# AHRC Early Career Fellowships in Cultural and Heritage Institutions Expression of Interest Form

This Expression of Interest (EOI) form is the first step in the application process for the AHRC Early Career Fellowships in Cultural and Heritage Institutions. It helps identify potential matches between applicants and host organisations and ensures alignment with the fellowship objectives.

Independent Research Organisations (IROs) are cultural and heritage institutions recognised by UKRI for their capacity to lead and deliver high-quality research. In this scheme, IROs in the Cultural and Heritage sector act as host organisations, providing an environment for fellows to carry out their research in collaboration with academic and sector partners.

The Cohort Coordination and Development Team leads the design and delivery of the fellowship’s training and development programme and supports the EOI process. Building on experience from the pilot phase, the team will support fellows through structured skills training, sector insights, and networking opportunities. Fellows are expected to actively engage with this programme, which runs alongside their research and supports career development, collaboration and cohort identity.

You must submit this completed Expression of Interest form to Eloise Rowley, Project Coordinator in the Cohort Coordination and Development team based at the V&A ([e.rowley@vam.ac.uk](mailto:e.rowley@vam.ac.uk)). On submission of your Expression of Interest (EoI) form to the Cohort Coordination and Development team you will be sent an additional, optional Equality, Diversity and Inclusion monitoring form. Any personal data shared will be held according to the V&A’s data protection policy: [Privacy notice · V&A](https://www.vam.ac.uk/info/privacy-notice?srsltid=AfmBOoqB4XACa1rZLqHrG5UaWhSJD2pv_YqcN_UpZ6lfhACZ9cxHQoMl)

Your EoI form must be submitted by 10 December 2025 4:00pm.

As a funder of fellowships, AHRC is keen to ensure research environments are inclusive and accessible for fellows with diverse needs. We recognise the intersectionality of barriers to engagement and aim to take a holistic approach to supporting diversity within cohorts.

Fellows should be offered a supportive environment that acknowledges and accommodates individual needs, particularly in relation to protected characteristics including age, gender reassignment, marital or civil partnership status, pregnancy or maternity, disability, race (including colour, nationality, ethnic, or national origin), religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation (Terminology sourced from GOV.UK: [Types of discrimination ('protected characteristics') - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)](https://www.gov.uk/discrimination-your-rights#:~:text=race%20including%20colour%2C%20nationality%2C%20ethnic,sex)

## Introductory Information

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| Fellowship Project Title: |  |
| Name of Fellowship Applicant: |  |
| Email address of Fellowship Applicant: |  |
| Describe how you meet the UKRI early career criteria? (See UKRI Funding Finder page for definition) |  |
| Name of Independent Research Organisation (IRO) host: |  |
| Alignment with Area of IRO strategic interest: (Please use details provided in ‘IRO Areas of Research Interest’ spreadsheet.) |  |
| Name of additional partner(s), if applicable: (Fellowships can include collaborative projects and placements with additional organisations. This is not a mandatory requirement.) |  |

## What does the fellowship seek to achieve?

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| (Please include information about key research questions and outputs; 400 words max.): |

## How does this fellowship address the strategic priorities identified by the IRO host?

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| (Please include information about how your fellowship will enable your host IRO to advance their strategic areas of research interest as identified in the funding opportunity documentation; 400 words max) |

## Outline your suitability for conducting the proposed fellowship project.

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| (Please include details of your skills, knowledge and experience to date, and how this will enable you to work in partnership with your IRO host and other collaborators, where appropriate, to deliver the project; 400 words max) |

## What is the indicative timescale of the proposed activities?

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| (Please include an outline project plan for the fellowship. This should include the proposed period of the fellowship and details of any activities with additional partner organisations, if applicable; 400 words max) |

## What access, resources and/or training will you require from your IRO host?

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| (Please indicate the resources required to undertake your project. This could include details of particular collection items; access to specialist equipment, e.g. heritage science facilities; training in specific techniques/approaches; 400 words max) |

## What are you career aspirations and what support will you require from the IRO to achieve your goals?

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| (Please indicate what motivated you to undertake research specifically within a cultural or heritage organisation. Indicate what support you will need to achieve these goals; 300 words max) |