Further Particulars for the Powys Roberts Research Fellowship in European Literature
(open to those working in the fields of French & Francophone, German, or Italian Literature)

Applications are invited for the Powys Roberts Research Fellowship in European Literature at St Hugh’s College, Oxford, tenable from 1st October 2019. This is a fixed-term three year position intended for an individual who has recently completed a doctorate (that is, whose degree was awarded within the three years preceding the deadline), and who wishes to embark on an academic career. It is open to those working in the fields of French & Francophone, German, or Italian Literature in any period.

The primary purpose of the Fellowship is research, and the postholder will be expected to use the period of the Fellowship to begin building an international research profile. He or she will normally be expected to offer some teaching for the College, under the direction of the Fellows in the subject, and/or to participate in the teaching and examining of the relevant Sub-Faculty as appropriate, up to an overall combined College and Faculty maximum of six hours per week in term.

St Hugh’s College

St Hugh’s College was founded in 1886 as a women’s college and became fully mixed in 1986. The College has some 420 undergraduates and around 400 graduates, a fellowship of 75, 50 college lecturers and a non-academic staff of 90. From its garden site in North Oxford, St Hugh’s promotes a culture of research and intellectual engagement.

Modern Languages is one of the largest subjects at St Hugh’s. The College currently admits around 11 students per year to read Modern Languages and its joint schools (with Classics, English, Oriental Studies, Modern History and Philosophy). There are three Tutorial Fellows in post. Dr Tom Kuhn is responsible for teaching in German language and literature, especially twentieth-century literature, and has special interests in German political literature of the twentieth century, particularly the works of Bertolt Brecht and exile and anti-fascist literature. Professor Giuseppe Stellardi is responsible for teaching in Italian language and literature, especially nineteenth- and twentieth-century literature, and Dante; he has special interests in modern Italian literature, particularly I. Svevo and C.E. Gadda. Professor Ève Morisi teaches French and specialises in French and Francophone prose and poetry from the nineteenth century to the present day, with particular interest in the representations of extreme human violence and the intersections of poetic craft, ethics and politics. Her publications mainly focus on Hugo, Baudelaire and Camus. The College also employs a number of lecturers in these and other languages.

More information about St Hugh’s College can be found at www.st-hughs.ox.ac.uk.
Modern Languages at Oxford

Oxford University has a large, varied and active teaching and research community in Modern Languages. There are approximately one hundred members of the Faculty, making it the biggest Modern Languages department in a UK university. Research interests of Faculty members spread across the full chronological range and into most areas of linguistic and literary study. There is a lively community of graduate students; and a comprehensive programme of lectures and research seminars.

More information about the Modern Languages Faculty, including details and of the courses and papers towards which the successful applicant might be asked to contribute, can be found at www.mod-langs.ox.ac.uk

Terms of Appointment

The basic stipend of the Fellow will be £24,773 per annum. Free single accommodation, or a housing allowance of £9,390 per annum, will be provided by the College; it is hoped that that the Fellow will play a full part in the life of St Hugh’s. The postholder will have the option of becoming or remaining a member of the Universities Superannuation Scheme (USS), a contributory pension scheme.

There will be an initial probationary period of one year, during which the appointment may be terminated by one month’s notice on either side. The post will be renewed for a further two years provided that there is evidence of satisfactory progress in research and teaching.

A Research Fellow of St Hugh’s College is entitled to free meals at common table when the College kitchens are open, and some help is available with research-related costs. The Fellow will be a non-voting member of the College’s Governing Body.

Selection Procedure

Applications for this post will be considered by a selection committee containing representatives from both St Hugh’s College and the Modern Languages Faculty. The selection committee is responsible for conducting all aspects of the recruitment and selection process; it does not, however, have the authority to make the final decision as to who should be appointed. The final decision will be made by the Governing Body of St Hugh’s College on the basis of a recommendation made by the selection committee. No offer of appointment will be valid, therefore, until and unless the recommendation has been approved by the Governing Body and a formal contractual offer has been made. The appointment will be subject to provision of proof of the right to work in the UK.

The formal selection criteria for the post are as follows:

1. Evidence of ability to produce work of international standing within the candidate’s field of research.
2. The candidate must have recently completed a doctorate (that is, have been awarded their degree within the three years preceding the deadline). Exceptions to this requirement (on the grounds of illness, parental leave, etc.) will be considered case by case.

The qualities that we are therefore seeking include:

1. The ability to bring advanced research projects to fruition; excellent presentation skills; the ability to contribute to a research community.
2. Sympathy with the nature and aims of St Hugh’s College and the University of Oxford and willingness to participate in the life of the College.

Application Procedure

Applications and references should be sent by email to the Academic Registrar, Miss Crapper (college.office@st-hugh.s.ox.ac.uk), by Noon on Wednesday 20th February, 2019. Applications should be in the form of a single PDF comprising:

1) a covering letter
2) a full curriculum vitae, including principal publications
3) an account of teaching experience (not more than one A4 side)
4) a proposal for a postdoctoral research project (not more than one A4 side)
5) the details of two referees

Candidates should ask their referees to submit references directly to the Academic Registrar (college.office@st-hugh.s.ox.ac.uk) by the same deadline.

Interviews are likely to take place on Tuesday 12th March. Shortlisted candidates will be asked to submit a sample (not more than 6,000 words) of their written work, published or unpublished; an extract from a longer piece or an abridgment will be acceptable.

Candidates are also asked to complete a copy of an equal opportunities form, available from www.st-hugh.s.ox.ac.uk/vacancies and return it to the HR Office, either by post to St Hugh’s College, or by email to hr@st-hugh.s.ox.ac.uk. This form is used for monitoring purposes only and will not be seen by any member of the selection committee.

Equal Opportunities

The policy and practice of St Hugh’s College, University of Oxford require that entry into employment with the College and progression within employment shall be determined only by personal merit and the application criteria which are related to the duties of each particular post. Subject to statutory provisions, no applicant or member of staff will be treated less favourably than another because of his or her gender, marital or civil partnership status, sexual orientation, religion or belief, racial group, age or disability. In all cases, ability to do the job will be the primary consideration.

Queries about the post may be addressed in the first instance to the Senior Tutor, Professor Westbrook (roy.westbrook@st-hugh.s.ox.ac.uk; 01865 274917).