

Strategic development of research highlight notice for the John Fell Fund: Main and Small Award Schemes (effective from Trinity Term 2019)

All [John Fell Fund Main and Small Award Scheme](#) applicant and budget eligibility remain unchanged. However, for applications made in the Trinity Term 2019 round and for all subsequent rounds, the Social Sciences Division will place a priority focus on:

- applications led by
 - early career researchers
 - new employees at the University of Oxford within five years of appointment including:
 - permanent employees (e.g. Associate Professors, Statutory Professors)
 - fixed-term employees with a mix of both research and teaching responsibilities (e.g. Departmental Lecturers)
 - returning carers¹
 - those wishing to move into a new research area
- applications from individuals who have made an external small research grant application (e.g. BA/Leverhulme Small Research Grants) to underwrite these external research funds
- applications that align with the [Divisional Research Strategy](#) by utilising Fell Fund awards to build new collaborations and partnerships and generate high-quality collaborative external funding bids. Such activities could span all phases of research programme development including:
 - developing broad thematic networks for cross-fertilisation of ideas
 - cultivating research ideas through focused discussions with a defined group of potential collaborators
 - investigation that are at a pilot phase of a newly identified research area, including gathering data or undertaking new analysis that may require research assistance
 - planning, coordinating and submitting large external funding bids by holding whole team meetings for proposal development, partner negotiations, and bid management support
- pump-priming applications
 - these are projects that enable the development of external funding bids. Those with clear plans for external applications are likely to be viewed favourably
 - the conversion of pump-priming projects into external bids will also be supported by the Divisional Research Facilitation team on request

Please direct queries about this highlight notice to the Social Sciences Divisional Fell Fund inbox: fellfund@socsci.ox.ac.uk

¹ The University's [Returning Carers Fund](#) supports those who have taken a break for caring responsibilities to re-establish their research careers. This highlight notice is intended to support and enhance the existing scheme. The Social Sciences Division will consider funding returning careers who:

- are eligible for the Returning Carers Fund
- are returning carers but do not meet the eligibility criteria for the Returning Carers Fund
- have not received funding from the Returning Carers Fund
- have received funding from the Returning Carers Fund but can make a clear case that additional funding is required in order to support them to return to research and develop their career