



## Further Particulars for Reuben College Official Fellowship in Cellular Life

July 2025

Reuben College seeks to recruit to an Official (Governing Body) Fellowship in Cellular Life, starting September 2025.

In the 2025-26 academic year we plan for there to be at least twelve Official Fellows (Governing Body Fellows) within the Cellular Life Theme at Reuben – currently the largest of the College's themes both in terms of students and Fellowship numbers. In response to growing student numbers in this area, we are looking particularly for colleagues to expand and complement the academic interests of current members.

To be eligible, applicants must be currently employed by the University in an RSIV, Grade 10, or 9 post, or in an 8 post if they are an independent researcher in an area related to the relevant theme.

Successful candidates will be elected to a Fellowship on a five-year renewable basis, with a midterm review, and with renewal dependent on satisfactory performance in college duties. However, a Fellowship at the College does not itself constitute employment and does not confer any rights to employment with the University.

As a Fellow of Reuben College, the postholder will have a role to play in the governance of the College through their membership of Governing Body and its subsidiary committees, and in the support of its graduate students and diverse interdisciplinary activities.

Official Fellows receive College membership and benefits including an annual allowance (of currently £3,000 per annum).

To apply, please send a (maximum) 10-page CV and covering letter to the President's Executive Assistant ([president-pa@reuben.ox.ac.uk](mailto:president-pa@reuben.ox.ac.uk)) **by noon on Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> July**.

This CV, attached as a pdf, should include your publications list, and a supporting statement (a) specifying your relevant skills and experience; and (b) describing how you would be able to contribute to the college.

Interviews for shortlisted candidates will take place on either the **21<sup>st</sup> or 22<sup>nd</sup> August (tbc)**.

Full further particulars for the posts follow below.

For more information please visit: [www.reuben.ox.ac.uk](http://www.reuben.ox.ac.uk).

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## I Reuben College

### I.I The vision

There are 39 self-governing and independent colleges at Oxford, giving both academic staff and students the benefits of belonging to a small, interdisciplinary community as well as to a large, internationally renowned institution. The collegiate system fosters a strong sense of community, bringing together leading academics and students across subjects, and from different cultures and countries.

The founding of Reuben College in 2019, supported by a generous benefaction from the Reuben Foundation of £71 million (including £15 million for graduate scholarships), has offered an exciting opportunity to bring together researchers and postgraduate students focused on exploring some of the most important questions of the 21st century. Reuben College provides an environment that stimulates and facilitates interdisciplinary research, while emphasising the qualities of innovation, leadership and entrepreneurship. It supports a community of Fellows and graduates who embrace opportunities to interact with researchers beyond the boundaries of their own disciplines and to engage with colleagues beyond the realm of academia.

### I.II Strategic and Academic Themes

Reuben College is committed to maintaining an inclusive and internationally excellent research environment; it expects its Fellows to be active in research and to contribute to a high-quality learning experience for its student body. In selecting Fellows, the Selection Committees will have regard for promoting a diversity of perspectives and approaches, with College Fellows together fostering a culture of interdisciplinary exchange for Reuben students through regular college events, such as seminars, talks and workshops.

To promote the ethos and practice of interdisciplinary interaction, there has been an initial focus on four research clusters, whose themes were chosen for their wide reach across the University, their strongly interdisciplinary nature, Oxford's existing and potential strengths in these areas, and their innovation and entrepreneurship potential. The initial clusters focus on the topics of (a) [Artificial Intelligence & Machine Learning](#), (b) [Environmental Change](#), (c) [Cellular Life](#), and (d) [Ethics & Values](#). These clusters have natural synergies, enabling cross-cutting discussions and research collaborations to emerge. Each of the four areas is interpreted as broadly as possible, as the College is keen to attract researchers from all four of the University's Academic Divisions. The four themes are complemented by a number of strategic stands, notably in [Innovation and Entrepreneurship](#) and in [Public Engagement in Research, Culture & Heritage](#).

### Cellular Life

The Cellular Life theme is currently the largest in the College – both in terms of the size of the College Fellowship and of the graduate body.

The theme brings together academics seeking to understand the underlying mechanisms of living organisms, with an emphasis on the cell – the fundamental building block of life. From the nerve cells that wire our brain to the specialised cells of the pancreas and liver that control how our body processes food, understanding how cells work will transform our knowledge of ourselves, as well as our ability to cure disease. Research on cellular life impacts not only medicine but also public policy; for example, ageing, which is caused by the accumulation of cellular defects, is of as much interest to social scientists as to gerontologists.

The College has now reached the stage where it is expanding the topics that its research clusters cover and welcomes applications from researchers across all fields

## II Official Fellowships

### II. I College Duties

As a Fellow of Reuben College the postholder will have a role to play in the governance of the College as a member of its Governing Body and subsidiary committees, and in the support of its graduate students and diverse interdisciplinary activities, as outlined below.

- To act as adviser to a number of Reuben College graduate students
- To organize and lead occasional College seminars, workshops and lectures, as appropriate.
- To be involved in the recruitment and mentoring of the College's Research Fellows (post-docs).
- To regularly attend academic and social events organised by the College or other Fellows.
- To be an active and engaged member of its Governing Body, expected to attend the majority of scheduled meetings.
- To play a full role in the life and administration of the College. This will involve, from time to time:
  - Holding office within the College;
  - Sitting on, or chairing, College Committees;
  - Taking part in public engagement projects and events, development, access and outreach work, and/or other activities which help to sustain a thriving college community

Fellows may not hold a Governing Body Fellowship at any other college concurrently with their Fellowship at the College. However, since the College is at present a Society of the University, it does not hold charitable status in its own right, and so Reuben College Fellows are not charitable trustees of the College

## II.II College Benefits, Terms and Conditions

Successful candidates will be elected to a Fellowship on a five-year renewable basis, with a mid-term review, and with renewal dependent on satisfactory performance in college duties. However, a Fellowship at the College does not itself constitute employment and does not confer any rights to employment with the University. Fellows are required to inform the President and Senior Tutor of the College if they are given notice under their University contract of employment: any Fellowship will expire automatically on the same dates as the expiry of a contract of employment with the University.

Official Fellows will receive the following benefits:

- An annual allowance (of currently £3,000 per annum). This can be paid either directly (for non-Tier 2 postholders only, and thus will be taxable), or as a research allowance (to support, for example, conferences, events, or research costs).
- Subsidised dining and luncheon rights (in accordance with the facilities available at the time).
- The right to bring guests to college meals, subject to capacity, and at their own costs.
- Membership of the Common Room.

Benefits will continue as normal during any period of family leave, or sickness absence but will be suspended for the period of any research leave, other paid leave (excepting the above), or unpaid leave of 12 months or more, taken by an Official Fellow, during which time they choose not to fulfil their college duties. All decisions in these regards will be taken by the President in consultation with the Senior Tutor, with a view to promoting fairness and consistency of treatment amongst the Fellows.

As an Official Fellow, the postholder will be a member of the College's Governing Body and is required to hold the Fellowship under the terms of the College Statutes and By-laws in force. All Fellows are thus bound by the relevant policies and procedures of the College as published on the College's website and in internal directories

## II. Applications

### III. I Eligibility

This is not an employment position and to be eligible applicants must be currently employed by the University in an RSIV, Grade 10, or 9 post, or in an 8 post if they are an independent researcher in an area related to the relevant Reuben theme. Tier 2 postholders are welcome to apply - this is not an employment position and should not necessitate a new visa application. (This also means that the College would not be able to act as sponsor for any visa renewal.)

Candidates with University contracts of less than five years are welcome to apply, with College election then coterminous with that shorter contract. The Selection Committee will however have regard for continuity in the college fellowship, and particular for provision for its graduate students. University postholders who do not hold a contract for beyond October 2027 are thus unlikely to be elected.

Those who already have a Governing Body Fellowship with another college or society will not be eligible.

If you have any questions about your eligibility, please contact the College's Senior Tutor ([senior.tutor@reuben.ox.ac.uk](mailto:senior.tutor@reuben.ox.ac.uk)).

### III.II Person specification & Selection Criteria

Applicants will be assessed on their eligibility, their ability to perform those duties specified above, and the College's need for intellectual diversity and excellence within the advertised themes.

Candidates are thus encouraged in their applications to include evidence of the following:

- a record of research leadership and an academic reputation commensurate with that of a Senior Research Fellow or Professor/Associate Professor, in a relevant area
- research interests which complement those of the Cellular Life Fellowship at Reuben and supports its growing student
- strong commitment to, and track record in, interdisciplinary research
- commitment to the vision, approach and values of Reuben College
- commitment to advancing equality, diversity and inclusion
- enthusiasm for working with colleagues from other Departments and Divisions, including the Gardens, Libraries and Museums, as well as researchers from centres of excellence outside the University, in the setting up and delivery of interdisciplinary activities within the college (for example seminar series, talks and workshops)
- willingness and capacity to act as the college adviser for Reuben College graduate students
- ability to work effectively as part of a small, collaborative team, to influence and to build consensus
- strong communication skills, both written and oral
- ability to build relationships at all levels, to network effectively and to inspire confidence in students and colleagues

as appropriate, a commitment to outreach, knowledge exchange, public engagement, and/or promoting innovation

### III.III Equality, Diversity & Inclusiveness

As a new college, we are building a community of people and practice that has diversity at the heart, for students and staff, for our academic and applied endeavours. This gives all our members both the opportunity and the shared responsibility to shape the culture and ethos of our community.

Through every one of its events, committees, procedures and practices, the growing community of Reuben College aims to create an environment in which everyone can take advantage of the unique opportunities that living, working and studying in Oxford can bring, whatever their background. We hope that, as our community grows, all members continue to work towards ensuring equity of opportunity for each individual, without exception.

### III.IV How to apply

To apply, please send a (maximum) 10-page CV and covering letter to the President's Executive Assistant ([president-pa@reuben.ox.ac.uk](mailto:president-pa@reuben.ox.ac.uk)) **by noon on Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> July**. This CV, attached as a pdf, should include your publications list, and a supporting statement (a) specifying your relevant skills and experience; and (b) describing how you would be able to contribute to the college:

- Given the overall limit of 10 pages, you may not be able to include your complete list of publications, in which case you should select the ones which are most relevant to your application.
- The supporting statement should explain how you meet the selection criteria for the post, using examples of your skills and experience.
- In your text for how you would contribute to the college, it may be helpful for you to describe the first few interdisciplinary seminars that you would intend to run, should you be appointed to this post.

Please include contact details for two referees, one of whom should be your current Head of Department or equivalent. Referees will be contacted for shortlisted candidates only – please confirm if you consent for them to be contacted at that time.

Applicants are also asked to complete an [equality form](#) for monitoring purposes only; these forms will not be viewed by members of the Selection Committees.

It is anticipated that interviews for shortlisted candidates will take place on **21<sup>st</sup> or 22<sup>nd</sup> August (tbc)**.