



## YMP Visiting Research Fellows, Spring 2026 call Guidance Notes

YMP is delighted to launch the first York-Maastricht Visiting Research Fellowships call for researchers at York and Maastricht.

### Overview

The YMP Visiting Research Fellows Scheme builds on our existing partnership to offer researchers at York or Maastricht University the opportunity to spend up to a month at the partner university to develop new research collaborations on our key themes. The funding is designed to help you:

- Develop new long-term collaborations and research links
- Exchange expertise and share access to specialised facilities, resources, and equipment
- Develop new research proposals, grant applications, and outputs
- Build and strengthen international research networks in key themes

The YMP VRF scheme provides funding for travel and accommodation expenses for the fellow for up to one month's visit. You can choose whether to use this funding for one long visit, or for two or more shorter visits. The key themes included in this call are:

- Culture and Heritage
- Imaging and Health
- Robotics and AI
- Sustainable Planet (*agritech, biodiversity, future farming, plant science, food systems, green chemistry*)

### Eligibility

All applicants at York and Maastricht must hold a PhD and have an academic appointment at either university for the duration of their fellowship. You must have not co-authored publications or developed funding applications on the same topic with your proposed collaborator in the past five years. Any member of research staff at the University of York or Maastricht University is eligible, provided that they hold a PhD at the time of application, and that their employment contract extends beyond 31 July 2027.

If you would like help finding a partner and host department at the partner university, please contact [ymp@york.ac.uk](mailto:ymp@york.ac.uk) for assistance. We can also help you negotiate access to desk and lab space at the partner university too.

You must also provide evidence of agreement for your visit from your own head of department and from the department you will visit at the partner university (email sufficient).

### YMP Visiting Research Fellowship Funding

Around 6 awards of £3,000/€3,400 will be awarded to researchers at York and Maastricht through the spring call. Each award is intended to cover economy travel, visa applications (for non-UK or EU nationals) and a minimum of 21 and maximum of 28 nights' accommodation at the partner university. All allocated funding and visits must take place before 31 December 2026.

## Visit Planning

Applicants will need to have a clearly planned programme of work for their time at the host institution, designed around in-person attendance and close work with partner university colleagues. Virtual fellowships are not permitted, but you should plan to meet virtually with your collaboration partner(s) in advance of your visits to plan your collaboration and how to make the best use of your time on the visit.

## Expected Activity and Outputs

This funding is designed to further develop collaboration between York and Maastricht, so YMP Fellows are expected to show how their funding will further develop the partnership. Eligible outputs could include a selection of the following:

- Preparation and submission of a joint grant proposal for external research funding, prepared with partner university colleagues and submitted within 6 months of your visit.
- Submission of a research article, co-authored by the Fellow and one or more partner university colleagues, on one of YMP's key themes (see above for list of themes). The paper submission should be made within 4 months of your visit.
- Delivery of a lecture, seminar, or masterclass by the YMP Fellow to partner university colleagues, presenting their research and the joint project with their collaborator.
- You will also be asked to submit a short update outlining the visit and its outputs within 2 months of the completion of your visit(s). The report will be shared with the YMP Board and Deans and quotes from the report may be included on the YMP website.

Fellows are expected to include an acknowledgement of their funding in the submission of any publications following on from their fellowship and visits.

## Application process

Applications must be submitted on the application form below, and sent by email as Word or PDF documents to [ymp@york.ac.uk](mailto:ymp@york.ac.uk) by midnight (GMT) on 24 May 2026.

If you have any queries or would like to check whether your proposed activity and topics are eligible, please contact [katherine.benson@york.ac.uk](mailto:katherine.benson@york.ac.uk).

## Key Criteria for assessment

Applications will be assessed on whether

- The fellowship addresses one of YMP's four themes
  - Culture and Heritage
  - Imaging and Health
  - Robotics and AI
  - Sustainable Planet (agritech, biodiversity, future farming, plant science, food systems, green chemistry)

- The visit aims and activities are clear and designed to establish and develop strong collaborations with colleagues at the partner university
- Whether the fellowship will provide a strong foundation for an external grant application, industry engagement, or co-authored publication
- The planned activities make good use of the time, funding, and facilities available, and will lead to further opportunities for York-Maastricht research collaboration

We will also consider applications from researchers who would also like to explore industry or policy engagement in the UK or in Brussels as part of their visit. If this is of interest, please contact Katherine Benson to discuss before making your application.

## Timelines and how to apply

Monday 23 March 2026 – call opens

Sunday 24 May 2026, 12 midnight – application deadline

w/c 1 June 2026 – selection panel meets, applicants will be notified of the outcome of their applications in early June

We look forward to receiving your application. If you have any questions, please contact [ymp@york.ac.uk](mailto:ymp@york.ac.uk).

## Frequently Asked Questions

### **I am an Early Career Researcher (ECR). Am I eligible to apply?**

Yes, we highly encourage applications from ECRs. As long as you hold a PhD and a current academic appointment at York or Maastricht for the duration of the fellowship, you are eligible.

### **Can the £3,000/€3,400 be used for research consumables or equipment?**

No. The funding is strictly allocated for travel, visas, and accommodation, and these costs must be evidenced. Subsistence and research costs must be covered by the fellow or their home department.

### **How is the funding administered?**

Awards are typically processed via reimbursement through your home institution's travel and expenses system. Successful applicants will receive specific instructions on budget codes and claim processes in their award letter.

### **Do I need a formal invitation letter from the host department?**

A formal letter is not required at the application stage; a clear email from the relevant Head of Department at the host institution confirming they are willing to host you is sufficient.

### **What if my travel costs exceed £3,000/€3,400?**

The award is capped at £3,000/€3,400. Any costs incurred beyond this limit must be covered by the applicant's departmental funds or personal resources.

### **Can we apply for both the Visiting Fellowship and the Seed Funding?**

No. The seed funding is designed to support collaboration between York and Maastricht so we would

expect you to include travel and accommodation costs at the partner university as part of your project budget.