



## **Asfari Visiting Fellowships at the Centre for Syrian Studies, University of St. Andrews, Scotland, UK**

September 5, 2017

The Centre for Syrian Studies, University of St. Andrews invites applications for a visiting Syrian fellow in the academic year of 2016-2017, for **a period of three months**.

These fellowships are funded by the Asfari Foundation and will cover, accommodation and subsistence costs up to a maximum of £1500 per month. The fellowship will also cover the actual costs of an economy return ticket and visa up to £1000. Residence will normally be in post-graduate housing.

### **Fellowship Details**

The fellow selected will conduct her/his own independent research project on contemporary Syria that she/he will work on and discuss with members of the Centre while resident at St. Andrews. The fellow will be expected to:

- Give at least one public presentation on their topic;
- Participate in the regular seminars and other activities of the Centre and the School of International Relations;
- Prepare a 5-10,000 word essay on their topic publishable by the Centre in its papers series and on its website.

### **Application requirements and qualifications**

- Fellows will normally hold a university degree, preferably an advanced degree and/or will have 3 years minimum work experience in Syria in a sector related to their research topic;
- The fellow should be a Syrian passport holder or a Syrian Palestinian living in Syria or elsewhere in the Arab region fluent in Arabic and English (demonstrated by TOEFL (normally 100) or IELTS (normally 7.0) scores or evidence of study at English speaking universities or in the English faculties of Syrian Universities).

- Preference will be given to applicants whose research project will be either on sectarianism since the Syrian Uprising *or* on governance in post-rising Syria (with reference to the varying practices and institutions of governance in regime and or opposition controlled areas).

### **Application Process and deadline**

Applicants should send a letter of interest, a CV, proof of English language skills and a 500 word research proposal by e-mail to Prof Raymond Hinnebusch ([rh10@st-andrews.ac.uk](mailto:rh10@st-andrews.ac.uk)). Deadline for accepting applications is **15 October 2017**. Results of the competition will be announced by 1 July 2016.

Fellowship residence in St Andrews may be anytime between February 1, 2018 and June 1, 2018. **Please indicate your preference in your application.**

### **Background Information:**

The **Centre for Syrian Studies** was set up at the School for International Relations at St Andrews University in 2006 and is funded by the Asfari Foundation. The Centre aims to be a dedicated focal point for the study of Syria, particularly from a political economy perspective. It conducts research, holds conferences and workshops on Syria, publishes the on-line journal *Syria Studies* and hosts fellows, visiting speakers and post-graduate students. This will be the fourth year the Asfari Visiting Fellowship programme has been run at the Centre.

Since its establishment 600 years ago, **St Andrews University** has gained a reputation as one of Europe's leading and most distinctive centres for teaching and research. It is rated one of the top universities in Europe for research, teaching quality and student satisfaction and is consistently ranked among the UK's top five universities. Over a third of the student body of 7,200 is from overseas.

For further information see the Centre webpage at <http://css.wp.st-andrews.ac.uk/>

The **Asfari Foundation** is a registered British charity set up by Ayman and Sawsan Asfari in 2006. It aims to help young people make a valuable contribution to society by empowering them through education, research, and the power of free thinking. The Foundation also supports programmes that encourage the development of civil society, as well as providing humanitarian relief in emergencies.

For more information on the Asfari Foundation, which is supporting this fellowship scheme, please see: [www.asfarifoundation.org.uk](http://www.asfarifoundation.org.uk).