

**Clerical Authority in Shi'i Islam:
Culture and Learning in the Seminaries of Iraq and Iran**

**A collaborative project of the British Society for Middle Eastern
Studies (BRISMES) and the British Institute of Persian Studies
(BIPS),
sponsored by the British Academy, March 2009-March 2012.**

**RESEARCH PROGRAMME GRANTS
APPLICATION GUIDELINES**

1. The project "Clerical Authority in Shi'i Islam: Culture and Learning in the seminaries of Iraq and Iran" is to award a number of Research Programme Grants to proposals which fall under its Year 2 theme, "History and Development of the Hawza". The maximum amount for any one grant application is £5000. Applicants may apply for, hold, and be associated with only one Research Programme Grant in any year of the project. The project expects to award four research programme grants in its second year (4/10-4/11). These guidelines describe how you can apply for one of the Research Programme Grants. Further details concerning the project can be found at: www.thehawzaproject.net

2. Applications are welcome from researchers proposing to complete a programme of research which is connected to the theme of the second year of the project, namely, "The History and Development of the Hawza". Applicants must demonstrate in their application how their project fits within the theme, though it is expected that the questions to be answered and explored in the course of the Year 2 workshops, will include:

What are the links between the modern *hawza* system and the premodern systems of Shi'i learning?

How and why did Qum, Najaf and other seminar cities become the primary centres of Shi'i learning in the modern world?

What role have individual scholars had on the development of the *hawza*?

As in year 1 of the project, three workshops will take place during Year 2 of the Project. The recipients of Research Programme Grants will be expected to present their research at all three workshops. It is envisaged that at the first workshop (scheduled Thursday 13th May 2010), a sketch of the proposed work will be presented; at the second workshop (scheduled November 2010), preliminary research results will be presented; and at the final workshop (scheduled, March 2011), the near final version of a publishable paper will be presented. The workshops are aimed at providing the grant recipient with feedback during the research period, thereby enhancing the quality of the research results. The final result will be published in the proposed workshop proceedings for Year 2, which will all be on the theme of "The History and Development of the Hawza". Successful recipients of a Research Programme Grants will automatically be included on the Workshop Programme. They may, if they wish, also submit a workshop paper proposal (see www.thehawzaproject.net/workshops) and a visiting fellowship application (see www.thehawzaproject.net/funding): the submissions (Research Programme application, the workshop paper proposal are considered separately) are to be assessed

separately. It is not possible for an individual to hold an award under more than one of these schemes.

3. The closing date for applications for the Research Programme Grants is 12.00noon (UK time), Monday 22nd March 2010. Applications should be sent, in electronic form only to the Project Administrator, Ms Xenia Nikakis (admin@thehawzaproject.net) as WORD or PDF attachments. Applicants should follow the instructions contained in this document very carefully, as failure to do so may lead to your application being rejected.

4. Applications must be in English, and consist of a single MICROSOFT WORD or PDF document, divided into four sections (i-iv below):

- (i) the CV of the programme coordinator/proposer (2 sides of A4, max)
- (ii) CVs of any other researchers involved in the project (1 page of A4 for each researcher).
- (iii) CASE FOR SUPPORT for the programme of research (not more than 4 sides of A4), set out in the following sections (using the headings in bold) :
 - (a) The programme title and aims and objectives of the research programme;
 - (b) The amount requested (up to a maximum of £5000);
 - (c) The research questions addressed by the programme;
 - (d) The research activities, including a timeline for the research programme, associated with discovering the answers to those questions – the programme must cover all or part of the period April 2010 to April 2011;
 - (e) The fit to project theme, which in Year 2 is “The History and Development of the Hawza” (see above, note 2).
 - (f) the outputs (which must include, but are not limited to, contributions to the Year 2 workshops to be held in 13th May 2010, November 2010 and March 2011 - and a chapter in the collection resulting from those workshops)
- (iv) BUDGET (in pounds sterling) for the programme (not more than 1 page of A4), divided into the following headings:
 - (1) travel costs,
 - (2) subsistence,
 - (3) research material costs,
 - (4) Other sundry costs.

In preparation of the budget, applicants should take note of point 5. below.

The total length of the document should not, then, be more than NINE pages of A4.

The font size used in the document should be no smaller than point 12 in the text itself and point 10 in footnotes. These materials should be sent as a single MICROSOFT WORD or PDF attachment to the project’s administrative assistant, Ms Xenia Nikakis (admin@thehawzaproject.net) by 12.00noon, Monday 22nd March 2010. If you intend to use extensive transliteration within the text (this is not essential), you should make a PDF of the document to preserve the transliteration. Late applications will not be accepted. Ms Nikakis will send you an acknowledgement of receipt.

5. The Project is not prescriptive over the design of the research activities which will be funded through the Research Programme Grants. Research activities which can be funded include, but are not limited to:

Travel, visa and subsistence costs incurred whilst collecting data (archival work, publications, or fieldwork data gathered through interviews and meetings etc);

Travel, visa and subsistence costs of bringing researchers together for a period of time to work on a collaborative programme of research (travel to the UK from scholars based elsewhere is particularly encouraged, and should be associated with a UK partner, and timed to coincide with the project workshops);

Purchase of research materials essential to answering a particular set of research questions (unless a strong case can be made otherwise, the ownership of these materials will revert to the Project on completion of the programme of research);

If applicants are unsure about the eligibility of proposed expenses, they should contact Professor Gleave in advance of submission. Ineligible research costs include:

teaching replacement costs

consumables (such as computer hardware)

salary for any of the programme researchers, or any third parties.

tuition fees for programmes of higher education study

Travel to and from the project workshops are funded separately, and need not be included in the budget. Research Programme Grant Expenses are normally paid in retrospect, following expenditure through a claim form, though a case for pre-expenditure payment can be made in exceptional circumstances for large cost items. Successful applicants are required to send a preliminary report for consideration by the Project Steering Committee at the end of year, detailing activities and expenditure AND a summary of activities for the project website.

6. Applicants may be based anywhere in the world, and need not be based in the UK. Programme proposals which are particularly encouraged include:

(i) Proposals from scholars based in Iraq and Iran

(ii) Proposals which include fieldwork or material collection.

(iii) Proposals which focus on the founding and development of the Hawzas in the pre-modern period.

7. Applications will be considered by the Project Steering Committee, and successful applicants informed on 1st April 2010. Successful applicants will be able to present their research plans at the opening workshop of the Project, to be held in London on 13th May 2010. Any queries concerning the above should be addressed to the project director, Professor Robert Gleave (address below).

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