

**SPAIS Visiting Researcher Frequently Asked Questions**

**What is a Visiting Researcher?**

Visiting Researchers are scholars resident in the School of Sociology, Politics and International Studies for a specified length of time (up to 12 months) who conduct their own research whilst benefitting from, and contributing to, the research culture of the School. Visiting Researchers will need a current member of SPAIS academic staff to act as host/mentor. Applicants will need to complete the application form which can be found on our website.

**Is a Visiting Researcher the same as a visiting student?**

No, Visiting Researchers are not students. Visiting Researchers are affiliated to the School for the purposes of conducting their own research. They do not attend regular classes or seminars. Visiting Researchers do not have structured supervision, but instead have multiple opportunities to engage with members of staff in the School who have shared or related research interests.

**What will my Visiting Researcher title be in SPAIS?**

Your title will depend on your experience and correspond with our academic role profiles <http://www.bristol.ac.uk/hr/grading/academic/role-profiles/>

**Is a Visiting Researcher the same as a visiting Postdoctoral Fellow?**

No. Anyone interested in coming to SPAIS under a funded scheme such as the Marie Curie fund or European Science Foundation should visit the post doc fellow section of the SPAIS website.

<http://www.bris.ac.uk/spais/research/postdocs/>

**Are there Immigration issues associated with Visiting Researcher applications?**

Yes, but only for applicants who are citizens of countries outside of the European Economic Area (EEA) – see details here

<http://www.bristol.ac.uk/hr/resourcing/additionalguidance/overseas/academic-visitor.html>

Applicants who are citizens of an EEA country simply need to complete the Visiting Researcher application form and, if successful, pay the affiliation/bench fee prior to their scheduled arrival in Bristol.

Applicants who are non-EEA citizens are required, in addition, to go through the procedures outlined here

<http://www.bristol.ac.uk/hr/resourcing/additionalguidance/overseas/#tier5>

**Does SPAIS offer funding for Visiting Researchers?**

No. Visiting Researchers must pay an affiliation/bench fee to the School prior to their arrival in Bristol in order to receive Visiting Researcher status (see the ‘Opportunities for Visiting Researchers’ main page for details). All travel and living expenses are the responsibility of the Visiting Researcher, not the School.

**How can I pay the affiliation/bench fee?**

Arrangements for paying the affiliation/bench fee will be sent to you if your application is successful.

**How do I arrange accommodation for my visit to Bristol**

Visiting Researchers must make their own accommodation arrangements. It is best to contact the University staff accommodation office as soon as possible in advance of your trip

<http://www.bristol.ac.uk/accommodation/staff/>

**I want to improve my English whilst acting as a Visiting Researcher at Bristol. Is this possible?**

If you would like to take English classes, they are available from the University’s Language Centre. You would need to pay the tuition fee yourself. You can find out what sort of courses are available on their website at <http://www.bristol.ac.uk/languagecentre/>

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