



Oxford Templeton Visiting Fellowships to Latin America

Science, Philosophy and Theology in Latin America
Ian Ramsey Centre (IRC) for Science and Religion
University of Oxford

Call for applications

Aim and summary

The Oxford Templeton Visiting Fellowships to Latin America is a fellowship scheme which aims to encourage Latin American universities to invite senior academics from other regions of the world to visit their institution for short-term courses, workshops and lecture series on topics broadly related to the interplay between science, philosophy and theology. The scheme, developed by the Ian Ramsey Centre for Science and Religion, University of Oxford, and funded by the John Templeton Foundation, is intended to foster the engagement of Latin American scholars and students with academics and ideas from other parts of the world. The hope is that this engagement will enhance the capabilities of students as potential researchers and communicators of ideas.

Up to ten Fellowships for visiting scholars to Latin American will be awarded by the Ian Ramsey Centre for Science and Religion. Each grant will be worth up to **U\$15,000**, to help support a Fellow who has been approached and invited by the institution to visit Latin America. During this visit, it is expected that the Fellow will offer short-term courses, workshops and seminars at the host institution. After this visit, it is also hoped that longer-term academic collaborations will be established. Besides the application for the grant, the host institution will be expected to submit a brief final report at the conclusion of the visit stating the activities carried out, and any future plans and collaborations arising.

The first round of applications awarded four Templeton Visiting Fellowships to Latin America. You can see the selected Fellows in our website (<http://www.cyril.org/en/fellowships/fellows>). The second round of applications, offering six Templeton Visiting Fellowships to Latin America, has as deadline for submission of all documents **15 April 2016**.

Application procedure

The applicants for the awards will be individuals or research teams at reputable institutions in Latin America, who have demonstrable institutional support. The application will consist in applicants suggesting to the IRC awarding the Oxford Templeton Visiting Fellowship to Latin America to one senior, renowned scholar from another region of the world.

The application should include details of the work to be done and activities to be carried out during the duration of the fellowship. It is expected that this work will be on topics at the intersection of science, philosophy and/or theology, although the specific focus of the work and activities could be drawn from a wide-ranging spectrum of fields, including for example, but without being limited to, biology, cosmology, epistemology, mathematics, neuroscience, philosophy, physics, psychology, religious studies, sociology, and theology.

Applicants should secure the commitment of the prospective Visiting Fellow, conditional upon receiving the grant, before submitting their application. Visiting Fellows should come from universities outside of Latin America, with a view to enhancing longer-term international research relationships between institutions in the region and the rest of the world. It is hoped that the grant will allow the visit to have significant academic value and, ideally, some broader public impact.

Topics

Topics and themes of the work of the prospective Visiting Fellow will be required to show interdisciplinary engagement, and in terms of the faculties involved at the host institution. Suggested topics should be at the intersection of science, philosophy and/or theology. For example, issues on cosmology, biology or cognitive science, with particular relevance to the human person. Prospective applicants are strongly encouraged to visit the project's website for a detailed list of possible research questions.

High quality applications on alternative themes will also receive favourable consideration.

Fellowship benefit

Each grant will be of up to U\$15,000. This sum can be used for expected expenditures, such as an honorarium for the Visiting Fellow, from which the professor may wish to make his or her own travel arrangements, accommodation, course advertising and materials, support for a selection of audio-visual outputs, and possible support for local interdisciplinary events.

Two institutions may also apply for a larger grant in collaboration, of up to U\$25,000. In this case, some activities must take place at each institution and at least one activity must be held jointly. If institutions are planning to submit this kind of application, earlier enquiries should be sent in advance to Dr Ignacio Silva, at latin.america@theology.ox.ac.uk.

Application instructions

Applications from across Latin America will be considered in a competitive basis administered by the Ian Ramsey Centre for Science and Religion, University of Oxford.

Letters of Inquiry (a letter stating an applicant's intent to apply) are welcome and encouraged to be sent no later than **15 February 2016**. All final application materials, including letters of support from the prospective Visiting Fellow and host institutions, must be received no later than **15 April 2016**. Applicants are required to submit, in English, Spanish or Portuguese, the following documents:

- A complete application form including:
 - A statement of no more than 1500 words describing the proposed activities to be carried out during the Fellowship (academic and public activities), the research interests of the group or groups with whom the Fellow will engage, and stating how the fellowship will enhance the host research group (if the application is either in Spanish or Portuguese, a 300 word summary should be submitted in English)
 - A budget
 - A simple budget narrative explaining the details of the budget
 - Plans for disseminating the visit and activities through the local media
- A complete curriculum vitae of the proposed Visiting Fellow
- One letter from the host institutions authorities (for example, the Dean of the Faculty) stating its support for the application and proposed Visiting Fellow
- One letter or an email statement from the proposed Visiting Fellow stating his/her intention and commitment to accept the Oxford Templeton Visiting Fellowships to Latin America if and once awarded

For the first round of applications, all materials should be submitted via email to Dr Ignacio Silva at latin.america@theology.ox.ac.uk stating in the subject line: "Oxford Templeton Visiting Fellowships to Latin America - Application".

The IRC will announce the results of the applications by 15 May, 2015.

Should you require further information about the application process, please refer to the Frequently Asked Questions below. If your question is not answered, please contact Dr Silva.

Selection criteria

Applications will be judged by IRC members at Oxford, assisted by two external assessors, from Europe and the United States, according to the following criteria:

- visiting Fellow's reputation and academic quality;
- engagement with up to date scientific developments linked to philosophical and theological perspectives;
- quality of planning of the proposed work and activities;
- appropriateness of the proposed budget;
- prospects for dialogue across disciplines, institutions, and confessions;
- prospects for effective academic outcomes;
- prospects for broader public impact.

The assessment will also look favourably on applicants that have demonstrable potential for longer-term success that will maximise the benefit of investment. This potential will be assessed principally by the integration of the visit of the Fellow within longer-term plans for those involved, and prospects for the broader institution that will host the project.

Applicants are expected to explain how the proposals meet these criteria in their applications.

Successful applicants' obligations

The host to the Oxford Templeton Visiting Fellow to Latin America will be required to:

- prepare a brief biographical statement of the Visiting Fellow and a short description of the host Institution, in English and Spanish/Portuguese for the project website;
- organise seminars, workshops, short-term courses, public lectures, or other academic gatherings for the Visiting Fellow;
- submit a final report by the second month after the completion of the scholarship;
- the leader of the host group should attend the 2017 final conference of the IRC's project (up to US\$750 will be available to cover travel expenses).

Application process milestones

1. Applicant host institution must secure the interest and commitment of the prospective Visiting Fellow
2. Applicant must prepare and request documents for application
3. Applicant must submit documents before deadline: 15 April 2016
4. Assessment of applications
5. Announcement of successful applications: 15 May 2016
6. Fellowship is held anytime between July 2016 and March 2017

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Who can apply?

Any recognised Latin American Institution of Higher Education offering academic degrees valid at their country, through individuals or research groups based at the university, who wish to invite a senior scholar from other regions of the world.

2. What is a 'host institution'?

The 'host institution' is the Latin American University that will receive Oxford Templeton Visiting Fellow to Latin America, i.e. any university in Latin America who wishes to invite a senior scholar from other regions of the world for a short visit.

3. Can I invite members of the Ian Ramsey Centre to visit my institution?

Members of the Ian Ramsey Centre, University of Oxford, may not be invited to be Oxford Templeton Visiting Fellow to Latin America. However, institutions may wish to invite scholars from other centres and faculties at Oxford University.

4. What academic status should be given to the Visiting Fellow at my university?

Status at host institutions could vary, according to the policies of the particular host. It is expected, however, that the Oxford Templeton Visiting Fellow to Latin America will be offered an appropriate official academic visiting status, together with working space and facilities, such as an office or desk, library access, institutional internet access, etc.

5. How long can the Fellowship last?

The Oxford Templeton Visiting Fellowships to Latin America are intended to cover the expenses of short visits. These short visits could vary in length, but we expect the Visiting Fellow to stay for at least two weeks and no longer than six months. In the case of joint applications, it is expected that the Fellow's visit will last at least one month and no longer than six months.

6. Can I use this scheme to invite a scholar to a conference I'm organising?

Yes, as long as the scholar stays longer than the duration of the conference and different activities are organised surrounding his/her visit, such as seminars, research workshops, public lectures, short-term courses, etc.

7. Can the budget be less than U\$15,000 if the visit is for two weeks only?

Yes. You should prepare a grant budget which is appropriate to the length of the visit and the activities to be carried out. You should make sure to discuss a suitable honorarium with the prospective Visiting Fellow, which must be a major part of the budget. Grant applications exceeding U\$15,000 will not be considered, unless they are submitted as joint applications between two host universities.

8. When is the deadline?

The deadline for this second round of applications is 15 April 2016.

9. Who should provide the institutional support?

Letters showing institutional support should be sent together with the application and signed by an authority of the Faculty where the host individual or research group is based, or by any appropriate authority of the University. Letters from directors of research group or institutes cannot be accepted.

10. Can I submit two applications in the same round?

Each applicant can submit one application only per round to the scheme.

11. Can I apply in the second round to extend the stay of the Oxford Templeton Visiting Fellow at my university?

The scheme is intended to foster and promote visits to as many Latin American universities as possible. Hence, first round successful applicants will not be eligible for the second round.

12. If my application was not successful in the first round, can I submit a new application in the second round?

Yes. First round, unsuccessful applicants are welcome to re-apply in the second round.

13. Can I apply if I have received other grants from the IRC or I have participated in other activities of the IRC project?

Yes. There are no restrictions arising from participation in other activities of the IRC project.

14. Which topics are acceptable?

Topics and themes of the work of the prospective Visiting Fellow will be required to show interdisciplinary engagement, ideally in terms of the faculties involved at the host institution. Suggested topics should be associated with a range of topics at the intersection of cosmology, biology or cognitive science, with particular relevance to the human person. For a list of example questions being considered under the project, see the website. Nevertheless, high quality applications on alternative themes will receive favourable consideration. Projects focusing on fine-tuning, theistic evolution and the like are welcome, although the IRC will not consider projects on creationism and/or intelligent design, in the anti-evolutionary sense in which these terms are usually understood.

15. When should the Fellowships begin?

Fellowships can be held any time between July 2016 and March 2017. We suggest you make early arrangements with the prospective Fellow to allow sufficient time for money allocation and organisation of events.

16. How will the grant be disbursed?

It is expected that the host institution will receive the full amount of the grant up to a month before the commencement of the visit. Individual arrangements could be made for the Visiting Fellow to receive his/her honorarium directly from Oxford if requested.

17. Should my university contribute to the visit in any way?

Host universities are not expected to incur in any extra expense to receive the Visiting Fellow besides providing work space and facilities, such as an office or desk, library access, institutional internet access, etc. However, we encourage universities to collaborate in any other ways they find fit, and to express this collaboration in the application.

18. Where can I find the application form?

The Oxford Templeton Visiting Fellowship to Latin America application form can be found at the project's website, www.cyral.org/funding.