

Visiting Fellowships: August & November 2026

In 2026, Chawton House will offer six residential fellowships in two cohorts. Fellowships are open to postgraduate or early career researchers*, working on women's writing of the long eighteenth century (our collection spans 1660-1860).

We are delighted to once again be working with the British Association of Romantic Studies (BARS) in offering one named Fellowship to BARS members:

British Association for Romantic Studies (BARS) Fellowship

The BARS Fellowship will be awarded to the top-ranked candidate who is a member of BARS. Research into all areas of Romantic women's writing will be considered, although the collection at Chawton House is especially strong in holdings of female-authored fiction 1780-1830. The successful applicant should be a member of BARS at the time of taking up the Fellowship. <http://www.bars.ac.uk>

Deirdre Le Faye Fellowship

In memory of Deirdre Le Faye, one Fellowship will be offered to a researcher working on Jane Austen where an appropriate candidate is identified.

We particularly welcome applications from minority ethnic groups, women, and those on fixed-term contracts.

*A postgraduate must be enrolled on a doctoral programme; an early career scholar is defined as someone who holds a PhD, but has not held a permanent academic post for more than three years by the application deadline.

Information for Applicants

Chawton House & Collection

Chawton House is an Elizabethan manor house and estate once owned by Jane Austen's brother Edward. Edward gave sisters Jane and Cassandra, and their mother, a cottage in the village (now a museum), where they lived from 1809. In 2003, following a decade-long restoration and the establishment of Chawton House Library as a charity, we opened as a centre for the study of women's writing of the long eighteenth century. Today, Chawton House is a busy heritage site, committed preserving our history and place, facilitating the study of the women writers in our collection, and generating public engagement in the rich histories of pre-20th-century women's writing. We welcome 20,000 visitors onsite each year

and run a [lively events programme](#) onsite, offsite and online. The library is home to a unique collection of around 4,500 works by women in the long eighteenth century, complemented by a wealth of modern critical resources. We also hold the Knight Family library on deposit, along with collections of Brontë ephemera (Tony Yablon) and Deidre Le Faye's archive.

Since opening, Chawton House offered a competitive Visiting Fellowship programme for a decade. A strategic reshaping of the organization in 2017 saw the suspension of the programme for a number of years, but in 2021, a new summer Fellowship programme was piloted, aimed specifically at early career researchers. This programme is now in its 5th year.

You can [find out more about Chawton House and the collections here](#).

You can [access the catalogue here](#).

2026 Fellowships

This year, we are offering six Fellowships to UK and international applicants.

Cohort 1: Monday 27 July – Friday 21 August

Cohort 3: Monday 2 November – Friday 27 November

2026 Fellows will be offered [onsite accommodation in a self-catering apartment](#) annexed to Chawton House itself (shared kitchen and bathroom), and will be expected to be in residence for the duration of their fellowship. Fellows will be given space to work each day in the upper reading room. A full induction to the accommodation, house and library will be provided on or shortly after arrival, along with a handbook. Parking is available on-site for those with cars. Fellows will be expected to take part in weekly meetings with curatorial staff, to be involved in the life of the House during their stay, to contribute to the outputs at Chawton House in some way (e.g. onsite tour/talk; online talk/workshop; blogpost/display), and to give an informal presentation on their work at the end of the Fellowship.

Please note that travel and living expenses are not included as part of the programme.

How to Apply

The deadline for applications is midnight GMT on Friday 24 April, 2026. Please email the following documents to kim.simpson@chawtonhouse.org:

- A cover letter, including a proposal for a contribution to the outputs at Chawton House (1 page only; please see our website & YouTube channel). If you have a preferred cohort date then please state this, although we cannot guarantee requested dates.
- A proposal for the work you intend to carry out as a Visiting Fellow, to include items in our collection that you would want to consult (no more than 2 pages, 1.5 spaced)

- Your CV (no more than 2 pages)
- One confidential letter of recommendation to be emailed separately by the referee before the deadline.

Please note that incomplete or late applications will not be considered.

Please direct general questions to Dr Kim Simpson: kim.simpson@chawtonhouse.org, and collections-specific questions to Assistant Curator Molly Maslen: molly.maslen@chawtonhouse.org.