



University of Liverpool and University of Georgia Hybrid PhD Fellowships 2025

Deadline for applications –10thFebruary, 5pm GMT

We are delighted to offer PhD students at the University of Liverpool opportunity to apply for a Hybrid Fellowship Placement at the University of Georgia in the USA. The Hybrid Fellowships provide students with the chance to develop new technical and soft skills, gain vital international experience to boost their employability, as well as gain a better understanding of other cultures.

The Fellowships provide an opportunity for a small cohort of selected candidates to gain collaborative research experience in an international research environment with the aim of publishing or co-publishing a specific piece of research in an international journal or equivalent venue and fostering long-term collaboration. It will support existing collaborative grant research or pre-grant preparatory work.

The programme is hybrid, with an expectation that significant work will be done virtually with the supervising academic at the partner institute to develop ideas, relations and networks before travel. This will be followed by spending up to four weeks at the University of Georgia with the opportunity to do in-person work that cannot be done remotely.

Please note priority will be given to applicants who have not participated in this scheme previously.

The UGA –UoL Partnership

For over a decade, the Universities of Liverpool and Georgia have had a successful partnership collaborating across multiple disciplines on both education and research. The Hybrid Fellowships are one of a number of mechanisms that support this and encourage the development of relationships between both staff and research students.

Who can apply?

The Fellowships are open to PhD students. We are particularly encouraging applications in fields where there is evidence of existing collaboration with UGA in the following areas:

- Social justice and inequalities including but not limited to anti-trafficking, slavery and unfree labour, at UoL the latter may fall within the heritage research theme.
- Fiction including Science Fiction, Creative Writing and Translation
- Digital Humanities
- Advanced Materials and Biomedical Engineering
- Big Data and Artificial Intelligence (AI)
- Infectious Diseases
- Molecular and Cell Biology

Other fields will be considered if a strong case can be made for how this supports longer-term partnership.

What is included in the Fellowships?

Finance

The Fellowships will provide a grant of £3,515 as a **contribution** to the cost of travel to Georgia and towards accommodation and subsistence cost whilst at the University of Georgia, for a period of 4 weeks. Please note the grant is not expected to cover all costs, but does provide a substantial contribution to the main expenses.

Candidates may wish to seek additional funding from their School or Department, if they identify a potential funding gap. Candidates should investigate and check costs in advance of application. For example, other costs to consider include airport transfers, timing of flights affecting costs, the cost and location of accommodation. No further funding can be provided.

Benefits of the Fellowship

Successful candidates will have the opportunity to collaborate with a research group and/or designated academics in Georgia during the 4-week period with the expectation they will be a part of a team and will build their professional connections.

The Fellowship will offer:

- one to one research mentoring, including support in agreed subject methods
- access to relevant research resources and training at the University of Georgia
- opportunities for research collaboration through participation in relevant research group activities (seminars, presentations etc.) to develop networks.

Applications must demonstrate what the benefits would be of the hybrid model, explaining what can be done virtually and the benefit of the physical mobility. For example, better access to research data with hands-on support to use it, learning new techniques that are difficult to perform virtually, access to specialist equipment, access to specific cultural assets that can only be experienced in the country or to do small-scale fieldwork.

Demonstration of the benefits to the wider department at UoL and/or the institutional strategic priorities through the placement would also be advantageous. There should be a clear explanation of how your department at UoL will make use of the mobility to build or maintain links between academic staff at UGA as well as students.

- Successful applicants will be provided with a grant of £3,515 to contribute to flight costs, airport transfers, accommodation, visas (if needed) and living costs. No further funds will be provided.
- Applicants will be responsible for booking and arranging their own flights to Atlanta airport and onward to the UGA campus in Athens. [See Groom Transportation](#) for airport transfer prices.
- Applicants will be responsible for arranging their accommodation and may wish to make arrangements in conjunction with other successful applicants to share costs.

The University of Georgia may be able to provide lists of accommodation providers however it is likely that private arrangements will need to be made through commercial sites such as AirBnB.

- Any remaining funds after travel and accommodation can be used to cover subsistence, including the purchase of any basic household items not provided at the accommodation.
- Applicants who require a visa to enter the US as they are not covered by the US visa waiver scheme, will need to arrange this and consider the length of time required to apply for and receive visas from US immigration services and the cost of travel to a US Embassy (London) or consulate (Belfast) for visa applications.

The dates of travel are expected to be late May to early July 2024 to fit with the expected increase in availability of accommodation in Athens, Georgia at that time. **This means that you will be on campus when many students and staff are not. You should consider if this will impact on your plans and expectations.**

How to apply

Firstly, think about the design of your own project and what you want to achieve from the Fellowship. You will need to identify a mentor at UGA to establish whether they will support your application and host you virtually and physically for the duration of the project. Speak to your supervisor, research group or departmental head for suggestions of faculty at UGA who will be approachable and how this connection fits with the department's objectives. There may be pre-existing collaborations in your department which can be built on. **The supervisor should be at the UGA campus for most of your time there.**

As part of the application you will need to provide the following:

1. **A supporting statement to include:**
 - **The working title of your PhD**, departmental affiliation, year of study and a short **200-word** overview that could be publicised to an informed but general audience.
 - **A summary of what you propose to do (max 500 words)**. This should provide details of the context, the planned activities before travelling to UGA and what you intend

to do while there. You should demonstrate the justification for travel to UGA (i.e. why this cannot be done virtually.)

- **Resource Requirements** -If your project will require additional resource while at UGA, e.g. special lab materials, your department or your bench fees will need to cover this. Please provide a budget and explanation of resources needed. **(150 words.)** **The Fellowship grant will not cover these costs and you may need to seek funding from your School.**
- **Outputs** (200 words) - an indication of the type of outputs that you envisage, for example datasets / databases, policy briefs, exhibitions, a publication with an indication of target journals for this research.
- **Specific training needs** and/or specialist resources you would require access to while at UGA. This is mandatory. Please provide details **(200 words)**.
- An indication that the application has considered the **grant available** and if there are funding gaps and how these will be addressed. **(150 words)**

The supporting statement should show how the Fellowship and the outputs emerging from it will:

- enhance your career prospects through exposure to a new research environment and through the development of new networks
- add value at an individual and institutional level (how it adds value to research undertaken by UoL and UGA)
- contribute to the sustainability of longer-term research plans at UoL beyond the period of the Fellowship

2. A letter of nomination from your PhD supervisor or Head of Department at your home institution

This should refer to your research proposal or plan, indicating how the fellowship will contribute to capacity and outputs such as datasets, policy briefs, exhibitions, publications, pre-grant preparatory work, or delivery of joint grants. The letter should explain:

- your standing in your particular field and recognition of your work with reference to your proposed project.
- how the area of research fits with the theme areas of the UGA- UoL partnership (above) and the internationalisation objectives of the Faculty / Department
- how the fellowship **will strengthen contact with a range of staff at UoL** and the University of Georgia.
- How the proposed work aligns with UoL's commitment to the [UN sustainability goals](#) and UoL's [equality, diversity and inclusivity objectives](#).
- an indication of any potential longer-term funding applications for research grants or international placements. For UoL applicants these may for example include lead agency agreements for UK-US bilateral funding as well as the following:
 - [Lindemann Trust](#)
 - [ESRC Post-Doctoral Fellowships](#)
 - [Leverhulme International Fellowships](#)
 - [Royal Society International Exchanges](#).

If appropriate, links to previous research pump-priming funding with UGA by your department or plans to apply to future schemes that may become available can be referenced to demonstrate commitment to longer-term connectivity and potential for research grant applications.

3. A letter of support from your proposed mentor at UGA - outlining how the Fellowship will strengthen the partnership between the Universities of Liverpool and Georgia and benefit your research, what the mentor will be able to support with and the range of staff / networks they will be able to facilitate access to, so as to benefit from the partner university's academic community. The letter should state how the physical mobility builds on the virtual part of the placement and confirm that the mentor **will be on campus for at least 50% of the time that you will be in Athens**

If you need help identifying a mentor you should talk to your supervisor or Head of Department in the first instance and seek assistance if necessary from the UoL Partnerships and Global Engagement Office, [Helen Carlin hcarlin@liverpool.ac.uk](mailto:Helen.Carlin@liverpool.ac.uk)

Criteria for assessment

Assessment of applications will be on (i) the quality of the proposal as well as anticipated outcomes / benefits at an individual level (ii) added value the project will make in terms of ongoing collaboration between University of Liverpool and the University of Georgia. (iii) an appreciation that the Fellowship will take place in a different cultural environment. (iv) an appreciation of the budget available.

Shortlisted applicants will be invited to an interview to discuss their proposal and plans. These are likely to take place the **week of 24th February**.

Application Platform

You should complete the application form on the [platform](#) and send the documents listed below to Helen Carlin – hcarlin@liverpool.ac.uk by **10th February 2024, 5pm**.

Supporting documents required for the application:

- **Research proposal with plan and supporting statement.**
- **Letter of support** from your primary University of Liverpool Supervisor or Head of Department
- **Letter of support** from your host mentor at the University of Georgia

Data Sharing – UK GDPR.

In order to facilitate the fellowship, it may be necessary to share application data from UoL students with colleagues at the University of Georgia, in which case applicant's consent to share data outside the UK will be required (see application platform questionnaire).

Personal data will be shared in line with current data sharing agreements in place for UoL students participating in placements at UGA. This will be aligned with UK GDPR requirements for the transfer of data outside the UK and EU GDPR areas.

Self- Reflection

During the Fellowship you may be asked to join a group discussion or seminar before travelling to UGA in order to develop a network with other Fellowship students. At the end of your Fellowship, you will be asked to take part in a short follow up call about your experience either individually or as part of a group and will be invited to produce a short blog on your experience for the UoL website.