



Sanctuary for Health Justice FAQ

October 2025

Foreword

What is IDS?

Since its foundation in 1966, the Institute of Development Studies (IDS) has convened change agents and innovative thinkers from diverse geographies and political realities to address complex problems together. We have long been working on issues of citizen engagement, 'making the last first' and enabling equitable and accountable development processes, both internationally and in the UK. Our reputation for research and international outlook is second to none. This is reflected in our performance in the QS World University Rankings, where we have been **ranked first in the world for development studies** for nine years in a row (together with the University of Sussex).

In these 'unruly times', IDS offers reflective, reparative and restorative space where researchers and practitioners can test ideas, build new relationships and further develop their skills with the benefit of significant exposure to new global ideas and innovative social justice approaches across IDS' wide-ranging work. IDS delivers research, learning and teaching that transforms the knowledge, action and leadership needed for more equitable and sustainable development globally.

Our work on health equity includes building **new solidarities and citizen engagement** in **health systems transformations**; **challenging and destabilising knowledge hierarchies in health research**; addressing **health equity challenges in rapidly changing urban contexts**; and deepening our understanding of **racialised and gendered health inequities**. At the institutional level our current work ranges from **countering gender backlash**, to **food equity**, to **future natures** and innovations in the use of **participatory methods**.

We work with governments, philanthropic foundations, non-governmental organisations, academics and civil society to create approaches to progressive social, political and economic change in ways that ultimately make a difference to people's lives.

Find out more about IDS **here**.

Where is IDS?

IDS is based on the University of Sussex campus in Brighton. Brighton is a vibrant, creative and diverse seaside city on England's south coast, known for its pebble beaches, historic piers and famous Royal Pavilion. Nicknamed "London by the Sea," it's a popular destination for its thriving arts and culture scene, independent shops, thriving LGBTQI+ community and proximity to the South Downs National Park.

With the South Downs National Park on our doorstep, we're well-served by train, bus and road, while cycling is also popular. IDS is nine minutes from Brighton's city centre, an hour from London and 30 minutes away from an international airport.

There are also a number of **amenities available on campus**, including two sport centres, a health centre and a pharmacy.

IDS History

IDS was founded as an independent charity in 1966 as the UK's first national institute of development studies. Our first Director was **Dudley Seers**, a renowned economist who helped steer developing thinking away from growth economics and towards social development.

Our achievements include pioneering work on participatory approaches to development and democracy; being a leader in the field of gender and development and establishing one of the first **Master's programmes on gender and development**; and decades of work to show how development that prioritises human rights and security should be emphasised over the conventional economy-first approach to development. You can explore some of this rich and contested history through the **British Library of Development Studies (BLDS) Legacy Collection**.

If you have a question that is not answered within this FAQ, please contact us at **health.justice@ids.ac.uk**

1. Eligibility

1.1 I am a US citizen currently working outside of the US am I eligible to apply?

The Sanctuary for Health Justice requires candidates to demonstrate an established track record of working on health equity and health justice research in the US, US territories and/or freely associated states to be eligible. If you are living outside of the US, US territories and/or freely associated states at the time of application, but you can demonstrate this established track record of working towards improvements to health equity and health outcomes in the US, you may be considered eligible. Applicants are asked to state whether they are legally allowed to spend up to 3 months in the UK on a standard visitor visa.

1.2 I am currently or have previously received funding from RWJF. Am I eligible?

Applicants are not eligible if they currently receive more than 25% of their salary from an existing RWJF grant.

1.3 I don't have a PhD, MD, DPhil, or JD. Can you please define what 'equivalent work experience' means for those applicants who have an MA, MSc or MPH as their terminal degree?

A minimum of 4 years of professional experience in your field in addition to your degree.

1.4 My field of study is not specifically health inequity – can I apply?

We welcome applicants whose work addresses social determinants of health. We also encourage applications from those who have approached their work in health equity from a wide range of disciplinary and transdisciplinary perspectives and methods. If you do not use the language of 'health equity' to describe your work, but you are working to address unjust, avoidable differences in health outcomes between groups that result from the social conditions in which people are born, grow, live, work and age, then we welcome you to apply.

1.5 The research I would like to carry out/continue while at the Sanctuary for Health Justice includes data/other outputs that cannot be made open access due to funder restrictions.

It is a requirement of all SHJ fellows that work carried out while at IDS must go back into the public domain in some form, whether as a peer-reviewed published article, a blog, a public seminar/webinar, a public exhibit, a policy brief, or a working paper (amongst other options for dissemination). We will ask successful applicants to sign a participation 'compact' with IDS prior to taking up residency to ensure that we are compliant with the funder's expectations.

1.6 Can I apply if I have lost funding that wasn't directly related to the socio-political climate?

The Sanctuary for Health Justice selection process will prioritise applicants who have experienced direct threats to their work as a result of the changed socio-political climate, but we are also open to the possibility that there will be applicants who have long worked in marginalised and underfunded spaces of health equity research for whom recent events constituted 'more of the same'. Please use the open text sections of the application to describe in detail the particularities of your situation.

1.7 Can I work on projects that were previously funded? Are there any limitations?

The primary limitation is the funder requirement that any work produced during the period of residency at IDS must go back into the public domain to benefit the broader community of health equity scholars and change agents. If you are selected and you come to IDS wanting to continue work that cannot be put back into the public domain because of previous funder restrictions, we will not be able to support you to do that work.

1.8 Will I receive feedback on my application?

Unfortunately, we anticipate a high number of applications to the Sanctuary for Health Justice, so are unable to provide feedback on each application as we are a small team. We will be evaluating and learning from how the application process goes in year 1 to inform subsequent rounds of applications in years 2 and 3 of the programme of work. If you have feedback for us about the application process, you are welcome to reach out at health.justice@ids.ac.uk

1.9 If my application was unsuccessful in the first year, can I apply for subsequent years?

Yes, if your application was unsuccessful in the first year you are invited to apply in subsequent application windows without prejudice. You will need to reapply each year for the residency period for which you would like to be considered.

2. What's included?

The Fellowship will provide:

- Travel costs to the UK (this includes travel to/from the airport both in the US and the UK)
- Visa expenses (IDS will cover any visa expenses but is not responsible for ensuring visa eligibility. It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure that they may legally enter the UK for either 3 or 6 months).
- Pre-arranged and pre-paid accommodation at a long stay hotel that includes access to laundry, kitchenette, cleaning services, Wi-Fi, 24/7 fitness centre, breakfast and close proximity to public transportation including trains to campus
- A monthly living stipend of approx. £1050 GBP (please note that this is a stipend, not a salary – we are not legally allowed to provide salaries)
- Office space whilst at IDS
- Wi-fi access at IDS
- A temporary IDS email account
- Access to University of Sussex library resources (both in-person and online).
- Central communications support for Sanctuary for Health Justice activities
- Access to meeting rooms at IDS
- Personalised support to connect with networks of health equity research in the UK and across IDS global networks
- Facilitated peer learning workshops

2.1 Accommodation

Accommodation will be provided by Staybridge Suites in Brighton.

Accommodation costs will be covered by IDS. Staybridge Suites offer a large comfortable space, double sized bed, fully equipped kitchen, fitness facilities, kitchenette and relaxing seating area.

Successful applicants who would like to organize alternative accommodation are welcome to do so, however IDS cannot provide payment-in-lieu for that cost.

There are specific funding restrictions related to the use of Airbnb properties and as Brighton is a popular tourist destination in the UK, most of the short-stay rentals are Airbnb affiliated. Similarly, there are often passport specific

restrictions related to renting on the open market (e.g. that you would be required to show proof of UK citizenship or permanent residency in order to sign a rental contract).

2.2 Visa

Successful applicants will be responsible for organising their own visas, which IDS will reimburse. We expect most applicants will be able to apply for a Standard Visitor Visa. For more information on this, please see the **Visa and Immigration page**.

2.3 Can I bring my family with me?

While applicants are welcome to bring their family, they will have to do so at their own expense. If we have a high volume of applications from individuals who indicate a preference to come to IDS together with their families, we may adjust the number of residency places in subsequent years to offer more flexibility in terms of what we can support and fund. In this initial round, the Sanctuary for Health Justice is unable to provide additional funding to cover the costs of bringing additional family members (e.g. travel costs, increased accommodation costs, increased per diem costs). The applicant will be responsible for ensuring that their family has the appropriate visa.

2.4 Does the Fellowship cover any research costs (e.g. hiring of research assistants, field work, travel, conference attendance)?

No research or conference attendance costs are covered by the Sanctuary for Health Justice. There will be a launch workshop for each cohort and a final two-day workshop held in July 2026 that has budget attached to allow us to invite international participants and cover catering costs. We expect there to be ample opportunities to engage with diverse networks of health equity scholars, public health actors and policy makers and community based organisations in Brighton and Hove, Southern England and the greater London metropolitan area which are all accessible at low cost using public transport options.

3. Timing

The Sanctuary for Health Justice will run for three years. The first cohort of will launch in February 2026 (six-month residencies) and May 2026 (three-month residencies), with two subsequent rounds of applications in 2027 and 2028.

The first cohort will be made up of three individuals and will be at IDS for six months, between February-July 2026. The second cohort will comprise of four individuals at IDS for three months, between May-July 2026.

Please note that there is no opportunity to change the dates in which you visit IDS and we will not be able to accommodate anyone who wishes to attend for less than three or more than six months. The programme has adopted a cohort model to ensure that there is good engagement and continuous learning opportunities within the SHJ cohort, as well as between SHJ fellows and the IDS community as a whole.

4. Accessibility at IDS

4.1 What support can be offered to applicants who have a disability?

There is a step-free route into the IDS building. This is located at the front of the building. You can use the what3words location-based address system to locate it. The what3words address refers to a three-metre square location. Click the link below or enter the three words into the free what3words app to find it:

- <https://w3w.co/chimp.chemistry.jacket> – chimp.chemistry.jacket

There is also a step-free entrance to the IDS Bar and Kitchen located at:

- <https://w3w.co/tamed.track.runs> – tamed.track.runs

For full information on the route and building, visit the [accessibility information page](#).

For full information on accessibility offered by the accommodation provider, please visit the [accommodation accessibility information page](#).



Delivering world-class research, learning and teaching that transforms the knowledge, action and leadership needed for more equitable and sustainable development globally.

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