International Placement Scheme

Funded fellowships at world-leading international research institutions for PhD students and Early Career Researchers
The International Placement Scheme

In the context of increasingly globalized connections, challenges and opportunities, the need for researchers to build international experiences is stronger than ever.

The AHRC’s International Placement Scheme (IPS) facilitates such experiences by providing funded fellowships at some of the world’s leading research institutions, offering dedicated access to their globally renowned collections, resources and expertise.

The scheme represents a unique opportunity for scholars to enrich their research, understandings and connections through immersion in thriving research cultures and access to privileges unavailable to independent visiting scholars.
Introduction

The IPS provides funded research fellowships for doctoral students, doctoral-level research assistants and early career researchers (ECR) at international partner institutions:

- Harry Ransom Center, Texas, USA
- Huntington Library, California, USA
- Library of Congress, Washington DC, USA
- National Institutes for the Humanities, Japan
- Smithsonian Institution, Washington DC, USA
- Yale Center for British Art, Connecticut, USA

The fellowships enable scholars in any arts and humanities discipline to spend up to six months carrying out primary research at one of the IPS hosts. Fellows enjoy dedicated access to internationally renowned research collections, resources and expertise.

IPS hosts have a proven history of hosting international visiting scholars; IPS fellows will form part of a cohort that includes scholars from the IPS as well as from the host’s own fellowship programmes.

IPS fellows are able to participate fully in the intellectual life of their host. This includes opportunities to take part in workshops, conferences, symposia and special lectures, and present work to peers and mentors.

Networking with other international scholars is a key aim of the scheme; IPS fellows have opportunities to forge international contacts and collaborations, and discuss their work with senior academics and experts.

Imagine a world where British researchers on global topics are tied to their own shores: that cannot be good. The IPS, which develops opportunities for early career researchers overseas, enriches the projects of individuals and is crucial to the UK’s engagement with international research.

PROFESSOR RICK RYLANCE CHIEF EXECUTIVE, AHRC

This is a wonderful scheme. Two of my PhD students were awarded 6 month fellowships at Library of Congress. This experience not only added depth and quality to their respective processes of data collection, but also expanded their intellectual horizons. In addition, it enhanced the international perspective of our entire grant team, in terms of research diversity and excellence.

PROFESSOR JANE CHAPMAN PI ON ‘COMICS AND THE WORLD WARS – A CULTURAL RECORD’ AND PROFESSOR OF COMMUNICATIONS, LINCOLN UNIVERSITY
IPS hosts

As of 2014 there are six IPS hosts:

- **Harry Ransom Center at the University of Texas at Austin, USA**

  Specialising in literature, photography, film, art, and the performing arts, the Center’s extensive collections include 42 million manuscripts, nearly one million rare books, 5 million photographs – including the first ever photograph – and 100,000 works of art.

  It holds one of the world’s strongest collections of 20th and 21st century British and American literature, plus major collections in film and the performing arts, and the archives of many key cultural figures.

- **The Huntington Library, California, USA**

  One of the world’s great cultural, research and educational centres, Huntington specialises in British and American history and literature, and the history of science, medicine and technology. Other strengths include medieval manuscripts, maps, travel literature and the American Southwest. It is also home to one of America’s most comprehensive collections of 18th and 19th century British and French art.

  Huntington surpassed my expectations. There is a sense of community and collaboration, where sharing and presentation of research is actively encouraged, and IPS fellows formed strong social and intellectual bonds. It was invaluable to find materials and contacts crucial to my thesis, and have dedicated research time without the pressure of teaching commitments. I am more enthused and open to considering international opportunities and am thrilled to have made connections in the US.

  CLAUDIA TOBIN SCHOOL OF ARTS, UNIVERSITY OF BRISTOL

- **Library of Congress, Washington D.C. USA**

  As the largest library in the world, the Library of Congress is an unparalleled resource. The collection of more than 155 million items includes more than 35 million catalogued books and print materials in 470 languages; over 68 million manuscripts; and the world’s largest collection of legal materials, films, maps, sheet music and sound recordings. IPS fellows have carried out research on a vast range of subjects, often accessing unique or rare materials.

  I absolutely recommend the IPS. I feel it enriches the whole experience of studying for a PhD. The stimulating research environment, friendships I developed with other fellows and the sheer number of resources all surpassed my expectations. Having access to materials I did not have at home, my PhD now has more of a unique and internationally appealing angle. I hope the IPS will make me more appealing to employers and broaden my career prospects.

  ILONA CAIRNS SCHOOL OF LAW, UNIVERSITY OF ABERDEEN
National Institutes for the Humanities, Japan


I have already recommended the IPS to colleagues. It offers an excellent chance to access world-class collections and institutions and situate one’s research in an international context. The duration is long enough to be useful without interfering with one’s main doctoral work.

CHRISTOPHER JAMES MCHUGH SCHOOL OF ARTS AND DESIGN, UNIVERSITY OF SUNDERLAND

Smithsonian Institution, Washington DC, USA

The Smithsonian is the world’s largest research and museum complex, consisting of 19 museums and galleries, and nine research facilities. The total number of artifacts, works of art and specimens is estimated at 137 million. The Smithsonian also maintains 1.5 million library volumes and 89,000 cubic feet of archival material.

We are so pleased to be part of this collaboration, to have AHRC fellows become a part of the Smithsonian community, and to watch this partnership grow.

ERIC WOODARD DIRECTOR FOR FELLOWSHIPS AND INTERNSHIPS, SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

Yale Center for British Art, Connecticut, USA

Yale Center for British Art is a public art museum and research institute, home to the largest collection of British art outside the UK. The Center’s collections of paintings, sculpture, prints, drawings, rare books, and manuscripts provide an exceptional resource for understanding the story of British art, life and culture since the Elizabethan period. Works include masterpieces by Stubbs, Gainsborough and Turner, as well as major artists who lived and worked in Britain.

Yale University Campus

The sole surviving set of colour plates from William Blake’s Jerusalem are at Yale Center for British Art
IPS benefits

Entitlements vary between hosts, but broadly IPS fellows enjoy:

- Value added to current and future research
- Up to 6 months fellowship
- £600 - £800 travel stipend
- £1200 monthly stipend (plus any existing AHRC/ESRC stipend continues to be paid)
- Visa costs paid, plus help applying
- Help with finding accommodation
- Privileges on a par with host’s staff
- An office or working space
- Access to host’s collections, resources, facilities, curators and scholars
- Networking opportunities
- Opportunities to present work to peers
- Potential to forge international contacts and collaborations
- Access to senior academics
- Participation in conferences, seminars etc.
- Support from hosts with a history of hosting international fellows
- Membership of a cohort of international fellows
- An introduction to a non-UK research environment
- An enhancement to their CV

Eligibility requirements

- Doctoral students applying to all IPS hosts must be in receipt of current AHRC or ESRC funding. ESRC students may only apply to the Library of Congress.
- Early Career Researchers (ECR) applying to NIHU must meet published AHRC ECR eligibility criteria, as outlined in AHRC Funding Guide. Some NIHU institutions require Japanese language skills.

Please check our website for full eligibility requirements.