



TRINITY COLLEGE

UNIVERSITY of OXFORD

Barry Junior Research Fellowship in Natural Law Theory

Trinity College invites applications for a stipendiary *or* non-stipendiary Junior Research Fellowship (JRF) in Natural Law Theory, tenable for a fixed term of two years from 1st October 2026. This post is linked to the Programme for the Foundations of Law and Constitutional Government at the Faculty of Law, University of Oxford.

The Fellowship is open to candidates who are working on any aspect of Natural Law theory, using the methods and addressing the concerns of constitutional theory, legal philosophy, or moral and political philosophy more broadly. As well as applications from those with a law background, candidates working in political science or political theory are also welcomed. Candidates must be at an early stage in their academic career, and it is expected that applicants will already have a doctorate or be very close to submission of their doctoral thesis.

A Junior Research Fellowship is a career development post, designed to enable an outstanding early career academic to undertake an independent, self-directed programme of research that substantially develops or is different from their doctoral research. In making this appointment, Trinity College aims to develop and strengthen the research environment of the College, and to contribute to the goal of maintaining the University of Oxford as a leading centre for research.

The Barry Junior Research Fellowship is designed to support the Programme for the Foundations of Law and Constitutional Government, in the Faculty of Law at the University of Oxford, directed by Nicholas Barber (Trinity College Oxford), Richard Ekins (St John's College Oxford) and Timothy Endicott (All Souls College Oxford): see www.law.ox.ac.uk/foundations-law-and-constitutional-government

Trinity College, founded in 1555, occupies a beautiful, green and spacious site in the centre of Oxford. The academic community of the College comprises around 300 undergraduates, 150 graduate students, 40 Fellows and 30 Lecturers across a range of humanities, social science, and science disciplines. The College prides itself on combining the highest academic standards with a particularly friendly sense of community. Our vision is for Trinity to be recognised as a modern College that attracts some of the best academics in the world and welcomes a diverse and widely representative student community, in which people of all backgrounds feel equally valued, supported and able to flourish. For full information about the College, see the College website: www.trinity.ox.ac.uk

Eligibility

This Fellowship is open to:

- **candidates who hold a recently-completed doctorate, or who are close to completion of a doctorate.**
 - Those who formally submitted their doctoral thesis for viva voce examination before 1 October 2023 are not eligible, unless they have since had a career break (e.g. a period of parental leave, family commitments, illness) or there are other exceptional personal circumstances.
 - Candidates who have not yet submitted their doctoral thesis must do so no later than four months before the start date of this post (i.e. by 1 June 2026).
- **researchers who have *not* held a comparable career development appointment at Oxford or another university.**
 - A comparable appointment is deemed to be a salaried, research-only appointment for the purposes of self-directed research.

Duties

The Junior Research Fellow will:

- undertake a sustained programme of research in Natural Law Theory, and publish the findings. The research must be of a quality that would make the Junior Research Fellow eligible for entry into the next Research Excellence Framework (REF), or any system for assessing the quality of research in UK higher education institutions that replaces it;
- contribute to the intellectual life and community of Trinity College, for instance by mentoring undergraduate or graduate students, convening and participating in events related to their area of research or early career research more broadly conceived, or offering talks to students, Fellows, friends of the College or the wider public as part of a Trinity-led programme of events;
- serve, as requested by the President or Senior Tutor, on one or more college committees (e.g. Academic Committee, Academic Grants Committee, or Access Committee).

Criteria for appointment

The successful applicant will:

- demonstrate potential for outstanding achievement in their field of research, e.g. through publications (in preparation, forthcoming, or published), and through their research proposal;
- have excellent communication skills, demonstrated through a presentation at interview, and experience of presenting their work at conferences and/or professional research seminars;
- have a coherent proposed research programme for the duration of the Fellowship, of a standard which will contribute to and enhance the national and international profile of the field in the University;
- be able to suggest ways in which their research would benefit from and contribute to the academic culture of Trinity College and the University of Oxford.

Remuneration and other entitlements

- *Salary*: The starting salary is point 30 on the HE single pay spine (currently £ 40,514 p.a., including the Oxford University Weighting), rising to points 31 in year 2 of the appointment.
- *Accommodation*: Single accommodation may be available to rent from the College, if the Fellow wishes. However, the Fellow may choose to live in privately-rented or owned accommodation if they prefer.
- *Dining rights*: the Fellow will be entitled to lunch and dinner free of charge at the Common Table (SCR) during term and vacation, except when the kitchens are closed.
- *Membership of the Senior Common Room (SCR)*: Junior Research Fellows are members of the Senior Common Room at Trinity College.
- *Research allowance*: there is an allowance of up to £1,850 p.a. (reviewed annually) to cover research expenses not obtainable from other sources.
- *Pension*: the Fellow will be eligible to join the USS pension scheme.
- *Teaching*: Junior Research Fellows are encouraged to develop their teaching skills, if appropriate, and may undertake a limited amount of teaching per week in term (up to a maximum of six hours). The College will have first call on any teaching capacity, for which there would be separate remuneration.

Other terms and conditions

Right to work: The appointment will be subject to the provision of proof of the right to work in the UK. If a UK visa is required, the College with the assistance of the University's Staff Immigration team will advise and assist after offer.

Place of work: The Fellow is expected to work in Oxford, and to participate in the life of the College, for a substantial part of each week during Full Term (weeks 1-8 of each of Oxford's three terms), unless their research requires them to work elsewhere for a period of time during the JRF.

Term of appointment: This Junior Research Fellowship is for a fixed term of two years. The post is non-renewable because it is generously funded by a donation to the College. The Junior Research Fellow must submit a report on their research activities to the Senior Tutor each year, and in the first they will need to undertake an interim review in order to be confirmed in post for the remaining period of appointment.

How to apply

Applications must be sent by email in PDF format to academic.recruitment@trinity.ox.ac.uk by 12 noon (UK time) on Monday 16th March 2026. Please include 'JRF in Natural Law Theory' in the subject line of the email.

Applicants should send:

- a curriculum vitae including a list of publications
- outline of previous research (approx. 500 words)
- outline of the proposed programme of research (approx. 1,000 words)
- the names and email addresses of two referees (one of whom should be a recent research supervisor), who should be asked by the candidate to email their references directly to the Academic Administrator. **It is the responsibility of candidates to ensure both referees send their references by email to academic.recruitment@trinity.ox.ac.uk before the closing date of 12 noon (UK time) Monday 16th March 2026.**

Interviews will be held at Trinity on Thursday 23rd April 2026. Shortlisted candidates will be invited to submit written work, and to give a short presentation on their research and research plans to the selection committee. Interviews will take place in person, where possible. Reasonable interview expenses (including overnight accommodation, if required, and travel within the UK) will be reimbursed. The option of an online interview will be available to candidates applying from outside the UK, and UK-based candidates who request this interview format.

Trinity College is an equal opportunities employer. To ensure that our Equality and Diversity Policy is fairly and fully implemented, and for no other reason, we ask that you complete our [Equal Opportunity Monitoring Form](#) and return it to the Academic Administrator (academic.recruitment@trinity.ox.ac.uk) with the other application materials.