



ST HUGH'S COLLEGE, OXFORD

Joanna Randall-Maclver Junior Research Fellowship in Music

Job Description and Selection Criteria

Applications are invited for a Joanna Randall-Maclver Junior Research Fellowship in Music at St Hugh's College, Oxford, tenable from 1 October 2026. This is a two-year, fixed-term, full-time position, not renewable, and suitable for an early-career researcher who has completed a doctorate. Applications will not normally be considered from candidates who have previously held a postdoctoral fellowship or equivalent post of 12 months' duration or more.

The Joanna Randall-Maclver Junior Research Fellowship is open to those whose PhD research has been in an area of musicology that relies on historical enquiry (i.e. research that does not include living human participants). The position is not intended for those whose doctorate is in composition or includes significant practice-based elements.

The Fellow will also have associate membership of the Faculty of Music 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.

Junior Research Fellows play an important part in the intellectual and social life of the College. The Fellow reports to the Senior Tutor and the Tutorial Fellow in Music. The Fellow will be required to present an annual research report to the College's Academic Committee and may if they wish hold a progress review with the Senior Tutor prior to submission of the report.

They will be invited to attend meetings of the College's Governing Body in a non-voting capacity.

This post is funded by a generous benefaction, details of which can be found [here](#).

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

Benefits and Terms of Appointment

Salary

The basic stipend of the Fellow will be at National Pay Spine Point 29 / Grade 7.1 (currently £39,424 per annum), progressing to Grade 7.2 in the second year of the Fellowship (£40,514). These figures include the Oxford University Weighting.

Meals while Working

The Fellow is entitled to free meals (breakfast, lunch, dinner) at the common table in St Hugh's when the College kitchens are open. They will be a member of the Senior Common Room (for which there is a small annual charge).

Allowances

The Fellow will have a personal research allowance of up to £1,800 for the total duration of the post. They may apply to the Fellows' Discretionary Research Fund for financial support for specific elements of their research up to a maximum of £1,500 if the personal research fund proves insufficient.

Accommodation

College accommodation may be available for the Fellow to rent, although this is not guaranteed. The Senior Tutor can facilitate discussion about this once an offer has been made.

Pensions

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

Annual Leave

Full-time-equivalent staff are entitled to 38 days of paid annual leave per year, inclusive of public holidays. In keeping with the operational needs of the College, annual leave is normally expected to be taken outside of Full Term, except in exceptional circumstances, and with prior approval.

Employee Assistance Programme (EAP) & Wellbeing

A confidential support service is available to all employees, offering free advice and counselling on personal, financial, and work-related matters.

Health

Staff are entitled to a free annual flu vaccination. The College provides free eye tests for all staff and contributes towards the cost of new glasses when a prescription has changed.

Family-Friendly Policies

Enhanced maternity, paternity, adoption, and shared parental leave arrangements are available, alongside flexible working options where operationally possible.

Travel to Work Support

The College participates in the University-backed cycle-to-work scheme, enabling staff to purchase bicycles and equipment tax-efficiently, and a discounted travel scheme is available with monthly deductions from salary.

Selection Criteria

Applicants must hold a PhD or DPhil completed, examined, and formally awarded before the closing date for this application.

Essential criteria:

1. A completed doctorate in an area of musicology reliant on historical sources.
2. Evidence of (or concrete plans for) the publication of research from the applicant's doctoral thesis.
3. A plan for a new research project for the duration of the appointment that is designed to further the candidate's career development and shows promise of making a valuable contribution to the field.
4. Evidence of strong communication skills in presenting research findings effectively to fellow professionals in the academic community (via seminar and conference presentations, lectures, etc., nationally and internationally).
5. Willingness to participate in the intellectual life of the College.

Desirable criteria:

1. Evidence that the substance of their research can engage audiences beyond musicology, whether with the wider public or in other academic disciplines.
2. Ideas or plans for future research funding and/or collaborative work with colleagues in the field to generate and/or manage research projects.

Application and Appointment Procedure

Applications should be sent by email to academic.recruitment@st-hughs.ox.ac.uk by **midday (UK time) on Friday 6 February 2026**.

Applications should comprise **only**

1. a completed application form (available via <https://www.st-hughs.ox.ac.uk/people-life/work-for-us/staff-vacancies-at-st-hughs-college/>), which includes a section asking for an outline of doctoral work (200 words) and a section dedicated to a new research project (800 words);
2. a curriculum vitae, including publications, no longer than 2 sides of A4.

Both should be submitted as PDFs. No covering letter is required and none should be included. Any additional information included in the body of the application email will not be considered by the selection committee.

Candidates are also asked to complete an equal opportunities form (available via <https://www.st-hughs.ox.ac.uk/people-life/work-for-us/staff-vacancies-at-st-hughs-college/>) and to return it to academic.recruitment@st-hughs.ox.ac.uk at the same time as the application but as a separate file. This form is used for monitoring purposes only and will not be seen by any member of the selection committee.

We welcome applications from individuals from all backgrounds, including those under-represented within higher education, and we particularly encourage applicants with career journeys that reflect a breadth of experience beyond the traditional academic pathway. No applicant or members of staff shall be unlawfully discriminated against on the basis of age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage or civil partnership, pregnancy or maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, or sexual orientation.

Applications that include materials beyond those indicated in 1 and 2 above will not be considered.

References

The application form asks for names and contact details for two potential referees, but **letters of recommendation will only be requested for shortlisted applicants.**

References should include an assessment of the quality and significance both of the proposed research project and of work already completed. The College would like to take this opportunity of thanking referees for their time and effort in support of this appointment process.

Shortlisting

Shortlisted candidates will be asked to submit two distinct pieces of published research, which may include a chapter of a monograph in print. Where published research is unavailable, draft research (including chapters of an unpublished doctorate but also articles / book chapters completed but not submitted / accepted) may be submitted, which should not total more than c. 20,000 words. A combination of published and unpublished work is perfectly acceptable. We anticipate requesting written work from, and references, for shortlisted candidates by the end of February 2026.

Appointment

Applications for this post will be considered by a panel of College Fellows, which will be responsible for the recruitment and selection process. Interviews will not be held. The appointment will be made on the basis of the application and the written submissions outlined above. It is anticipated that an offer will be made by the end of March 2026.

The panel 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.

St Hugh's College

St Hugh's is one of the 39 self-governing, independent colleges at Oxford, giving both academic staff and students the benefits of belonging to a smaller-scale interdisciplinary community as well as to a large, internationally renowned institution. The collegiate system fosters a strong sense of community, bringing together leading academics, early career researchers, graduate and undergraduate students across subjects and from different backgrounds and cultures.

Founded in 1886 to provide an excellent education to women who were otherwise excluded from the University, St Hugh's is proud of its reputation for being a friendly, inclusive, and progressive community. It is one of the largest colleges in Oxford, with around 850 students, 60 Governing Body Fellows, a further 20 Fellows (including Junior Research Fellows, Postdoctoral Research Fellows, and Early Career Fellows), and more than 70 lecturers, all working in a wide range of academic subjects. There is a non-academic staff of c. 120 across all the College's support and administrative operations.

St Hugh's is a close-knit community with a well-earned reputation for academic excellence. Its Fellowship really is a 'fellowship', a group of powerful intellectuals who work together for the good of the whole institution. We benefit from an internationally and ethnically diverse community of scholars and students, with dozens of languages spoken in the JCR, the MCR and the SCR, and a large range of academic disciplines represented.

We occupy a beautiful site in the northern part of the city of Oxford, only a few minutes' walk from major University Institutes, the Radcliffe Observatory Quarter, the new Schwarzman Centre, and the Law Faculty. Within the China Centre, the College is host to an outpost of the Bodleian Library – the J. B. Chen Library – which means, uniquely in Oxford, that staff and students of the College can order the Bodleian's holdings to a desk very close to where they live and work.

For more information please visit: <https://www.st-hughs.ox.ac.uk/>.

Music at St Hugh's

The College currently has one Tutorial Fellow in Music, Professor Elizabeth Eva Leach, FBA, whose interdisciplinary research focuses on music and poetry in the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries with a particular interest in gender and sexuality. Prof. Leach is supported by a number of College Lecturers, including Dr Timothy Coombes, who works on music's role in the cultural history of childhood in late nineteenth- and early twentieth-century France, as well as more broadly on dance, movement, and the body, and on intersections between music and visual art.

We usually admit up to four undergraduates per year to read Music, and our graduate community includes several students studying for taught masters and doctoral degrees in Music.

The Faculty of Music in the University of Oxford

The Faculty of Music is one of the largest and liveliest music departments in the country, and an internationally renowned centre of musical teaching and research. There are presently 14.5 staff holding permanent academic appointments in the Music Faculty: five full Professors, eight Associate Professors, and a Director of Performance. The total membership of the Faculty, including research staff and college tutors, is over 50. The Faculty has nearly 300 students, of whom two-thirds are undergraduates.

The Faculty moved in October 2025 to the Schwarzman Centre for the Humanities, which features purpose-built studio space and performance facilities, including a 500-seat auditorium, a 'black box' experimental multi-media theatre/space, and several state-of-the-art recording and broadcast studios.

The Faculty offers an extensive annual programme of recitals, performance and composition workshops, and masterclasses, as well as public lectures and research seminars, regularly featuring international musicologists, composers and performers. Many of the Faculty's recitals and concerts are held in the Holywell Music Room, the oldest purpose-built concert hall in Europe, and occasionally in the Sheldonian Theatre. The exceptionally rich musical life of the University and its colleges—including world-famous choirs, University orchestras and chamber groups—is complemented by the wide range of musical activities to be found in and around the city, drawing on numerous musical traditions.

Through its undergraduate and postgraduate courses, the Faculty offers a highly stimulating environment for anyone interested in a practical, scholarly, and creative engagement with music. Its undergraduate and graduate curricula are strong in traditional musicological and musical skills, but are also notably wide-ranging and imaginative, reflecting contemporary developments in music and musicology. The Faculty's research and teaching strengths cover a broad spectrum, including European music of many periods, ethnomusicology, composition, opera, analysis and music theory, the psychology and sociology of music, performance, and performance practice.

For more information about the Faculty, please visit: www.music.ox.ac.uk.