**INSTITUTE OF COMMONWEALTH STUDIES (ICWS)**  
**SCHOOL OF ADVANCED STUDY, UNIVERSITY OF LONDON**  
**SENIOR RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP APPLICATION PACK**

Part of the School of Advanced Study at the University of London, the Institute sits at the crossroads of research, policy, human rights practice and international relations.

Our vision is that people around the world, including throughout the modern Commonwealth, live in societies grounded in democracy, human rights and the rule of law. The Institute works towards this vision by:

* Developing effective, evidence-based policy solutions to the challenges facing the modern Commonwealth
* Supporting the modern Commonwealth’s global network of civil society
* Engaging with Commonwealth stakeholders, including its Member States
* Offering ground-breaking MA in Human Rights and PhD programmes

The Institute strives to achieve its mission through a culture of integrity, professionalism, inclusion, diversity, innovation and collaboration.

**1. INTRODUCTION**

The Senior Research Fellowship (SRF) Programme at the Institute of Commonwealth Studies (ICWS) recognises distinguished researchers whose work engages with the ICWS mission and priorities. The SRF provides a prestigious, non-remunerated affiliation that enables leading academics, practitioners and public figures to pursue research in a supportive environment, contribute to the Institute’s intellectual life, and collaborate across the School of Advanced Study and broader policy and academic communities.

Senior Research Fellowships are open to individuals who have achieved recognition at Reader or Professor level (or equivalent standing in public service, cultural institutions, or international organisations) and who continue to conduct research aligned with the Institute’s key themes: human rights, the rule of law, climate change, decolonisation, and freedom of expression across the Commonwealth.

**2. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA**

Applicants must:

* Be a distinguished academic or public intellectual with a publication record or research profile commensurate with the rank of Reader or Professor
* Have a demonstrable interest in and ongoing engagement with Commonwealth-related research
* Show a sustained record of leadership, mentoring or influence in higher education, policy, or research
* Be unaffiliated (except at Emeritus level) or working in non-university contexts with a demonstrable need for institutional affiliation

**3. BENEFITS TO SENIOR RESEARCH FELLOWS**All Senior Research Fellows receive:

* Formal affiliation with the Institute of Commonwealth Studies and the University of London
* Membership of a dynamic, interdisciplinary, and cross-sector community of Fellows
* Access to Senate House Library, which offers extensive resources to support their research. More details: <https://www.london.ac.uk/about/services/senate-house-library>
* Access to a University of London academic email address
* Opportunities to participate in ICWS seminars, conferences, and policy workshops
* Invitation to ICWS’s regular Fellows’ Meetings, fostering peer exchange and collaboration
* Listing in the SAS Directory of Research and Expertise
* Ability to deposit publications on SAS-Space, the School’s online repository
* Opportunities for public engagement and, where appropriate, guest teaching

**Additional benefit:**

* Access to shared office and research space at Senate House, subject to availability

**4. APPLICATION PROCESS**

Applicants should submit the following documents by email to Kay Musonda ([ics@sas.ac.uk](mailto:ics@sas.ac.uk)):

A full application must include:

1. Completed ICWS Senior Research Fellowship Application Form (see Section 5)
2. Academic CV (maximum three pages)
3. Detailed research proposal (including intended outputs and relevance to ICWS themes)
4. Supporting Statements from at least two referees
5. Ethics Self-Check form (if applicable)

Applications will be considered by the Academic Planning Committee, and applicants will be notified of the outcome within three months.

**5. APPLICATION FORM**

**Personal Information**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Title:** |  |
| **Full Name:** |  |
| **Institutional Affiliation:** |  |
| **Current Post:** |  |
| **Correspondence Address:** |  |
| **Email Address:** |  |
| **Telephone Number:** |  |

**Academic Profile**

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| --- |
| Please attach an academic CV of no more than three sides. |
| **Current Research Interests:** |
|  |

**Motivation and Contribution**

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| --- | --- |
| Please explain why you wish to be affiliated with the Institute of Commonwealth Studies. How does your work reflect the Institute’s commitment to strengthening the rule of law, combatting climate change, or promoting freedom of expression and digital rights across the Commonwealth? In what ways would you contribute to the Institute’s academic programmes, public engagement, or civil society collaboration? | |
|  | |
| Would you be willing to contribute to teaching, supervision, or public engagement at ICWS? | YES / NO |
| If yes, please specify: |  |

**Expected Research Outcomes**

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| Publications, events, public engagement, networks, etc. |
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**Ethics**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Would the research conducted while affiliated with ICWS have ethical implications? | YES / NO |
| If YES, has this research been reviewed by your home institution? | YES / NO |
| If NO, please review the School's research ethics policy and submit a completed Self-Check. |  |

**Referees**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Name** | **Email** | **Institution** |
| 1 |  |  |  |
| 2 |  |  |  |
| 3 (opt) |  |  |  |

**Declaration and Signature**

**Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**6. ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS**

Applicants should also consult and use the following:

* ICWS Ethics Policy and Self-Check Form: <https://www.sas.ac.uk/research-engagement/research-governance-policies/research-ethics-policies-guidance>

**Note**: Fellows are expected to acknowledge ICWS in publications, contribute to the Institute’s research culture, and submit a short report at the end of the fellowship.

For further information, contact Kay Musonda: [ics@sas.ac.uk](mailto:ics@sas.ac.uk)