

Essex Law School and Human Rights Centre invite expressions of interest for British Academy post-doctoral fellowship scheme

[Essex Law School](#) and [Human Rights Centre](#) welcome expressions of interest for the highly prestigious [British Academy Postdoctoral Fellowship scheme](#). This scheme covers the costs of a 36-month fellowship to provide outstanding early-career researchers with the opportunity to pursue an independent research project. The primary emphasis of the scheme is on the completion of a significant piece of publishable research, and the integration of the award holder into the community of established scholars within their field.

About the School

Essex Law School is interdisciplinary and has a global reputation for its research, ranking 3rd for research power in the Research Excellence Framework 2021. Successful applicants will be fully integrated into the vibrant research community at Essex Law School and Human Rights Centre and benefit from ample academic and career development opportunities.

Essex Law School's vibrant research environment is built on four strategic thematic areas: Human Rights Law; Public Law and Socio-Legal Studies; Private and Business Law; and International and Comparative Law. A number of research clusters in areas such as law and society, law and technology, legal theory, health law, amongst many others, meet regularly throughout the year. ELS hosts the award-winning interdisciplinary [Human Rights Centre](#) under whose umbrella research hubs such as the [Essex Armed Conflict and Crisis Hub](#), the [Essex Business and Human Rights Project](#), the [Essex Transitional Justice Network](#), the [International Centre on Human Rights and Drug Policy](#) and the [Essex Autonomy Project](#) carry out groundbreaking and highly impactful research and hold regular events. The School also hosts the [Constitutional and Administrative Justice Institute](#) and the [Law, Business and Technology Interdisciplinary Hub](#).

Applications

Applications from researchers with an exceptional research profile are welcome in all areas of law, but we would particularly value expressions of interest in the following areas that align closely with our research interests:

- Inclusion and equality in economic, social, and cultural rights
- Access to justice for marginalised and vulnerable social groups
- Addressing new challenges for human rights in any of the areas of: new technologies; climate change and the environment, and the rights of nature and animal rights
- Zones of exception in human rights regulation and accountability
- The changing spectrum of human rights activism
- Transitional Justice, in particular its socio-economic dimensions and accountability of economic actors
- Business and human rights, in particular corporate accountability legislation and access to remedies
- Regulation of supply chains in the context of trade agreements
- Contemporary Economic Challenges

- Accountability, inclusion, and transparency in financial law
- Comparative judicial review
- Comparative, interdisciplinary research on judicial independence
- Digital Technologies and Artificial Intelligence Governance and Accountability Frameworks
- Parliamentary sovereignty and constitutional codification in the UK
- European constitutional values, including rule of law, judicial protection, solidarity, and democracy
- European democratic governance, including accountability, transparency, and public participation
- Local government in Europe
- Interactions between regional and the EU and the Council of Europe
- Intersectionality and citizens' participation in public decision-making
- Environmental, Societal and Governance (ESG) risks
- Just, sustainable, and energy transitions
- Climate finance

Eligibility criteria

Applications are welcomed from candidates with an exceptional research profile who meet the following eligibility criteria:

- Have completed their successful viva voce between 1 April 2023 and 1 April 2026.
- Have not yet held a permanent academic appointment.
- British citizens and any nationals from the EEA are eligible, regardless of where their doctorate was obtained. Anyone of any nationality who has a doctorate from a UK university or a strong prior association with the UK academic community, which normally requires at least one year of employment at a UK institution in a non-permanent teaching or research position (postgraduate masters degrees do not count) is eligible.

Application Process

Prospective applicants should approach an academic mentor at Essex Law School or the Human Rights Centre at their earliest convenience. More information about academics in the School and their research expertise can be found at: <https://www.essex.ac.uk/departments/law/people/academic>.

The closing date for the internal selection process is **31 July 2025**.

The following documents should be sent to Professor Sabine Michalowski (smichal@essex.ac.uk):

- A 100-word abstract
- An outline of the research proposal (maximum 2 A4 pages)
- CV (maximum 2 A4 pages)
- Name of the proposed mentor and a brief supporting statement from the mentor.

Applicants will be informed by 18 August of the outcome of their expression of interest. Only candidates with in-principle support from a mentor will be invited to develop a full application with their mentor's support and guidance. Candidates who are invited to develop a full application will then be supported throughout the application process by Essex Law School and the Research and Enterprise Office at the University of Essex. The final application needs

to be uploaded on the British Academy's online system by 25 September 2025 for final university review prior to the submission date of 2 October 2025.

The British Academy Post-Doctoral Fellowship will officially open on 2 July, which is when full information about the scheme will be available on the [British Academy website](#).

Some guidance for developing your expression of interest:

- Make clear the objectives of your project.
- What is your methodology and how will it help you deliver your project objectives?
- Explain the contribution of your project to current academic thinking. In particular, who would benefit from your research (academic and/or non-academic beneficiaries) and what impact are you hoping to achieve with your project?
- What are the main outputs of your projects?
- Explain the skills you want to develop as part of your fellowship and how your research and skills development will enhance your career prospects.
- Explain why you want to pursue this research at Essex Law School and how you see its fit with our research community.
- Discuss the project with your mentor before submitting the expression of interest.