

Election to Fellowship

Guidance for Applicants

This document provides guidance and information for applicants seeking election to Fellowship. The document also identifies recurring norms that many successful applicants have reported as characteristic of their applications in recent years. These are reported to assist future applicants in better understanding what successful applicants should normally demonstrate.

All applicants are strongly encouraged to consult the College Statutes and to fully appraise themselves of the deep, continuing and distinctive nature of Fellowship and the expectations of Fellows.

Advising, guiding, mentoring and proposing has long been an integral part of the Fellowship process. To assist applicants towards a fuller understanding of College and the nature of Fellowship, evidence of meaningful engagement with proposer(s) will normally be expected from applicants. Applicants are expected to engage, over an 'extended duration'¹, with at least two Fellows (one of long standing², and one more recently elected), with at least one of these Fellows attached to a different Faculty to the applicant. At least one of these Fellows should complete the applicant's Proposer form.

This document will be updated as needed, and from time to time.

Statutes (extract 26 Mar 2025 version)

Fellows: P.61-P.69

2. (1) Election to Fellowship is an **academic honour and distinction** grounded in the core values and intrinsic purpose of College, and, subject to the Chapter on Board, Fellows play a **major role** in its general life and governance.

3. (1) Fellows (a) respect and maintain the **academic interests** and **traditions** of the College, (b) **preserve** and **promote** the **academic values** of **scholarship, research and teaching** in College, (c) **sustain** and **safeguard** the fundamental principles of **academic pre-eminence** and **academic freedom**, and (d) **scrutinise** and **comment** upon **major College** and **University** matters.

7. (2) In the general interest of College, to **further the academic life of College, to foster scholarship, research and teaching, and to support the governance of College**, Board shall annually arrange for and conduct the process of election to Fellowship.

7. (3) Board shall ensure that the total number of Fellows (including Senior Fellows, but excluding Honorary Fellows and Fellows Emeriti) shall not be allowed to fall permanently below thirty-six.

¹ This 'extended duration' will normally be expected to be no less than 24 months. In the nomination process closing in 2025, this will normally be no less than 3 months; in the nomination process closing in 2026, this will normally be no less than 12 months. In 2027, and thereafter, this will normally be expected to be no less than 24 months.

² 'Long standing' will normally be taken to signify any Fellow in the upper half of the list of Fellows available in the College Calendar, General Information - Part I, B – Officers and Fellows in the year the application is submitted. 'More recently elected' will normally be taken to be any Fellow in the lower half of the list of Fellows available in the College Calendar, General Information - Part I, B – Officers and Fellows in the year the application is submitted.

7. 4(a) eligible members of the academic staff may be elected to Fellowship on the grounds of **distinction in research and scholarship as shown primarily by published work, academic promise, and contribution to College life.**

Requirements for election to Fellowship(c.f. 7. 4(a) in Statutes)

Distinction in research and scholarship

as shown primarily by

- i. Published work
- ii. Academic promise
- iii. Contribution to College life

The Central Fellowship Committee will also give consideration to

- iv. Further grounds (where clearly demonstrated by the applicant to be in accordance with Statute provisions)

Guidance for applicants

The observations and guidance provided are indicative of past experience and practice. They are based on feedback from recently successful applicants for Fellowship, and on feedback from members of the Central Fellowship Committee who engage in the assessment activities and process.

Election to Fellowship is a competitive and selective process.

Each application is assessed individually and on its own merits. Each applicant must identify, characterise, establish and provide evidence of the compelling nature of their distinction under the above Requirements. Each application will be independently assessed in accordance with the Requirements and Statutes (7 4(a)).

‘Distinction’ necessitates excellence and the quality of being identifiable and special in a highly distinguished way. It will include compelling evidence and attestation of distinction and consequence in research and scholarship and all, or a substantial majority, of those “primary” elements identified in Requirements above.

Sufficiency is not considered distinction.

It is for each applicant to compellingly identify, characterise, establish and provide evidence of the characteristics that convince as to the distinction and consequence of the elements of their application. Applicants are strongly encouraged to consider and convince as to facets of their application that excel and exceed, and that clearly fulfil the criteria identified in the Statutes.

The substantial majority of successful applicants for Fellowship have compelling and distinguished international profiles, regard and recognition. These will commonly include highly selective leadership roles and activities that are not routinely accessible to or fulfilled from within the applicant's mainstream domain community.

The very substantial majority of successful applicants for Fellowship have no less than five years of highly active and effective achievement in College (i.e. five years after satisfying the core Fellowship eligibility criteria).

Applicants will demonstrate clear and compelling independence in their activities, impact and consequence for, and within, College.

Narrow volumetric measures should not be expected, in isolation, to signify or convey either distinction or consequence.

Peer recognition, and advocacy, should not be expected, in isolation, to convince as to distinction or consequence.

Service to College and/or Discipline and/or Community are valuable, but also routinely expected. Applicants should reflect on, and convey, what makes their activities remarkable, meritorious and consequential, such as to convince of the evident distinction of their application

Your proposer should not be, or have been, a collaborator in your activities. You should further request that those external assessors that your proposer nominates for assessment of your application will not be, or have been, collaborators in your activities.