

THE JILL FRANKLIN FELLOWSHIP IN ROMANESQUE ARCHITECTURAL HISTORY

Applications are invited for the 2026-7 Jill Franklin Fellowship in Romanesque Architectural History at the British School at Rome. The fellowship is tenable for one month and may be held at any point during the academic year (late September 2026 to September 2027), subject to the availability of accommodation at the BSR. The fellowship is a joint responsibility of the BSR and British Archaeological Association.

RATIONALE

The fellowship has been established in memory of Jill Franklin (1945-2023), a scholar best known for her work on the architecture of the Augustinian canons, principally of the 11th and 12th centuries, and for her contributions to the study of Anglo-Norman architectural sculpture. Jill was a council member and fieldworker for the Corpus of Romanesque Sculpture in Britain and Ireland, and joint author of the catalogue of paintings in the collection of the Society of Antiquaries. Though undertaking work at or for various institutions, Jill spent most of her career as an independent scholar.

The aim of the fellowship is to provide an opportunity to spend a month in Rome pursuing research into Romanesque architecture and allied arts (architectural sculpture, fittings and furnishings, monumental painting). Architectural history is here interpreted broadly, to encompass settlement and distribution patterns, institutional and documentary histories (monastic, episcopal, urban), as well as research into specific buildings or groups of buildings. Romanesque is similarly broadly defined: although the core chronological range is c. 1000-1200, applications that run into the 10th or 13th centuries will be considered if the focus of the study is Romanesque. Proposals do not need to be specific to Rome or central Italy. Indeed, the purpose could be to enjoy a month's thinking and writing time with access to first-class libraries in pursuit of a research objective whose geographical parameters lie outside Italy.

ELIGIBILITY

Applications are open to British and Commonwealth citizens, or those who are working or studying in the UK. The Fellowship is primarily aimed at independent scholars, though students undertaking research degrees and early career art/architectural historians may apply. Academics for whom research is a requirement of their employment contract are ineligible.

DURATION AND BENEFITS

The fellowship lasts for one month (30 nights) of the academic year 2026-7, with precise dates subject to availability of space at the BSR. These will need to be negotiated by the successful candidate upon award of the Fellowship and candidates should note that the School may not be able to offer the awardees their preferred dates. The British School will provide bed and board at the BSR (Via Gramsci), together with full access to the School's facilities. A modest pot of spending money (approximately £1000) is also provided, though successful applicants are responsible for their own travel to and from Rome.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

Applications are assessed by the British Archaeological Association, and are to be sent as email attachments to awards@thebaa.org. All applicants should provide a research proposal (up to 750 words), a short CV (no more than two pages A4), including educational and employment history and any publications to date, and the name and contact details of a referee. In a short covering statement, candidates are asked to confirm the grounds for their eligibility (as outlined above), and to indicate the probable periods during the 2026-7 academic year when they would be able to take up the Fellowship.

The closing date for applications is 31st January, 2026. There may be interviews held on Zoom in February 2026.