

Fully-funded Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) PhD studentship

Commencing October 2019

Understanding the Norman Conquest through the Bayeux Tapestry: analysis, interpretation and reception

The Institute of English Studies, School of Advanced Study, University of London and the British Museum invite applications for a fully-funded AHRC Collaborative Doctoral Award Studentship to begin in October 2019, supervised jointly by Professor Clare Lees (Institute of English Studies) and Dr Michael Lewis (British Museum).

The Studentship

In the context of the proposed loan of the Bayeux Tapestry to the UK in 2023 and potential exhibition at the British Museum (as well as its interpretation and redisplay in Bayeux) there is an urgent need to assess the story of the Norman Conquest as told by the embroidery.

Research undertaken by this CDA will lead to a fuller understanding of the relationship between the Bayeux Tapestry and the Norman Conquest, and will also help to guide how the story of the Norman Conquest as told by the Bayeux Tapestry is presented in the proposed exhibitions, both in terms of the exhibition narrative and supporting (educational and curatorial).

Research questions might include:

- How has the Bayeux Tapestry been used to inform the story of the Norman Conquest, and how have those using the embroidery as a source for the Conquest dealt with the fact that its account is partial?
- In view of the relationship between the Bayeux Tapestry and the Norman Conquest, how has the story of the Conquest changed through time (especially in England and France), and what are the motivators for this – both politically and culturally?

The project supervisors are Clare A. Lees, Professor of Medieval Literature and Director of the Institute of English Studies at the School of Advanced Study, and Dr Michael Lewis, Head of Portable Antiquities & Treasure, British Museum. The student will have an institutional base at the School of Advanced Study, but will spend a significant amount of time at the British Museum, and will receive appropriate training in dealing with collections and archives.

The studentship will begin in October 2019 and can be studied either full or part-time. If full time the studentship will last for 36 months, plus a further six months, supported by the Collaborative Doctoral Award Student Development Fund to support a period of research skills training and a placement/internship to be agreed with the student.

The studentship will cover full tuition fees at the UK/EU rate plus a living allowance at the standard Research Councils UK Doctoral Stipend rate with a London weighting: see <https://ahrc.ukri.org/skills/phdstudents/currentawardholders/>.

For 2019/20 the living allowance is **£17,009** per annum. The award also carries up to **£1,000** per year of additional support from the British Museum towards travel and research costs. For more information, please see www.ahrc.ac.uk/skills/phdstudents/fundingandtraining/training-grants-and-training-grant-funding-guides/.

Eligibility

Applicants should have, or expect to receive by October 2019, a good Master's degree in an area of Medieval Studies, such as Medieval English, Medieval French, Medieval History and Medievalism, relevant to the themes of the project. In some cases, we may be able to consider relevant professional experience in place of a Master's qualification: please contact the academic supervisor for guidance before applying. All applicants should also have at least an Upper Second-class undergraduate degree (or non-UK equivalent: for a guide, see www.gov.uk/government/publications/overseas-degree-equivalency-table-and-methodology).

The award is subject to the UKRI eligibility requirements, listed under Terms and Conditions of Research Council Training Grants at <https://www.ukri.org/funding/information-for-award-holders/grant-terms-and-conditions/>. Students who have been ordinarily resident in the UK for a period of at least three years before the start of their studies are eligible to apply for full studentships (stipend plus fees). Those who are EU nationals resident in the EEA are eligible for fees-only awards. **Applications cannot be accepted from students liable to pay fees at the Overseas rate.**

Applicants whose native language is not English must be able to satisfy the English language entry requirements of the University of London. For further guidance see <https://www.sas.ac.uk/graduate-study/entry-requirements/>.





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The British Museum

How to apply

The deadline for applications is Friday 3 May 2019. Please submit to Christopher Adams, Manager of the Institute of English Studies (christopher.adams@sas.ac.uk):

- a covering letter (maximum two pages) outlining your suitability for the studentship
- a CV (maximum two pages), including contact details for two referees
- a sample of academic writing, around 2,000-3,000 words

Your application will be acknowledged upon receipt. If you would like to discuss the studentship informally, or have any questions about the application process, please contact Professor Clare Lees (clare.lees@sas.ac.uk) and/or Dr Michael Lewis (MLewis@britishmuseum.org).

Shortlisting will take place in May, and shortlisted candidates will be asked to attend an interview and give a short presentation on 23 May at the Institute of English Studies. The selected candidate will then need to complete a formal application to the School of Advanced Study, University of London.



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