



Cumberland
Lodge

Empowering conversations

Cumberland Lodge Fellowship Application Pack 2026-28



The Cumberland Lodge Fellowship

The Cumberland Lodge Fellowship scheme offers 10 postgraduate students and early career industry candidates a unique opportunity to develop their potential as emerging leaders and changemakers. Through a two-year association designed to fit around and enhance their research and work, our Fellows deepen their understanding of contemporary social issues and develop new skills in public engagement, interdisciplinary working, leadership, networking, convening, and facilitating debate on a range of topics.

About Cumberland Lodge

As an educational charity formed in the aftermath of the Second World War, our aim is to develop the next generation of youth leaders, understanding the causes and impacts of social division in order to create more just, inclusive, and peaceful futures. Conversation is at the heart of what we do, but this is supported by a transformative education programme including workshops, residencies, webinars, and networking events, as well as the production of digital learning material.

From this work our objectives include:

- empowering participants with the knowledge and skills to understand the drivers of social division and conflict, to advocate for peaceful solutions in their communities and beyond, and to drive meaningful change that leads to fairer societies;
- promoting ethical leadership in order to find equitable solutions to real world challenges;
- fostering collaboration and social cohesion through creating opportunities for peer-to-peer interaction, intercultural, intergenerational and cross-sector dialogue;
- and building strong national and international networks that will lead to long-term collaboration globally.

Our current programme focuses on the following strands:

- Youth & Democracy
- The Rule of Law
- Freedom of Religion and Belief
- Intergenerational Dialogue ('Bridging the City' with St Paul's Cathedral)
- Exploring Ethics



Our Fellowship scheme is an integral part of our strategy to build a movement to strengthen social cohesion, nationally and internationally, through creating a network of alumni generating positive change and acting as ambassadors for Cumberland Lodge and the work that we do.

Who can apply?

The Fellowship is open to anyone resident in the UK. You can apply as either:

- a post-graduate Fellow, currently registered on a doctoral programme of any discipline at a London university for the duration of the Fellowship, or;
- an industry Fellow, within five years of beginning your career. We are particularly interested in applications from early career professionals working in the tech industry, artificial intelligence, the finance sector, the charity sector, and the creative industries.

We want to encourage as much contact with the Cumberland Lodge programme as possible during the two-year Fellowship, and for this reason we ask that applicants be resident in the Greater London region.

In selecting Fellows, we consider leadership potential, connection to our current core programming, intellectual curiosity, and evidence of a commitment to working for greater social cohesion.

You must be able to commit to the whole two-year fellowship.

Expectations of Fellows

To ensure that the objectives of the Fellowship programme are met, Fellows are required to take part in the following:

First-year Fellows:

- the annual Fellows' Retreat (September);
- a minimum of one workshop or conference at Cumberland Lodge/with one of our partners;
- contribute one blog and/or contribute to discussions on our Community engagement platform, Circle.

Second-year Fellows:

- the annual Fellows' Retreat (September);
- a minimum of one workshop or conference at Cumberland Lodge/with one of our partners;
- produce a Dialogue & Debate webinar or podcast (this can be done individually or in collaboration with other Fellows).

Fellows are able to receive mentoring from senior leaders across industry, government, and the charity sector, through our association with [Windsor Leadership Trust](#), an organisation that seeks to transform leadership in the UK. Fellows

can take part in programme delivery, including developing facilitation skills with support from the Programme Team. They can also take on weekend duties at the Lodge, give welcome talks and history tours.

Other opportunities include free attendance at Cumberland Conversations, the London Dialogue, partnership events, and the annual Shakespeare Study Retreat. Fellows are welcome to suggest additional activities to the Communications and Programme teams throughout their Fellowship.

Fellowships will be reviewed at the end of the first year to ensure minimum participation requirements are being met.

Benefits

All Fellows are entitled to apply for a Personal Development Grant of £300 during their Fellowship, to be used creatively to generate outputs related to the theme of promoting social cohesion and dialogue. Previous uses of this grant have included creating podcasts and education resources.



Additional benefits include:

- meals and accommodation provided whilst staying with us for required Fellowship activities;
- return, economy-rate travel expenses within the London region, to support participation in required Fellowship activities;
- use of Lodge facilities at a discounted rate.

Fellowship alumni and ambassadorial role

By becoming a Cumberland Lodge Fellow, you will be given numerous opportunities to connect with others and we hope that these connections last a lifetime. You will be joining a growing international and inter-generational network that is committed to strengthening social cohesion, and understanding and addressing social division using dialogue as a means to navigate difference, social and political polarisation.

To build on this work, Fellows are expected to take on an ambassadorial role, speaking about and growing support for what we do here at Cumberland Lodge within your own networks and helping us to build sustainable, impactful partnerships. You will need to outline in your application how you would go about fulfilling this expectation.

This ambassadorial role is supported by our annual reunion and Fellows' Retreat in September each year. This weekend enables alumni to stay up to date on our Programme, to feed back on any initiatives they have undertaken, and identify areas where Cumberland Lodge can provide support so that you can act as effective ambassadors in your professional lives.

Our partners

Each year, one of our Fellows is nominated by the [Council for At-Risk Academics](#) (Cara), which provides urgently-needed help to academics in immediate danger, including those forced into exile.

We work in partnership with a range of organisations that share our commitment to dialogue, ethical leadership, and social cohesion. These partnerships, including Goodenough College and Chatham House, provide Fellows with additional networks and programme opportunities to engage with.

How to apply

To [apply for a 2026-28 Fellowship](#), please download and complete the application form, and return it, along with a CV, to:
programmeteam@cumberlandlodge.ac.uk

Applications must be received by 9am on Monday 1 June 2026.

If you are shortlisted for interview, you will be informed by 15 June and interviews will take place online via Teams on 30 June or 1 July.

Please note that, due to the high number of applications, we are unable to provide feedback if you are not invited to interview.

If you have not heard back from us by 15 June, we regret that you have not been shortlisted for interview.

If you have any questions that are not answered here, please email us using the Programme team address above.

