

Senior Postdoctoral Researchers 2025

The Post of SPR

The College intends to appoint no more than 3 Senior Postdoctoral Researchers (SPRs) in this competition. The deadline for entering the competition is **noon on Thursday 30 October 2025** ('the deadline').

Benefits and length of SPR posts

All SPRs will become members of the College and be able to participate in its community of teaching and research staff. They will receive a housing allowance, free meals, access to College facilities and use of a shared office. SPR posts are intended to last for several years, and they will normally end after five years, or when the funding for the underlying grant comes to an end, whichever happens first. They are not renewable. The posts carry no teaching obligations, but SPRs are free to take up teaching opportunities that are consistent with successfully carrying on their full-time research projects.

Eligibility Criteria

- All SPRs must have a PhD or its equivalent.
- SPR posts are intended for those who (i) have already done some post-doctoral research (at least a year; it is expected that successful candidates will normally have done three or four years of such research); (ii) are still early in their career (usually no more than 6 years after a PhD). Selection will be guided by (i) and (ii) but will be sensitive to particular circumstances (periods of illness, maternity, major changes in area of research).
- All SPRs must either hold a postdoctoral award or be about to begin one in the 2025-26 academic year. The total length of the award must be no less than 3 years, and there must be at least 2 years of the award left, starting from the beginning of the 2025-26 academic year.
- An SPR cannot be held in conjunction with a Fellowship at a Cambridge college. Applicants expecting, during the period of the SPR, to have other positions at another Cambridge college, which carry significant duties or responsibilities, should contact the Secretary of the SPR committee, via the Administrator, who will clarify whether they are allowed to compete.
- All SPRs must work, or be about to work, in a department (or departments), or body, of the University of Cambridge or associated research institutes, which will normally be the administrator of their research award.
- Successful candidates for SPRs will be working as independent researchers, with their own project for which they have individual and clearly identifiable responsibility, although they may be members of a larger team.



How to Apply

Candidates apply by registering on Trinity's application website: https://app.casc.cam.ac.uk/fas_live/trinspr/. There you will be asked to indicate the University department or body where you will be based, and to supply basic information about yourself and your area of research, and the names and contact details of two referees and your former doctoral supervisor, who have agreed to write for you and supply their references by the deadline. You will also be asked to upload a full CV and list of publications, details of the research grant you are receiving or about to receive, and a description of your research project in no more than 1,000 words, intelligible to non-specialists, to which the selection committee will attach great importance.

You must ensure that the head of the department (or person deputed by the department) in which you will be working, or wish to work, submits a letter of support for you by the deadline. The application will give you the instructions to pass on to them in order to make the submission, and it is your responsibility to see that we receive it. The letter of support will be required to confirm that the department is willing (or does already) accept you and to indicate the support which it is offering for your research (facilities, assistance, office space). The letter must also confirm that you have a postdoctoral research grant and indicate its standing; or, if your funding is from the department, it should explain the process by which you were selected and attach any reference letters submitted. In both cases, the letter should confirm the starting and finishing dates of your funding.

There will be interviews for shortlisted candidates in late November 2025. We would prefer candidates who will be in the UK at the time to attend in person. If you are unable to attend in person, for example because you will be overseas, the interview may be held over Zoom. An announcement of the results will be made shortly after the interviews. We regret that we cannot offer any feedback to unsuccessful candidates.

Queries

Any enquiries should be addressed to the Competition Administrator: spr@trin.cam.ac.uk.