

Visiting Atlantic Fellows at the LSE International Inequalities Institute

Opportunities for team residencies at the LSE

The Atlantic Fellows programme for Social and Economic Equity at the International Inequalities Institute would welcome applications from teams of academics and practitioners to spend an intensive period together within the Institute, working on a particular topic related to inequality.

This is an exciting opportunity for people who would not otherwise find the opportunity to work together on pressing challenges of inequality. As can be seen from the interests of the International Inequalities Institute and of the Atlantic Fellows programme, we take inequality to cover a wide range of forms and manifestations.

We envisage that the teams will usually consist of four people working together over a period of 3 and 9 months. We will consider applications from groups with an already established history of collaboration, but we are also particularly keen to promote new collaborations. The aim of the programme is to generate breakthroughs in the understanding of problems of inequality, or in the translation of existing knowledge to practical solutions, and one of the ways we hope to do this is through enabling new connections.

We expect that the teams we host each year will be mixed as regards national backgrounds and experience, often to be cross-disciplinary, or bringing together experts in particular fields with those who can think through how to put their collective insights into practice, and diverse as regards gender and ethnicity. Teams will normally be led by a member of LSE's academic staff, who should take the lead in making the application, and attending an interview if shortlisted.

The programme can provide full funding that will allow this to take place, including where required, accommodation in London, travel, research support and buy-out from people's normal responsibilities, as well as a suite of offices within the Institute.

Examples of potential teams

We envisage that teams may propose collaborations of three kinds:

- Residencies that enable academics **bridging different disciplines** to come together for joint research and writing to bring different expertise and literatures to bear on a particular issue.
- Residencies that enable academics **to bridge different geographies** and work together on a common topic. These might include academics from the partner institutions, but also those from outside.
- Residencies that **bridge academic, activist and practitioner perspectives**.

While we would not necessarily expect applicants to cover any of the particular issues described below examples of the kinds of team collaboration that might be suitable could include:

- A group with diverse academic backgrounds in economics, sociology, psychology, and management could examine the factors driving top pay within private organisations, and jointly produce an output that represented the state of the art across their fields.
- A group from different regions might want to work intensively together on contrasting ways in which gender inequalities are developing in different parts of the world.
- A mixed group of academics and journalists might work together on media representations of inequality, and how these could be brought closer to reality.
- A task group with experience of economics, law, accountancy, tax practice and campaigning could collaborate together to work on a practical programme to take action against international tax avoidance.
- A group of medical experts and social scientists assess the most effective interventions to address health inequalities in different countries.
- One of the areas to which much media attention is being given at the moment is the potential effect on inequality of breakthroughs in artificial intelligence and robotisation. A task group including an economist, a technology expert, someone with high-level business experience and an inequality expert could assess the strength of the evidence for these fears and examine policy options to counter them.
- A group of legal academics, lawyers and those from institutions concerned with enforcing racial and gender equalities legislation in different countries report on the effectiveness of different approaches and barriers to them.

As mentioned previous, this is merely an illustrative guide. We will welcome proposals on any topic where the applicants can explain its relevance to the concerns of the Atlantic Fellows programme, and the potential to progress current understanding of inequalities.

Expectations

We would welcome proposals which make the case for the advances that their team's residency would make in area related in the interests of the Atlantic Fellows programme.

Depending on the nature of the collaboration, we would expect teams to produce high quality academic outputs or practical reports that can be widely disseminated (including through our own publications series) to relevant organisations, practitioners and policy makers, leading to changes to policy and practice.

The teams we would most like to support are those where the participants would benefit working together, in person, over a period of months. Participants therefore are required to commit to being in London together and to being physically present within the International Inequalities Institute.

We particularly welcome proposals from teams that include members from the global south, or which touch on issues of the importance of the evaluation of inequalities within developing nations or between countries.

Visiting Atlantic Fellows will become members of the Atlantic Fellows programme and will be expected to participate in other activities alongside members of the other Fellowship tracks. This would include participation in the programme's annual conference and presentation of the results of their project there. If possible, Visiting Fellows would also be required to in the Summer School or other short courses arranged for Non-Residential Fellows. They would also interact with other members of the Institute, participating in its seminars and events.

Visiting Atlantic Fellows will also be expected to hold a seminar at the end of their stay which will be open to Fellows and Scholars (as well as International Inequalities Institute colleagues) to share their findings together, as well as presenting findings to a wider audience at the subsequent annual conference.

The Institute will appoint a member of its staff or associates to work with each team during and after its visit and who would meet with them regularly to discuss progress and exchange ideas throughout the period of the residency. Where appropriate there might be 'master classes' led by a leading international scholar associated with the Institute, for instance examining the significance of various policy initiatives for addressing inequality related to the topic of the group.

Team members

We expect that applications will be made by teams of senior figures in their respective fields, whether academic or practitioner.

An LSE team member, either the lead applicant or an additional LSE academic on the team, would normally act as coordinator of the team, and should be located with the other team members during the residency.

Some members of each team will be established academics (although they may also have policy experience or have worked in a variety of professional settings) who are able to bring cutting edge research to bear on the discussions within their team, and who will be committed to further enhancing research activity as part of the intensive cross-disciplinary or cross-national collaboration.

Teams would be of varied composition, but we will expect that at least one quarter of each year's Visiting Atlantic Fellows will be senior practitioners. Some may be senior professionals or managers, however depending on the focus, we will welcome those with experience in fields such as community activism, art, and media to promote diversity of perspective.

We will endeavour to achieve ethnic and gender diversity amongst the Visiting Atlantic Fellows over time, so will be receptive to applications from teams that include individuals from different nations, especially from the global south.

Successful appointment, the agreed length of project and the status of the Fellow at the LSE may be subject to the requirements of the UK Visa and Immigration office.

Visiting Atlantic Fellows' specific status and title at the LSE will depend on the project and their background, though it is likely they will either be a Visiting Professor, Visiting Senior Fellow or a Professor in Practice. The decision whether to award one of these statuses will be made by the normal LSE committee once a team's visit has been agreed upon.

How to apply

We are currently inviting proposals for two rounds of applications. The first would be for a residency starting before the end of the current academic year (i.e. by June 2017). The deadline for applications is **22 January 2017**. We would aim at making a decision on this round by **6 March 2017**.

The second round would be for residencies within the 2017/18 academic year (i.e. September 2017 – August 2018). The deadline for this will be **8 March 2017**. We will aim at making a decision on this round by **5 May 2017**.

We are likely to call the leaders of shortlisted teams for interview, with options for Skype interviews where necessary.

There will be further rounds for later years. In future years, the programme may specify topics or problems in which it would particularly welcome project proposals.

In thinking of timing, applicants should allow enough time to meet any practical and visa requirements related to the visit. LSE and the Atlantic Fellows programme may be able to advise on finding accommodation and visa requirements for entry to UK.

The application forms require basic details of the project team, the budget and a short project proposal statement. The proposal word limit is 2000 words and is expected to include the following topics:

- Aims of the project.
- How dedicated time of this kind will allow these aims to be met.
- Anticipated outcomes and results of the project and their wider significance
- Qualifications of team members.
- Information on experience of working together / commitment to doing so.
- Detail of the proposed length and timing of the visit.
Please allow for making travel and other arrangements once an invitation has been issued to a team. If it would be most effective to divide a residency into more than one visit, please set this out and allow for the additional travel costs involved.
- Expected outputs (eg. articles, books, reports) and potential dissemination plans.
- The items for which you would require funding and your estimated cost of each of these.
Include information on how the time of the team members at the LSE International Inequalities Institute will be supported (eg. sabbatical/supported secondment etc)

Application forms are now available on the [Atlantic Fellows programme website](#).

Selection process

Applications will be considered by a panel appointed by the International Inequalities Institute. Its current members are:

- Professor John Hills (Co-Director International Inequalities Institute and Social Policy Department)
- Professor Anne Phillips (Government Department)
- Profess Nick Couldry (Department of Media and Communications)
- Duncan Green (Oxfam International, Professor in Practice in International Development)

The panel will review the applications received and may call team leaders for shortlisted projects to interview in person (with other team members by video conference / skype, if practicable). We will aim to make a decision within 2 months of the relevant application deadline.

The panel will make its decisions on the basis of which proposal(s) promise the greatest progress in their field, the relevance of the topic to the programme's overall interests, and the value of the work being carried out as a residential team working together within the Institute. (These criteria may be adapted and refined in later years).

Budget and Resources

We can support justified expenses related to teams of up to a maximum of £23,000 per month of a four-person residency, plus a maximum of £10,000 for reasonable travel expenses for each team. Applicants should provide a *detailed* budget describing the costs they would need to be covered. Eligible items include:

- Residential accommodation in London (office accommodation will be provided; the III and LSE can assist in finding suitable accommodation appropriate to the length of stay);
- Research assistance;
- Support for employing organisations that allows a team member to be released;
- Salary costs for research appointments to LSE (eg as a Professorial Research Fellow - noting that there are LSE appointment requirements and visa implications of this);
- Data access and software costs,
- Other necessary research expenses.

We have available funding for a team residency up to 3 months for 4 people starting within the year to July 2017 (i.e. 12 person months) and a team, or a number of teams, whose visits total 9 months within the 2017-18 academic year (i.e. 36 person months).

We have a suite of offices available for the teams, though space is limited so if more than one team is accommodated within the same academic year it may be necessary to negotiate the timings of the visits so that the offices are available. We are happy to consider applications for whatever length of time will best suit the aims of the collaborations within this constraints. This could be a number of shorter residencies, or as single team for the whole 9 months.

Further information

Those interested in making an application are welcome to make inquiries to Professor John Hills, Co-director of the International Inequalities Institute. Please contact him via Verity Treadwell in the International Inequalities Institute at v.treadwell@lse.ac.uk.