

# Oxford University Museums Collaborative Doctoral Studentship

## Frequently Asked Questions

### 1. What are Oxford University Museums Collaborative Doctoral Studentships?

Oxford University Museums Collaborative Doctoral Partnership (CDP) studentship programme provides funded Ph.D. studentships that are jointly supervised through a partnership between a member of staff at Oxford University Museums (OU Museum) and an academic from a UK Higher Education Institution (HEI) (excluding Oxford University). The PhD student will be based at the partner HEI. The studentships are funded through an award from the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) through the Collaborative Doctoral Partnership scheme. The studentships are fully funded for students ordinarily resident in the UK. Further information can be found here:

[www.ahrc.ac.uk/funding/opportunities/current/collaboratedoctoralpartnerships](http://www.ahrc.ac.uk/funding/opportunities/current/collaboratedoctoralpartnerships) and at the programme hub at [www.ahrc-cdp.org/](http://www.ahrc-cdp.org/).

The Oxford University Museums CDP began in October 2016, the programme is led by Professor Dan Hicks (Pitt Rivers Museum) and coordinated by Dr Harriet Warburton (GLAM). Further information can be found here: <https://www.glam.ox.ac.uk/CDP>.

### 2. What are the Oxford University Museums?

Oxford University Museums comprise four museums: the Ashmolean Museum of Art and Archaeology, the Museum of the History of Science, Oxford University Museum of Natural History, and the Pitt Rivers Museum. Together, we represent the largest group of university museums in the UK and a leading global centre for cross-disciplinary collections-based research, teaching and curatorial practice. Our 8.5 million objects range from fossils, geological specimens and scientific instruments to art and material culture from across the globe and all periods of the human past, from prehistory and classical antiquity to the modern world. Since 1683, Oxford's museums have cared for a unique material archive of thought about art, the humanities and science. Today they are a world-leading centre for collections scholarship, education, exhibitions practice, public engagement, digital curation, knowledge exchange, and the global accessibility of cultural heritage.

### 3. What will the Collaborative Doctoral Studentships do?

The Collaborative Doctoral Studentships will facilitate new Arts and Humanities research that is embedded in the Oxford University Museums: developing new perspectives on the museums and their collections, sharing knowledge with a range of audiences, and training a new generation of scholars working between the academic and heritage sectors.

#### **4. What is the role of the HEI and of Oxford University Museums?**

The HEI partner for a CDP studentship can be anywhere in the UK. They are responsible for administering the studentship in line with the AHRC's terms and conditions. When the nominated PhD projects have been approved by AHRC they are set up as Doctoral Training Grants to the HEI and will follow the same process for activating grants and funding students as for successful applications made under the CDA Open call (i.e. the funding award is made directly to the collaborating HEI, it is not made to Oxford University Museums). The HEI supervisor is formally the lead supervisor for the studentship. They and their department should demonstrably provide the right expertise and support for the topic.

The Oxford University Museum partner will share the supervision of the studentship with the HEI partner. The student is expected to spend a significant period of time researching with Oxford University Museums, and to attend training and other activities that the CDP Consortium and the Museum organises for them in Oxford and elsewhere, including London. Oxford University Museums will provide up to £2,000 per annum per student towards their travel and related research costs.

#### **5. How many Oxford University Museum CDP studentships are there?**

Oxford University Museums are offering up to four new fully funded doctoral studentships to commence in 2019. Each proposal from an OU Museum and partner HEI will be for one studentship only.

#### **6. Who can propose a project for an Oxford University Museums CDP Studentship?**

**We are currently inviting proposals for CDP projects to commence in October 2019.**

Applications are invited from partnerships between potential doctoral supervisors based at an OU Museum and a UK Higher Education Institution (HEI). A minimum of two supervisors are required however studentships with more than two supervisors from more than two institutions (for example, one HEI collaborating across two OU Museums) can be proposed.

#### **7. Can I propose more than one studentship?**

Separate applications from the same supervisor, with different partners or topics, are acceptable. However, the number of supervisory commitments will be one element of assessing feasibility, and since there are only four studentships competition is likely to be strong.

#### **8. How can I propose a project for a CDP studentship?**

Potential supervisors should complete the application form – available from the GLAM website at <https://www.glam.ox.ac.uk/CDP> – with close reference to the Frequently Asked Questions.

Potential supervisors from OU Museums are strongly advised to contact Professor Dan Hicks at [dan.hicks@prm.ox.ac.uk](mailto:dan.hicks@prm.ox.ac.uk) and/or Dr Harriet Warburton at [harriet.warburton@glam.ox.ac.uk](mailto:harriet.warburton@glam.ox.ac.uk) before submitting a proposal for a project.

Informal enquiries from potential UK HEI partners (excluding Oxford University) who are unsure of whom to approach within Oxford University Museums are welcome. These should be sent to Professor Dan Hicks and Dr Harriet Warburton at the above addresses.

**Submitting a proposal for a CDP project to commence in October 2019.**

Completed forms must be submitted by email to [harriet.warburton@glam.ox.ac.uk](mailto:harriet.warburton@glam.ox.ac.uk) by **5pm on Friday 23 November 2017** in order to be considered for the 2019 round.

NB. Each OU Museum and each partner HEI will have its own internal deadlines and review procedures before the final submission date, and so potential supervisors should make contact with all relevant parties within their own institution as far in advance of their final submission as possible.

**9. How are the studentship topics decided upon?**

The topic of each studentship application is developed through close collaboration between the proposed supervisory team – from the partner HEI and OU Museum. Projects may focus on collections-based research or on any other aspect of museum practice, including (but not limited to) the history of collections, public programming and engagement, knowledge exchange, education, archival research, and digital curation.

Potential supervisors are strongly encouraged to discuss their proposals with Professor Dan Hicks, and also with the Heads of Department (in both the HEI and the OU Museum), with the Research Office (in both the HEI and the OU Museum), and with any other members of museum staff involved in or affected by the potential research project.

All studentship proposals must fall within AHRC's areas of subject coverage:

<http://www.ahrc.ac.uk/documents/guides/ahrc-s-subject-coverage>

However, there are no thematic priorities for Oxford University Museums. Applications will be assessed according to four criteria:

- I. **Academic excellence.**
- II. **Feasibility.** The feasibility of the proposed research, including the strength of the partnership, the

suitability and track record of the supervisors.

- III. **Innovation.** The degree to which the proposal represents a new or unexpected collaboration across AHRC's subject areas, which have not previously been developed by the museum(s) in question.
- IV. **Impact.** The potential impact of the research within academic, cultural sector, and public spheres. As part of this, the degree to which the embedded nature of the studentship brings genuine 'added value' (rather than just, for example, allowing access to collections that any researcher could gain).

#### 10. **What does the studentship fund?**

The doctoral studentship is administered by the partner HEI. The studentship award pays the student's university fees and a maintenance grant in line with the standard AHRC doctoral awards for 3 years. In addition to the studentship award for fees and maintenance, Oxford University Museums also provides up to £2,000 per annum per student to cover the costs of travel between the HEI and Oxford and related costs in carrying out research or attending events and training organised by the CDP Consortium.

A further fund – the Student Development Fund – can be used to support students in gaining skills training or other important experience (for up to 6 months in addition to the 3 years of the studentship), or for public engagement activities, by agreement with Oxford University Museums and AHRC.

The studentships can only be taken up by UK/EU citizens and residents. UK students – students who have been ordinarily resident in the UK for at least 3 years prior to the start of the studentship and who have no restrictions on the length of time that they can stay in the UK – will be fully funded according to the above guidance, for non-UK EU students the award would pay only the tuition fees, and not a maintenance grant.

#### 11. **How are students recruited?**

Particular students are not named in this application process. An open call for applications for each funded studentship commencing in October 2019 will be issued in early 2019, in a recruitment process led by the HEI supervisor in close partnership with the OU Museum supervisor.

#### 12. **I am a prospective PhD student. How can I apply for a studentship?**

The successful project proposals for studentships starting in October 2019 will be advertised in early 2019 on [www.ahrc-cdp.org/](http://www.ahrc-cdp.org/) and [www.glam.ox.ac.uk/CDP](http://www.glam.ox.ac.uk/CDP).