



Fully-funded PhD studentship as part of the CULTIVATE MSS project

Commencing January 2020

Women and the Manuscript Trade in Britain and the USA, c. 1900-1945

The Institute of English Studies, School of Advanced Study, University of London invites applications for a fully-funded doctoral studentship to begin in **January 2020**, supervised by Dr Laura Cleaver as part of the ERC-funded CULTIVATE MSS project.

The Studentship

The CULTIVATE MSS project (2019-24) analyses the significance of the trade in medieval manuscripts for the development of ideas about the nature and value of European culture between 1900 and 1945. It examines the roles of collectors, scholars and dealers in the formation of collections of medieval manuscripts, and the impact of these people on the development of scholarship. Within the framework of the overall project, this PhD researcher will study the roles of women in the book trade in Britain and the USA (as collectors, librarians, and booksellers). Through an analysis of published and unpublished sources, the research will examine the hypothesis that women's roles in the manuscript trade have been undervalued. It will study well-known and lesser-known women and contrast their activities with those of their male contemporaries. Subjects studied may include, but are not limited to: Belle Greene, Isabella Stewart Gardner, Edith Beatty, Elizabeth Thompson, and the Kingsford sisters.

Research questions may include:

- In what ways were women's opportunities and experiences (as collectors, librarians or dealers) shaped by social structures within and beyond the manuscript trade?
- How have women been presented in the literature on the book trade?
- How important was gender in the conduct of the trade in medieval manuscripts?

The studentship will begin in January 2020 and will last for up to 48 months.

The studentship will cover full tuition fees for 36 months plus a writing-up fee for 12 months at the UK/EU rate. In addition the studentship will provide a living allowance. For the 19/20 academic year, the living allowance is **£17,009**. The student will also have access to additional funding for travel for research and conference participation.





Please note that candidates not eligible for UK/EU fees may apply, but will have to pay the difference between home and overseas fees.

Eligibility

Applicants should have a good Master's degree in a relevant field of study, such as twentieth-century history or literary studies, book history, or medieval studies. All applicants should also have at least an Upper Second-class undergraduate degree (or non-UK equivalent: for a guide see <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/overseas-degree-equivalency-table-and-methodology>).

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/>.

How to apply

The deadline for applications is **Tuesday 22 October 2019**. Please submit to Helen Bhandari, Manager of the Institute of English Studies (Helen.Bhandari@sas.ac.uk):

- A covering letter (maximum two pages) outlining your suitability for the studentship
- A CV (maximum two pages)
- Two references sent by email directly from the referee's email account
- 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 Dr Laura Cleaver (lcleaver.erc@gmail.com).

Shortlisted candidates will be asked to attend an interview and give a short presentation at the Institute of English Studies. The date of interviews will be **Tuesday 29 October 2019**. The selected candidate will then need to complete a formal application to the School of Advanced Study, University of London; the application must be submitted by the School's application deadline of **31 October 2019**.

