



ST HUGH'S COLLEGE, OXFORD

Powys Roberts Postdoctoral Fellowship in Modern Languages

Job Description and Selection Criteria

Applications are invited for a Powys Roberts Postdoctoral Fellowship in Modern Languages at St Hugh's College, Oxford, tenable from 1 October 2024. This is a two-year fixed-term position, suitable for an early-career researcher who has completed a doctorate or is close to completion and who wishes to follow an academic career. Applicants should not have held a comparable research fellowship previously. The Powys Roberts Fellowship is open to those working in the following fields, in any period:

- French and/or Francophone literatures and cultures;
- German, Austrian or Swiss literatures and cultures;
- Italian literatures and cultures.

A comparative or interdisciplinary approach to work in these fields is also welcomed. The Fellow will be a member of the Faculty of Medieval and Modern Languages and of an appropriate Sub-Faculty in the University of Oxford.

The primary purpose of this post is research. The successful candidate will be expected to use the period of the Fellowship to build or continue building an international research profile by publishing outputs originating from their doctoral research and embarking on a new, defined research project. They will also be required to offer some teaching for the College, under the direction of the Tutorial Fellow in their field, and/or to teach and examine for the Faculty or appropriate Sub-Faculty (see below). They may also be invited to participate in the selection of new undergraduates as part of the admissions process in December each year (for which additional payment would be made). The Powys Roberts Fellow will be invited to attend meetings of the College's Governing Body in a non-voting capacity. They will be responsible to the Senior Tutor.

St Hugh's College

St Hugh's was founded in 1886 and has around 440 undergraduate and 550 graduate students. From its beautiful, spacious site in North Oxford, the College enjoys a thriving culture of research and intellectual engagement, and St Hugh's is widely recognized to be exceptionally friendly and supportive to students and staff. Its Governing Body consists of nearly 50 Fellow Trustees with a further 20 Fellows (including Senior and Junior Research Fellows) attending meetings. Teaching is supported by more than 70 college lecturers, and there is a substantial non-academic staff.

Modern Languages, including its joint schools, is one of the largest undergraduate subjects in St Hugh's. There are currently two Tutorial Fellows: the Tutor in French is Professor Ève Morisi, whose research focuses on the intersections of poetics, politics, and ethics in 19th-, 20th-, and 21st-century French and Francophone literature, with particular emphasis on the representation of violence; the Tutor in Italian is Professor Emma Bond, who works on Italian cultures from transnational and comparative perspectives, with a special interest in the legacies of empire and colonialism in contemporary literary and visual cultures. It is anticipated that a new Tutorial Fellow in German will be in post by 1 October 2024. St Hugh's also has a Tutorial Fellow in Psycholinguistics, Professor Matthew Husband, who is an integral part of the Modern Languages team. There are currently College Lecturers in Spanish, Portuguese, French, German, and Italian, and in various disciplines within the field of Linguistics. St Hugh's also has a French *lectrice* and an Austrian *Lektorin*, and the Senior Tutor, who is not a Tutorial Fellow, has research experience and expertise in modern German Literature.

The College currently admits on average twelve students per year to read Modern Languages and its joint schools (with Classics, English, History, Linguistics, Middle Eastern Languages, and Philosophy).

More information about St Hugh's College can be found at www.st-hughs.ox.ac.uk.

The Faculty of Medieval and Modern Languages

The Faculty is one of the leading centres for the study of European languages, literatures, and culture world-wide, offering expertise in a chronological range from the earliest times to the present day, and with specialists in film studies, cultural studies, history of the book, and cultural history as well as languages and literatures. The Faculty offers expertise in French, German, Italian, Modern Greek, Spanish, Portuguese, Russian, Polish, and Czech, as well as in a range of other languages spoken in Europe. Colleagues across the various languages work together in various interdisciplinary projects and research centres, which bring specialists in language and literature together with historians, philosophers, and social studies scholars. There are some 50 graduate students taking taught master's degrees, and approximately 120 research students. The Faculty has consistently been ranked amongst the leading Modern Languages departments in the world for many years.

More information about the Faculty can be found at www.mod-langs.ox.ac.uk, with links to the Sub-Faculties of French, German, and Italian, including papers and courses to which the successful applicant will contribute.

Benefits and Terms of Appointment

The basic stipend of the Fellow will be at National Pay Spine Point 29 / Point 4 on Oxford's Recommended Scale for Fixed-Term Fellows, currently £35,308 per annum. In addition, there is a personal research allowance of (currently) £621 per annum. The Fellow is entitled to free meals at the common table when the College kitchens are open. They will have membership of the Senior Common Room (for which there is a small annual charge).

College accommodation may be available for the Fellow to rent. The Senior Tutor can facilitate discussion about this once an offer has been made.

The Fellow will have the option of becoming or remaining a member of the Universities Superannuation Scheme (USS).

During term-time (<https://www.ox.ac.uk/about/facts-and-figures/dates-of-term>), the Fellow will be required to offer up to 4 hours of teaching on average per week for the College, the Faculty, or their Sub-Faculty (averaged across the three terms of the academic year).

The Fellow will be expected to play a full part in the collegiate life of St Hugh's. They will be invited to attend meetings of the College's Governing Body and may serve on other College committees as appropriate.

The Senior Tutor will hold a progress review with the Fellow in the Trinity Term of each term.

Selection Procedure and Criteria

Applications for this post will be considered by a committee responsible for the recruitment and selection process. This committee will make a recommendation to the College's Governing Body. No offer of appointment will be valid unless and until the recommendation has been approved by the Governing Body and a formal offer letter has been issued. The appointment will be subject to provision of proof of the right to work in the UK.

The basic obligation of the Post-Doctoral Fellow is to engage in research and its dissemination in the relevant branch(es) of their discipline(s). Research-led teaching is considered to be a contribution to the fundamental research endeavour of the post. The successful candidate will be expected to:

- propose, plan, and manage a high-quality programme of original research;
- disseminate the outcomes of that research through publications and the presentation of research papers at academic events;
- engage in the life and activities of the College;
- undertake teaching up to a maximum of an average of four hours a week during full term.

Applicants must already hold a PhD or DPhil or be close to completion (i.e. applicants will have successfully passed their viva before 1 June 2024). Applications will not be considered from candidates who have previously held a postdoctoral fellowship or equivalent post of 12 months' duration or more.

Applicants must demonstrate:

1. Evidence of the ability to produce research of international standing within the candidate's field, as demonstrated by a doctoral thesis and/or published or forthcoming books, articles in refereed journals, chapters in edited volumes, or evidence of the promise of such achievement.
2. Evidence of the ability to present research findings effectively to fellow professionals in the academic community (via seminar and conference presentations, lectures, etc., nationally and internationally)

3. Evidence of a clear and coherent plan of research for the duration of the appointment which may include the further development of doctoral work but should also include or a new project area that promises to make a valuable contribution to the candidate's field.
4. Where appropriate, evidence of an ability to engage a wider public with the substance of their research.
5. Where appropriate, evidence of an ability to work collaboratively with colleagues in the field to generate and/or manage research projects.
6. Ideas or plans for future research funding.
7. Commitment to promoting awareness of the importance of equality, diversity, and inclusion (EDI) within the research environment and in all aspects of academic life.
8. Strong presentation and communication skills.
9. Evidence that they can offer undergraduate teaching for Preliminary Examinations and Final Honour Schools in Modern Languages and joint schools.
10. Willingness to participate fully in the life of the College.

Application Procedure

Applications should be sent by email to the Academic Registrar at college.office@st-hughs.ox.ac.uk by noon on **Monday 8 April 2024**, as a single PDF.

Applications should comprise:

1. a completed application cover sheet, which will include the names and contact details of two academic referees
2. a covering letter (2 pages maximum) outlining the candidate's suitability for this post and including a brief account of any relevant teaching experience and training;
3. full curriculum vitae, including a list of any publications;
4. a research proposal (1 additional page maximum) with an outline of the research that the candidate proposes to pursue during the tenure of the Fellowship.

Candidates should ask **two referees to submit their references** directly to college.office@st-hughs.ox.ac.uk also by noon on **Monday 8 April 2024**. References should include an assessment of the significance of the proposed research project and the viability of its completion within the period of the fellowship.

Candidates invited for interview will be asked to submit written work of not more than 6,000 words. This might be (part of) a chapter of their doctorate, a chapter in an edited volume, or a journal article, and should include a brief covering note to indicate what the author considers is the significance and of the work and where its originality lies. **Written work should not be sent unless and until it is specifically requested.**

Interviews are likely to take place on **Friday 24 May 2024**.

Candidates are also asked to complete an equal opportunities form and return it to the HR Office (hr@st-hughs.ox.ac.uk). This form is used for monitoring purposes only and will not be seen by any member of the selection committee.

Queries about the post should be addressed in the first instance to the Senior Tutor (senior.tutor@st-hughs.ox.ac.uk).

Promoting Diversity

The College and the Faculty are committed to recruiting the best people, whoever they are, to ensure equality of opportunity. Oxford's Equality and Diversity Unit promotes good practice across the University by developing policies and offering training, and it runs a range of support networks for staff. It works closely with Colleges, the Oxford University Student Union and external campaign groups. Please see <https://edu.admin.ox.ac.uk/home> for details. No applicant or member of staff will be treated less favourably than another because of their gender, marital or civil partnership status, sexual orientation, religion or belief, racial group, age or disability.