**ASTOR TRAVEL FUND**

**APPLICATION FOR AN ASTOR VISITING LECTURESHIP**

This form should be completed and returned, along with a brief biographical summary of up to one-page highlighting career achievements of the proposed visitor (CVs are **not** required by the Astor Board), to your divisional office, which will select and rank entries to represent the division. Up to six selected applications, along with rankings and the reasons for such, should be forwarded by the divisional office to the Trusts Officer and Secretary to the Astor Travel Fund at [trusts@admin.ox.ac.uk](mailto:trusts@admin.ox.ac.uk) by **Friday 7th November 2025**.

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| **1.** | **Host department** | | | Department of Engineering Science | |
| **2.** | **Name, position and address of staff member responsible for organising the visit**  (Heads of department or their nominees are expected to make all the arrangements for the Visiting Lecturer’s accommodation and programme, including publicity and any legal requirements.) | | | Noa Zilberman Professor of Engineering Science Department of Engineering Science 17 Parks Road Oxford  email:noa.zilberman@eng.ox.ac.uk | |
| **3.** | **Name of Visiting Lecturer** | | | Robert Soulé | |
| **4.** | **Current post(s) held by Visiting Lecturer** | | | Associate Professor of Computer Science | |
| **5.** | **Institution of Visiting Lecturer** | | | Yale University | |
| **6.** | **Career summary of Visiting Lecturer** The Astor Fund Board does **not** wish to see a full CV; instead, please provide a brief biographical summary of **up to one-page** highlighting career achievements of the proposed visitor. | | | | |
| **7.** | **Proposed dates of visit**  (Exact dates are not essential) | 31/May/2026-6/June/2026 (estimated) | | | |
| **8.** | **Programme for visit (up to one week)**  Visitors are required to deliver at least one well‑publicised lecture, and to participate in college and departmental activities, including teaching and research. Please provide as much detailed information as possible, including the people whom the Visiting Lecturer will meet, lectures and seminars to be given or attended, and collaborative work to be undertaken, a timetable of events is advised. Please provide the information in the space below or attach up to two additional pages.  **The following plan is set for the visit:**   1. Public Seminar: Revisiting Distributed System in the Age of AI This will be a well-publicised lecture, intended for members of the Engineering Science Department, Computer Science Department, OeRC, members of the HPC and RSE networks, Oxford Internet Institute and members of AIMS and Fundamental of AI CDTs. 2. Computing Systems Seminar Series talk: OSDB: Exposing the Operating System’s Inner Database  This will be a seminar targeted at researchers working specifically in computing systems. participants of this seminars series include members of Engineering Science and Computer Science departments. 3. Guest lecture at Course Work Module in Programmable Networks (2nd year MEng undergraduates, depending on date). 4. Guest talk for GLASS project members on “Software for Wafer-Scale Systems”. 5. Meetings with:    1. Prof. Noa Zilberman    2. Prof. Amro Awad    3. Prof. Nick McKeown (Visiting Professor)    4. Dr. Eve Schooler (RAEng Visiting Professor)    5. Members of the Computing Infrastructure Group    6. Members of OSCAR research group    7. Interested academics from OeRC, Electrical Engineering, Information Engineering, Computer Science. 6. Collaborative Work:    1. Developing new joint EPSRC-NSF proposals with Oxford academics    2. Exploring potential opportunities for ARIA funding    3. Visit of the JOINER node and exploring the new deployment opportunities based on ongoing research    4. Discussion of open carbon-aware networking tools | | | | |
| **9.** | **Expected audience at lectures/seminars**  Please indicate likely numbers attending and any other departments likely to be interested. | | * The public seminar is expected to attract ~100 participants.  Relevant audience includes members of the Engineering Science Department, Computer Science Department, OeRC, members of the HPC and RSE networks, Oxford Internet Institute and members of AIMS and Fundamental of AI CDTs. * The Computing Systems Seminar is likely to attract ~25 participants, including members of Engineering Science and Computer Science departments. * A talk to the GLASS project is likely to attract 25-30 participants. * We will also advertise all the talks to Oxford’s network of RSEs and IT professionals, who may find this research relevant to their work and providing upskilling. * As Prof. Soule’s current funded research explores energy efficient and sustainable computing systems design, we will reach out also to the Zero Institute and Oxford Energy Network, but those are likely to overlap with the audience noted above. | | |
| **10.** | **Estimated cost (£).** Funding will cover reasonable expenses for travel (i.e. economy or standard), accommodation and subsistence for **up to one week**, plus an honorarium of £1,000, subject to a maximum of **£3,000** (including honorarium). Please consult the Oxford University Expenses Policy - [expensespolicy110521pdf (ox.ac.uk)](https://finance.web.ox.ac.uk/files/expensespolicy110521pdf) for guidance on the types of expenses and amounts that are considered reasonable. Please be as accurate as possible when estimating costs and use the guidance provided. Applications that do not include accurate and reasonable estimated costs, will be returned to the department. | | | | |
| Air fares (economy or standard only) | | £1200 (Based on Keytravel website, standard economy class) | | |
| UK travel | | £150 (Return train travel) | | |
| Accommodation | | £1000 (Based on Keytravel website, 7 nights) | | |
| Subsistence | | £350 (£50/day) | | |
| **Total requested (incl. £1,000 honorarium)** | | £3000 | | |
| **11.** | **Head of Administration and Finance Approval**  Please confirm that the host department will make all the arrangements for the visiting lecturer, including accommodation, visa requirements and programme (including publicity and any legal requirements) and that all initial costs will be incurred by the host department to be reclaimed from the Astor Travel Fund as detailed in the guidance provided. Application forms not approved by the Head of Administration and Finance will be returned to the department. | | | | |
| Name: TBD | | | | Email Address: |
| Signature: | | | | Date: |