

Faculty of Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences (HASS) Virtual Scholar Scheme Policy

The Virtual Scholar Scheme refers to an initiative implemented by the University of Exeter's Supporting Higher Education in Gaza Working Group, in the Faculty of Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences.

The scheme has been set up to provide scholars who are currently or were previously based in Gaza, with an affiliation to a department in the Faculty, including access to University of Exeter online resources (e.g. Library access). Scholars will also be offered department affiliation so that they may join online events and integrate with the academic community where possible.

The scheme will be supported by the HASS Business Operations and Support (BOAS) team, via HASS@exeter.ac.uk.

Terms and Conditions

The following list sets out the standard terms and conditions for the Virtual Scholar Scheme. Individual circumstances may vary, and non-standard provision may be negotiated with the faculty, subject to authorisation of the faculty panel and Supporting Higher Education in Gaza Working Group.

Please note: whilst we do not want language to be a barrier, we would like to highlight that a working knowledge of English will enable a scholar to benefit from the opportunity, as the resources and events are mainly in English. The review panel will consider the candidate's likelihood of benefiting from the initiative during the approval process.

1. Duration of Visit

- a. Virtual Scholars will be set up for an initial period of 12 months.
- b. Thereafter, applications will be renewable on a 6-month rolling period.

2. Applications

- a. An application form should be submitted via the MS form shared, by the deadline provided.
- b. Supporting paperwork should be sent to HASS@exeter.ac.uk to complete the application process. The following supporting documents are mandatory:
 - i. A form of ID
 - ii. A CV
 - iii. A Research Proposal (for staff applicants only)

3. Renewals

- a. Application renewals are assessed one month before the end date.
- b. The HASS BOAS Team will confirm the renewal outcome to a Virtual Scholar by issuing an updated formal confirmation letter.

4. Academic Guidance

- a. Virtual Scholars will be aligned to a department.
- b. Directors of Research and Impact will be the point of contact for Virtual Scholars within their department.
 - i. Directors of Research and Impact are not expected to provide specialist advice and guidance to a Virtual Scholar; only the most informal support can be provided.

5. Facilities and Support

- a. Virtual Scholars will be set up with an Exeter Associate IT account:
 - i. The Exeter Associate IT account will provide access to the University of Exeter's digital library resources.
 - ii. Virtual Scholars will have access to the University of Exeter's network and be issued with an Exeter email account for the duration of their term.
 - iii. Virtual Scholars should familiarise themselves with the University of Exeter's IT account policy.
- b. Virtual Scholars' Exeter IT account will be added to the central Virtual Scholars mailing list.
- c. Virtual Scholars will not have access to the University of Exeter's printers, and administrative support is not provided to carry out printing or photocopying duties for Virtual Scholars.

6. Space and Equipment

- a. Virtual Scholars are based remotely.
- b. The University of Exeter does not provide a designated workspace on campus for Virtual Scholars.
- c. The University of Exeter does not provide any IT equipment for Virtual Scholars.

7. Travel and Accommodation

- a. The University of Exeter does not provide support for travel for Virtual Scholars.
- b. The University of Exeter does not provide support for accommodation for Virtual Scholars.

8. Financial Support

- a. This initiative does not provide any type of financial support.

Policy approved by the Faculty Executive Board in June 2025.