

Practical information for Thomas J. Alexander Fellows

Research Stay in Paris

Status of fellows

Thomas J. Alexander Fellows are encouraged to maintain their affiliation whilst they are completing their Fellowship whether it is with a university, another organisation or a research institution. It is important to note that the programme is not a means of recruitment to the OECD.

When should I come to Paris?

The timing of your residency will depend on your desired dates but also on the availability of space at the OECD and the availability of your mentor to work with you on the project. If the mentor who chose your project is taken by other ongoing projects during the time you requested to come or if there are insufficient desks available at that time, the committee will work with you to determine the best possible time to come. Please bear in mind that June-July-August are the most popular months for Fellows to come so it is possible that these dates are already booked. July and August can also be very quiet months at the OECD so you may prefer to come during another time of the year when you would be able to attend more meetings and conferences and live the experience to its fullest.

Some fellows prefer to start working on their proposal from the institution they are working in first and finish their project in Paris; others find it better to start in Paris. In general we have found that the most valuable time with your mentor is spent while you are in Paris and you can regularly have meetings and discuss the progress of the work.

Does the Fellowship provide accommodation?

No. Selected candidates will be granted an award which should cover their costs of living while they are in Paris. Fellows are responsible for seeking out their own accommodation.

How long should I plan to stay?

The length of the Fellowship is entirely up to the Fellow. Selected Fellows are required to spend three consecutive months in Paris but may stay for up to a year or anything in between.

What does a normal week look like for a Thomas J. Alexander Fellow?

Thomas J. Alexander Fellows keep office hours while they are in the OECD that is to say from about 9 am to 6 pm Monday through Friday in an office shared with other fellows and the Fellowship coordinator.

Fellows are encouraged to make the most of their time here, for instance by attending conferences, seminars, training courses, or French lessons.

On the weekends our fellows are left to their own devices. Many organise short trips together to areas surrounding the city or check out a museum or new restaurant.

Deliverables

The prospective candidate can suggest the desired outputs of his project in the proposal. Your mentor can also help to identify other possible outcomes, which in the past have included OECD Working Papers, journal articles, contributions to OECD publications, national reports, policy briefs, conferences, press articles, interviews and much more.

After the Fellowship

What happens after?

The Fellowship is intended to be a lasting relationship. Our “former” fellows stay involved with one another and the Organisation long after they have handed in their final paper. The Fellowship encourages and supports fellows continuing their research and expanding their portfolio. Many fellows have published together with their mentors and with people they’ve met through the fellowship years after completing their final paper.

What is the Alumni Association?

The purpose of the network is to hold annual fellowship meetings bringing together members of the programme and external experts, policy makers and other researchers to discuss around a central theme which changes every year. This is an excellent opportunity for knowledge sharing and raising awareness around the work being conducted by fellows to a broad and changing audience.