



Bonavero
Institute
of Human
Rights



Bonavero Institute of Human Rights, University of Oxford

Open Society Foundation (OSF) Africa Research Visitorship

Overview

The Bonavero Institute of Human Rights is a dedicated institute within the Faculty of Law at the University of Oxford. The Institute undertakes world-class research in the field of human rights law and fosters public engagement in human rights issues beyond the academy. As part of its mission, the Institute has built a vibrant community of graduate students, hosts Research Visitors who are human rights scholars or practitioners, and collaborates with practitioners and scholars engaged in the most pressing contemporary human rights issues around the world. The Institute's Research Visitor programme is key to building this community and it is crucial that the Research Visitor programme be globally diverse. One of the major challenges is that human rights practitioners and scholars from the global South, including Africa, generally find it hard to access the resources that enable them to spend time to work on independent writing projects in Oxford.

In response to this challenge and through funding provided by the Open Society Foundation (OSF) South Africa to the Bonavero Institute, the OSF Africa Research Visitorship has been established. Its objectives are to contribute to establishing a vibrant, collegial, global forum of human rights scholars and practitioners at the Bonavero Institute and to foster collaboration between human rights scholars and human rights lawyers in practice.

The Institute is housed in a beautiful new purpose-built building at Mansfield College. Mansfield College is committed to principles of openness, inclusivity and academic excellence. In 2018, just over 90% of Mansfield's first-year undergraduate student intake were from state-funded schools. Attracting and admitting outstanding students from state-funded schools has been a long-term project at Mansfield, which fits closely with its institutional culture and ethics. Being at home in Mansfield thus provides the Bonavero Institute with an avowedly inclusive and open institutional environment within Oxford. One of Oxford's smaller and newer, but nevertheless beautiful colleges, Mansfield provides a pleasant and welcoming place to work for Research Visitors, staff of the Bonavero Institute and students and an attractive setting for meetings, symposia and conferences.

About the Scholarship

The aim of the scholarship is to provide financial assistance to an outstanding human rights practitioner from sub-Saharan Africa who wishes to spend time at the Bonavero Institute in Oxford to undertake an independent writing project. The OSF Africa Research Visitorship will provide a stipend to cover economy-class return travel to and from the practitioner's home base, up to three months living and accommodation costs in Oxford, costs towards health insurance and visa

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application costs and will also cover the Institute's visitor fees. This scholarship offers the successful candidate **up to £7,200** to assist with these costs.

While in Oxford, the OSF Africa Research Visitor will work on an independent self-directed writing project and will contribute to the collegial community at the Bonavero Institute. The OSF Africa Research Visitor will benefit from the opportunity to build networks within and outside Oxford including the Faculty of Law at the University of Oxford. The Bonavero Institute benefits from the University of Oxford's convening power and hosts many events and conferences each year. The Bonavero Institute is linked with, and attracts, many scholars and practitioners involved in human rights and public law policy, practice and research and related fields worldwide.

Becoming a Research Visitor at the Bonavero Institute

The successful candidate will be a Research Visitor of the Bonavero Institute with all the benefits accorded to Research Visitors, including being provided with a desk in the Helena Kennedy Reading Room and the opportunity to participate in many of the activities of the Institute. The successful candidate will also be entitled to make use of the University's research facilities and libraries, and to attend seminars and lectures and other academic gatherings open to the university community. In addition, the successful candidate may apply to be appointed as a Visiting Fellow of Mansfield College or for Mansfield College Senior Common Room (SCR) membership. The details of the Research Visitor programme may be found here:

<https://www.law.ox.ac.uk/content/research-visitor-programme-institute>

The Bonavero Institute considers that its strategic goal of building a lively community of scholars and practitioners at the Bonavero Institute will be promoted by this project, as will its aim to foster conversations between students, scholars and practitioners. For the successful candidate some of the advantages will be:

- The opportunity to undertake an independent, self-directed writing project on an aspect of the Research Visitor's human rights work to a publishable standard in an open, friendly and collaborative scholarly environment;
- The opportunity to present the writing project to the community of human rights scholars and practitioners at the Bonavero Institute;
- The opportunity to participate in the many events hosted by the Bonavero Institute relating to human rights issues from around the world, as well as other events in Oxford;
- A time for reflection and renewal away from the pressing demands of a human rights practice;
- The opportunity to meet and inspire students within Oxford who are considering human rights careers; and
- The opportunity to meet with other human rights practitioners in Oxford, the United Kingdom and Europe.
- The opportunity to build networks that will continue to develop after the Research Visitor returns to his or her home institution.

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Eligibility Criteria

The OSF Africa Research Visitorship is open to nationals of the countries of sub-Saharan Africa. Criteria for selection include:

- National resident of sub-Saharan African country holding an appointment in an African human rights organisation or research institution engaged in human rights research;
- The ability to visit the Institute from the beginning of Trinity Term 2019 (starting 29th April 2019);
- At least five years' experience as a human rights legal practitioner working for a civil society organisation in Africa;
- Fluency in spoken and written English;
- Demonstrated commitment to human rights, democracy and the rule of law in Africa;
- Demonstrated ability to undertake an independent writing project;
- A writing proposal on a topic in the broad field of human rights law;
- Openness to exploring new ideas and places; and
- Demonstrated ability to work collaboratively and constructively in a diverse community.

Preference will be given to candidates from disadvantaged backgrounds. Candidates will be required to provide at least two referee reports from people with whom they have worked or studied.

Application Process

Applications to this scheme should be made by **12 noon (GMT), Friday 8th February 2019**.

1. A completed application form (overleaf);
2. a full CV or resume (including a list of publications if applicable);
3. a research outline;
4. two references;
5. a letter of support from your Head of Department or Line Manager at your home institution. This letter should state that you are a staff-member or employee (or equivalent) of that institution and the proposed visit has their full support;

The form, along with the attachments outlined above, should be returned by email to zoe.davis-heaney@law.ox.ac.uk

A decision will be made and communicated by **Monday 18th February 2019**. If you have any questions or concerns please email zoe.davis-heaney@law.ox.ac.uk.

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Please read the details above carefully and make special note of deadlines and eligibility criteria. Be clear on your goals to ensure the Research Visitorship is right for you. Define what you expect to accomplish, and how the experience will impact your career and existing networks when you get back. State these details succinctly in your proposed project section, including how you will report back on your experience.

Surname	
First Name	
Title	
Home Institution/Organisation	
Post/Position (if applicable)	
E-mail Address	
Contact Address	
Contact Telephone Number	
Link to your website	
Are you proposing to visit another University of Oxford department/College? If yes, please specify where, for what period and under which scheme/arrangement.	
If your application is approved, would you like us to forward your CV to Mansfield College Governing body to be considered as Visiting Fellow or SCR Member of college?	

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