to build long-term international research links, and preference will be given to nominees from outside the UK.

The IAS particularly welcomes nominations of individuals from under-represented groups, and/or geographies.

Must agreement be sought from the Nominee that they would accept a Fellowship?

Yes. It is essential for the IAS to know that the Nominee would accept a Fellowship offer, if successful. Changes cannot be made to timings or conditions once a Fellowship is awarded. This agreement must be uploaded to the online nomination submission.

What costs are covered by the IAS for a successful Nominee?

The IAS will pay for a successful nominated Fellow to travel to Durham: one return economy flight, or standard class rail/ferry etc. A Fellow is provided with a £2000 honorarium for a full ten-week Fellowship. Accommodation is provided in a Durham College at the IAS's expense (suitable for a

couple) in an apartment or similar, and the IAS covers the meals costs for the Fellow in a Durham College.

Referees. Whose responsibility is it to seek and submit?

It is the responsibility of the Durham Nominator to arrange for references, and the Durham Nominator must submit them to the IAS with the online Nomination Form. References must be on formal letterhead from the referee.

Any references not received by the deadline will render the nomination ineligible.

Referees. Who can act as a referee?

Referees cannot come from within the Nominees' own institution.

Neither should a reference be submitted from an academic at Durham University.

The Nominator cannot serve as a referee.

References. What should the referee be asked to include within the reference content?

The IAS encourages the Durham Nominator to give guidance to the referees about the reference content, and to address key evaluation criteria. For example, to include comments about:

- the Nominees' standing in their particular field, relative to career stage;
- the quality of the Nominee's research;
- the level of recognition that has been received for their research;
- the quality of the proposed research to be undertaken at Durham;
- the contribution the Nominee could make to the IAS community, and communities at Durham beyond their project and outside their home discipline

How many references must be submitted with the online nomination Form?

Two.

Closing date. Is there any flexibility to submit the Nomination Form after the closing date?

No. The closing date is midday GMT 23 May 2025, and the IAS cannot accept any late material beyond this date. **The online submission form will also close on this date and at this time and will not allow any late submissions.**

Who will be making the assessment, and when will I find out if my Nomination has been successful?

The selection panel will comprise the IAS Directorate. Nominators will be advised of the outcomes on w/e 21 June 2025. **It is responsibility of the IAS to make initial contact with those Nominees who are successful**, and to make an initial informal Fellowship offer. The IAS will not contact any unsuccessful Nominees, but will alert the Nominator of the outcome.

How is the Nomination assessed?

Nominations are evaluated in accord with the IAS's established criteria for Fellowships. Nominees should be:

- world-leading researchers (or practitioners, for example writers, artists, policy makers etc.).
- they must have a well-established or strongly emerging international reputation.
- they must have made major contributions to their field and a substantial publication record (or equivalent achievements) relative to career stage;
- they must be able to provide substantial evidence of research leadership and/or public impact.
- they are expected to have played a significant role in shaping their discipline or field through their outputs, achievements and indicators of esteem.

In completing the Nomination Form please give all of the above very particular consideration when completing section #8 and #9. It is these specific areas which will be evaluated:

- international standing and contribution of the candidate to his/her field, as appropriate to the career stage of the candidate. (40%)
- quality of proposal for research activities during the IAS Fellowship, and relevance to a relevant IAS Major Project in 2026/27. (30%)
- how Fellows engage outside their home discipline whilst in Durham. (30%)

If the above fails to address any question a Nominator may have, then please contact the IAS Manager, Linda Crowe at ias.manager@durham.ac.uk.