# Expression of Interest for the University of Oxford Strategic Research Fund – Social Sciences Division

## Background

The **Strategic Research Fund (SRF**) seeks to build lasting research capacity through major transformative co-investments in researchers and research that:

* position the University for global pre-eminence and fosters a cohort of outstanding researchers and research leaders;
* typically span disciplines and existing internal structures;
* demonstrate the case for ongoing sustainability through departmental/divisional co-investment both alongside and beyond the SRF-funded period.

Full guidance on the Strategic Research Fund is available [here](https://researchsupport.admin.ox.ac.uk/funding/internal/srf).

**How to apply**

If you would like the Social Sciences Division to consider your project for submission to the SRF, please fill-in this Expression of Interest template, secure approval from your Head of Department and send it to Divisional Senior Research Facilitator at:

[kanza.basit@socsci.ox.ac.uk](mailto:kanza.basit@socsci.ox.ac.uk)

EOIs will be reviewed by a divisional sub-panel. If your project is selected for submission to the SRF, the division will work with you/your department in preparing a full proposal for SRF. This will be submitted to the SRF Board once ready and when the division considers it appropriate (this would depend on when the SRF Board is meeting and/or whether there are any other proposals being developed too).

**Only projects supported by a division(s) can be submitted to the SRF.**

For any questions, please get in touch with [kanza.basit@socsci.ox.ac.uk](mailto:kanza.basit@socsci.ox.ac.uk)

| SECTION 1: Title and lay Summary (suggested length: 200 words) Describe the proposed initiative, outlining the long-term vision and aims. |
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| SECTION 2: What is transformative about this investment? (suggested length: 250 words) Describe **the lasting change** that this initiative will have on the research landscape at Oxford. What will we have in 5-10 years’ time that we don’t have now? How are you judging what would be transformed through this SRF investment? How will it position University of Oxfords relative to our global peers? |
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| SECTION 3: Why now? (suggested length: 250 words) Tell us why the University should invest in this initiative and **why this investment should be prioritised now**.   * Are there particular time-critical issues within the internal or external environment? * How does the idea relate to current and developing priorities in the UK & international research funding landscape? |
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| SECTION 4: What is needed to deliver this initiative? (suggested length: 300 words) SRF is primarily aimed at investing in ongoing (as opposed to fixed-term) research positions to build capacity and capability. It is very much a people-focused fund.   * Give a description of the expected time (in years) and resources required to deliver on the aims of the initiative. * Outline how this will be split approximately between staff and non-staff costs for each year? * How will the SRF will be utilised to de-risk the long-term department investment in this research capacity across the first few years of the investment? |
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| SECTION 5: How does this initiative advance University strategies? (suggested length: 200 words) How will University strategies be advanced, embedded and monitored in this initiative?   * [Equality, Diversity and Inclusion](https://edu.admin.ox.ac.uk/e-d-oxford) * [Environmental Sustainability](https://sustainability.admin.ox.ac.uk/environmental-sustainability-strategy) * [Concordat for Researcher Development](https://www.ox.ac.uk/research/support-researchers/researcher-hub/researcher-development-concordat) |
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