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**Joint Visiting Scholarships Scheme**

Application Form

The Visiting Scholarships Scheme enables academics, cultural heritage professionals, and NGO workers to visit the UK for a maximum of 1-2 months to conduct research on the sustainable development of cultural heritage. The Scholarship Scheme is an opportunity for Iraqi, Iranian, Turkish and Lebanese researchers to conduct research at a UK Host Institution. This is a programme managed jointly withthe Iran Heritage Foundation (IHF), the Council for British Research in the Levant (CBRL), the British Institute at Ankara (BIAA) and the British Institute for the Study of Iraq (BISI).

**Eligibility Advice**

* You cannot normally be a previous recipient of a similar Visiting Scholarship from our partner institutions.
* You should be a resident of Iraq, Iran, Lebanon or Turkey though we may consider exceptions.
* We may ask you to take an English language test because a working-level of English language is needed in order to benefit from the scholarship.
* The Scholarship Scheme funds research related activity and not the restoration of buildings or archaeological digs. Nor can we fund work that directly involves children. The scholarship is designed to support the intellectual aspects of cultural heritage in the sustainable development of Iraq, Iran, Lebanon and/or Turkey.
* Applications without a UK host will not be considered.
1. **Applicant details**

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| --- | --- |
| Title of project  |  |
| Full name |  |
| Occupation |  |
| Academic or organisational affiliation |  |
| Email address |  |
| Contact phone number |  |
| Will you need to apply for a UK visa?(*NB your answer to this question will not affect your application but will help us to administer successful awards.*) |  |

1. **Current employer**

Your current employer must send us a letter or email (in English, Arabic, Farsi, Turkish or a Kurdish language) giving you permission in principle to apply for this scholarship and permission to take leave if this scholarship is awarded.

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| Name of current employer |  |
| Address of current employer |  |
| Do you have permission from your current employer to take up this scholarship if offered to you?  | Yes/No |

1. **UK Host Institution**

You are encouraged to contact a suitable UK Host Institution to discuss your research proposal before submitting this application. Your UK host must send us a letter or email confirming their invitation to you for the proposed project and timeline to nahrein@ucl.ac.uk **before** the deadline. You may use the ‘Example of letter to UK Host Institution’ attached in this application. The Nahrein Network will assist you in this process if you ask us **at least three weeks before** the deadline.

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| Name of UK host  |  |
| Address of Host Institution  |  |
| Preferred dates of taking up scholarship if awarded  |  |
| Length of time needed to complete your project (up to eight weeks maximum) |  |

1. **Network aims**

The Visiting Scholarships Scheme is intended to strengthen research capacity in cultural heritage, history and the humanities and their role in the sustainable development of Iraq, Iran, Lebanon and/or Turkey. We particularly encourage projects that relate to UNESCO Iraq’s “Revive the Spirit of Mosul” initiative. In all fields, we seek to support research applications of the highest quality and standards that will lead to significant advances in creativity, insights, knowledge and understanding. They must be of interest and value both to the research community and in wider contexts where they can help to achieve the Network’s aims.

Research applications should be designed to address **at least one** of the Network’s aims:

Tick those that apply

1. ***To better understand the current situation****.* We support research on the modern history of Middle Eastern antiquity, archaeology and heritage in the region. We are interested in archival research and oral histories of the politics of the region's past. Projects may cover any period in the past two centuries to the present. We also support sociological and anthropological research on current attitudes to antiquity, archaeology and heritage, for instance through polling, focus groups, and interviews. We particularly encourage work on the roles and treatments of women and minority groups.
2. ***To raise the profile of local expertise****.* We support research on how to produce the next generation of Middle Eastern researchers on local Middle Eastern antiquity. This may include (but is not limited to) developing and testing university-level teaching materials. We particularly welcome work that promotes core research skills of post-excavation identification, decipherment and analysis of archaeological finds, through ancient languages and scripts, images, and objects.
3. ***To improve the job prospects of the region's youth****.* We encourage research with teachers, students, ministries and/or employers to identify the most needed and valued humanities-based skills and attributes in the Middle East’s modernising economy. We support research on helping to better prepare school leavers for university humanities courses, and projects to develop locally effective university-level teaching of transferable humanities skills in relation to heritage
4. ***To help heritage organisations better serve local needs****.* We encourage research that enables Middle Eastern museums, archives, cultural heritage sites to contribute to local tourism and knowledge economies. We fund research to better understand local audiences’ interests, needs and obstacles to engaging with heritage. We are also interested in projects to develop re-usable, adaptable case studies in public education, whether in museums, on UNESCO World Heritage sites, or other cultural centres. Under this theme we are also interested in research that looks at the social and economic importance of cultural institutions in local and regional development.
5. ***To help post-conflict healing and reconciliation.*** We support research on post-conflict themes of common interest to antiquity and modernity, such as: exile, diaspora and return; cultural memory and forgetting; local, national, and regional identities and interactions; living together; legal systems and personal rights; we support research that looks at antiquity and heritage as a channel for public engagement of issues around post-conflict reconciliation and change.

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| 1. **Summary Curriculum Vitae**

 Please provide a summary of your Curriculum Vitae using the table below. This should not be more than one page.

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| Education Please state your academic qualifications and dates of completion  |  |
| Employment history  |  |
| Academic/professional responsibilities  |  |
| Any relevant research grants  |  |
| Key publications/research outputs over the last five years |  |

1. **Details of project proposal (500-1,000 words)**

Please describe your proposed project in no more than 500 - 1,000 words. You may use images or infographics. You should explain: * What work you want to do;
* Why you think that this work is important;
* Why you are qualified to do this work and/or what new skills you want to acquire to do it;
* Why you need to visit your host in the United Kingdom to do this work;
* What resources will you need to do this work;
* A simple timetable for this work (including no more than 8 weeks in the UK).
1. **Please describe previous work done on your research project.**
* Briefly detail any activities pertaining to your proposed research idea and project, including work completed in the past.
1. **Please describe your proposed output(s) in no more than 200 words**

This is an important part of your application. You should explain what specific outputs and results you expect to achieve and how it will benefit your work in your home country. An output can be in any reasonable form. For example, a short research article, a vlog, podcast, a public talk, draft grant proposal, a contribution to the host institution’s collections catalogue or exhibition, etc. Formal outputs may be in any combination of appropriate languages. |
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**Funding compliance**

This Scholarship is funded by the UK government’s Official Development Assistance (ODA) budget, which also seeks to address the UN’s Sustainable Development Goals. The Nahrein Network is focused on specific themes and aims in order to meet these goals. **You do not need to mark more than one X in each list.**

Please tell us how your project proposal meets these goals by marking at least one X in each of the two lists below.

**ODA requirements**

Which country or countries will your work benefit?

* Iraq
* Lebanon
* Iran
* Turkey

Which social group(s) will benefit from your work?

* Women
* Young people
* Members of ethnic or religious minorities
* People living in the countryside
* People living in post-conflict areas

**Assessment Criteria**

Applications will be assessed in accordance with the following criteria:

* Whether the work is important
* Qualifications and experience of the applicant to produce research
* The quality of the proposed research
* Whether the timetable is realistic for this work
* The appropriateness of the UK host
* How well it meets the Nahrein Network’s five aims
* Whether the proposed outputs are appropriate and manageable

**Terms and Conditions**

* We cannot guarantee that your application will be successful, even if we have provided support in preparing it. However, if your application is unsuccessful, we can offer feedback and you may re-apply for the following deadline. In the case of rejection, partner institution will consider offering applicants a scholarship.
* If you are awarded a scholarship, we will send you a Letter of Award and Visiting Scholars Agreement Form. You must sign and return the Agreement Form in order to be awarded the Scholarship.
* You will need to take up the scholarship within 12 months of the offer being made.
* The application process is administered by UCL on behalf of the Nahrein Network. The grant is awarded and administered by the respective partner institution: the British Institute for the Study of Iraq (BISI), the Iran Heritage Foundation (IHF), the Council for British Research in the Levant (CBRL), and the British Institute at Ankara (BIAA).
* Once the Award Letter is signed and returned, the partner institution will offer advice on obtaining visas, travel and accommodation.
* The Nahrein Network and its UK partner institutions reserve the right to withdraw any scholarship offered.
* We may get in touch with you by phone or online voice call to discuss your application.

**Equal Opportunities**

The Nahrein Network and partner institutions are committed to eliminating unlawful discrimination and promoting equality of opportunity and good relations across and between the defined equalities groups in all of their relevant functions. Accordingly, no eligible scholarship applicant should receive less favourable treatment on the grounds of: gender, marital status, sexual orientation, gender re-assignment, race, colour, nationality, ethnicity or national origins, religion or similar philosophical belief, spent criminal conviction, age or disability. Equally, all applications will be assessed on equal terms, regardless of the sex, age and/or ethnicity of the applicant. Applications will therefore be assessed and graded on their merits, in accordance with the criteria and the aims and objectives of the Nahrein Network and partner institutions.

**Submission**

Deadlines are 15 February and 15 August annually. Send completed application forms and attachments to nahrein@ucl.ac.uk with ‘Visiting Scholarship Scheme application’ in the subject of the email. We will tell you the result of your application within one month of the closing date.

**Data Protection**

Consent for UCL to process personal data

UCL is required by law to comply with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). It is the commitment of UCL to ensure that it complies with this Act to ensure the confidentiality of any personal data held by UCL, in whatever medium. Accordingly, UCL has a data protection policyas a commitment to the safeguarding of personal data processed by its staff and students, and to ensure compliance with the GDPR:

<https://www.ucl.ac.uk/informationsecurity/policy/public-policy/data-protection-policy.pdf>

Please note: The application form and personal data relating to unsuccessful applications will be deleted within six months of the submission deadline.

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| **Applicant’s Statement** I agree that: * I have read and understood the notes written above.
* I consent to the processing of my personal information for the purposes of this research grant application.
* I understand that such information will be treated as strictly confidential and handled in accordance with the

provisions of the General Data Protection Regulation (2018). |
| Signature: Date:  |

**Please state how you heard of the Joint Visiting Scholarship Scheme:**

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**Example of Letter to UK Host Institution**

Applicants can adapt the following letter to contact a UK Host Institution:

Dear XX

I am writing to you to enquire about your possible interest in supporting a Joint Visiting Scholarship application to the Nahrein Network.

The title of my research is XX and I am interested in your supervisory support as a UK host to support my application. I am a researcher at XX.

The aim of my visit to the UK would be to carry out research into XX. I attach a detailed proposal to this email.

The Visiting Scholarship Scheme will cover the costs of travel and accommodation and other associated expenses.

You can read more about the Visiting Scholarships Scheme via [www.ucl.ac.uk/nahrein](http://www.ucl.ac.uk/nahrein)

If you do decide to offer to act as host, I will require it in writing, either as an email or a letter, to attach to my application.

I very much look forward to hearing from you soon.

Yours,

**Submission Checklist**

This page is a checklist for you to ensure that your application is complete before submission. Please tick all boxes before submitting your application.

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| I have completed all the questions  |
| My contact details are correct |
| My employer has written an ***email or letter*** for me to take leave if awarded the scholarship and it is attached to my email with the application or will be sent separately to nahrein@ucl.ac.uk  |
| My UK Host has written an ***email or letter***of invitation and this is attached to my email with the application or will be sent separately to nahrein@ucl.ac.uk |
| The dates I am proposing are no longer than eight weeks  |
| I have marked at least one X in each list to show my proposal meets ODA requirements for countries and social groups  |
| I have marked at least one X to show my proposal meets at least one aim of the Nahrein Network  |
| I have signed and dated the application form, and read the data protection statement |