AHRC COLLABORATIVE DOCTORAL PARTNERSHIP SCHEME

Applying for a CDP studentship from the British Museum

June 2016

The British Museum has six fully funded Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) studentships to allocate to projects that will start in October 2017. The Deadline for proposals for these studentships is 5pm on 25 November 2016. Completed forms should be emailed to Andrew Meek cda@britishmuseum.org

The studentships will be jointly supervised by a member of Museum staff and a supervisor from their University. Students have the opportunity to base their research at the Museum and learn more about how the cultural heritage sector operates. Topics are proposed by a member of Museum staff in collaboration with a colleague from a UK University and chosen on their academic strengths and clear support for the Museum’s research strategy. The studentships are administered by the universities, with AHRC funds supporting academic fees and student maintenance and the British Museum providing additional financial support for travel and related research costs. Students can also take advantage of a joint training scheme run by jointly by all the Collecting and Heritage institutions that support the Collaborative Doctoral Partnership scheme (see http://www.ahrc-cdp.org/)

The Collaborative Doctoral Partnerships scheme

Collaborative Doctoral Partnerships are allocations of AHRC funded collaborative research studentships made to a museum, library, archive or heritage organisation, or group of such organisations to allocate to collaborative projects that support their work and research strategy.

The scheme began in 2013 as a development out of the existing successful AHRC Collaborative Doctoral Awards scheme, which most CDP holders actively supported. A second round of Collaborative Doctoral Partnerships began in 2015. These partnerships will support students who will start their studies in the academic years 2016-17, 2017-18 and 2018-19.

Every CDP studentship is a collaborative doctoral studentship. This means the student is jointly supervised by someone in the University where the student is registered and by someone in the partner organisation. Collaboration is the essential feature of these studentships.
The subject matter for the studentship is proposed in advance, and must clearly support the work of the British Museum. It must also fall inside the remit of the AHRC.

The studentship is a fully funded AHRC research studentship with funds to cover the student’s tuition fees, maintenance (living costs) and some funds to support research costs. The studentship covers three years of tuition fees and maintenance, with scope for a further six months of funding through a Student Development Fund. These studentships are covered by standard AHRC rules and guidance for research students they fund and support. Please see the AHRC website for further information.

Additional financial support is provided for joint activities, training and cohort development for all the students supported by the CDP consortium through a Cohort Development Fund. The British Museum also provides financial support (up to £1000 a year) towards the student’s travel etc. to carry out research, fieldwork, speak at conferences etc.

Proposals are judged on their academic quality and on how well they support the British Museum’s research strategy. A panel that includes staff from UK Universities, other Museums as well as British Museum staff will assess and grade each proposal at a meeting following the submission deadline. Successful proposals will be passed to the AHRC, who will open up a studentship nomination page of the JES website. This enables the University partner to then receive the funding and administer the award.

Successful applicants are notified after the panel meeting and studentships are then advertised to recruit a student.

Overseas students should check the eligibility rules of the AHRC if they want to apply for a studentship.

The British Museum’s Research Strategy

The British Museum actively promotes research to support, directly or indirectly, the future care, display or other uses of objects in the Museum’s collection, and in other collections, and to help people learn, understand and be inspired by human history through objects.

We are looking for collaborative doctoral research projects that will investigate:

- How the 'lives' of objects from their making, use, reception, loss, collection and later use, can contribute to their understanding.
- How objects can reveal the social, cultural, religious, creative, economic and political history of their makers, users, owners, depositors and collectors.
- How objects can be best cared for in order to ensure their preservation for future generations of researchers and the general public.
- How objects and their histories can most effectively be presented, exhibited and explored through different media and forms of public and learning programmes.

British Museum supervisors are encouraged to state how their proposed studentship may support the research priorities emerging from the cross-museum research groups.
The Application Form
This form should be filled out jointly between a named member of staff from the British Museum and a named member of staff from a Higher Education Institution (HEI). As with all CDP Studentships, the proposal must clearly support the research strategy of the heritage organisation, and must be suitable for PhD-level research. The successful student candidate is expected to spend a significant period of time researching at, or with, the British Museum. They are also expected to meet with both supervisors once a month in the first year of the studentship, at the British Museum or the HEI, and at least once every two months thereafter.

**Question 1**
**Title of the proposal:** Please provide a title for the proposal

**1.1 Abstract:** Please provide a concise summary of the proposed research (a more detailed description of the proposed research will be requested below).
(Maximum 100 words)

**Question 2**
**Heritage organisation:** Please provide the name of the heritage organisation here.

**2.1 Heritage organisation supervisors:** Please include the name, email address, job title and department of the lead heritage organisation supervisor. Please include the name, email address, job title and department of (a potential) second cultural heritage organisation supervisor (to ensure continuity of supervision in the event of staff changes).

**2.2 Has the Head of Department for each proposed supervisor given consent for their involvement?** Please indicate yes or no.

**Question 3**
**Higher Education Institution (HEI) supervisors:** Please include the name, email address, job title, department and university of the lead HEI supervisor, and if appropriate, of the second HEI supervisor.

**3.1 Has the Head of Department for each proposed supervisor given consent for their involvement?** Please indicate yes or no.

**3.2 HEI Research Administration contact for this proposal:** Please include a name, email address and job title of the HEI research administration contact.

**Question 4**
**Number of CDP studentships applied for in this proposal:** Most applications are for a single studentship, but it is possible to apply for 2 or 3 studentships in the same year, or over 2 or 3 years.

If this proposal is linked to other proposals for CDP awards at the British Museum or other CDP holders please detail.

**Question 5**
**Other partner organisations involved in this proposal:** If there are other partners, please name them and describe their roles.

**Question 6**
**Is the proposal for a named student?** The British Museum will not currently accept proposals with a named student. Please leave this section blank.

**Question 7**
**Summary of the proposed research:** Please describe the proposed project in more detail, indicating why it is important and original.
Please make this summary as clear and concise as possible – assuming a readership outside your own particular discipline. The summary must cover the following points.

What is the project about?
Why is the project important and original?
What are the key research questions to be addressed?
Outline of research likely to be undertaken – the data to be collected and studied; fieldwork or research visits in the UK or abroad required; the type of approach or analysis to be used etc.
What scope is available to the successful student candidate for moulding the project?
(Maximum 1 side A4; AHRC require a summary of this size if the application is successful).

Question 8
How will the studentship contribute towards the priorities and objectives of the heritage organisation? Provide details as to how the studentship will support the general aims, ambitions, objectives, initiatives and research strategy of the heritage organisation.

Clearly explain how the proposal will assist the work of the British Museum by supporting, directly or indirectly, the future care, display or other uses of objects in the Museum's collection, and in other collections, and to help people learn, understand and be inspired by human history through objects.

Describe how the proposal supports any specific highlighted area or topic for studentships.

Does the proposed studentship link to any other (existing or planned) projects, initiatives or partnerships?
(Maximum ½ side A4).

8.1 Please outline any engagement, outreach, dissemination and impact initiatives that will be supported by the studentship: How will the studentship support the public-engagement or audience-development aims of the heritage organisation or university?

Will the student contribute towards an exhibition or gallery display, or other events and initiatives such as public talks, guided tours, lectures, conferences and symposia? Will the student contribute towards cataloguing initiatives, website content or other forms of publication? Please detail.
(Maximum ½ side A4)

Question 9
Please provide details of any additional financial (or other) support required to undertake the research: Does the research require extensive travel, research trips or fieldwork in the UK or internationally? If so, how much might this cost and how will this cost be covered? (Please note that the maximum level of support from the heritage organisation is usually £1,000 a year).
Does the project require the support of additional departments/individuals within the heritage organisation, or externally – is this support assured?

Will the successful student candidate require specialist training? How will this be provided?

Does the project require access to specific equipment or software? How will this be provided?

(Maximum ½ side A4).

9.1 Please outline how it is proposed to use the additional six months of funding available through the Student Development Fund to support the student: Provide details as to how the SDF will be used to support the student, including likely cost and duration for each proposed activity.

This funding is primarily available to extend the duration of PhD studentships flexibly and responsively. It must be used to support needs-based training for individual students, in the form of development opportunities beneficial to a student’s doctoral research. In many cases the SDF funding will mean that a studentship is extended beyond the normal 3 year period for full-time registration. Equally there may be uses of SDF funding (e.g. to cover the costs of a specific training course relevant to a student’s research or practice) which do not entail an extension to the period of the studentship.

British Museum CDP studentships require that a portion of this funding is used to allow the student to undertake a work placement at the Museum of at least one month in duration. This placement must be organised by the heritage organisation supervisor.

Question 10

Heritage organisation lead supervisor
Please provide an outline CV/research profile with details of previous supervisory experience and relevant publications or other outputs: How does the proposal fit with the research profile, interests and/or role of the proposed supervisor?

What experiences, achievements, expertise, capabilities and skills make the proposed supervisor an appropriate person for supervising PhD research in general and this particular research project in particular?

What is the proposed supervisor’s experience in supervising PhD students? How many research students have they supervised that have successfully completed? How many research students are they currently supervising?

What other commitments does the supervisor have over the three-four year life of the CDP project, if awarded?

Applications from early career researchers / more inexperienced members of staff will be welcome, as long as assurances are given that they will be mentored and supported by more experienced members of staff.

CVs for second supervisors do not need to be provided unless they will play a substantial role in the studentship.
(Maximum 1 side A4 for each named supervisor).

Question 11

HEI lead supervisor
Please provide an outline CV/research profile with details of previous supervisory experience and relevant publications or other outputs: How
does the proposal fit with the research profile, interests and/or role of the proposed supervisor?

What experiences, achievements, expertise, capabilities and skills make the proposed supervisor an appropriate person for supervising PhD research in general and this particular research project in particular?

What is the proposed supervisor’s experience in supervising PhD students? How many research students have they supervised that have successfully completed? How many research students are they currently supervising?

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CVs for second supervisors do not need to be provided unless they will play a substantial role in the studentship.

(Maximum 1 side A4 for each named supervisor).

11.1 HEI department(s)
Please provide a synopsis of the department, including the support it will provide to the successful CDP student, its experience of engaging with heritage organisations (including the one listed in this proposal) and its research profile: Briefly outline the research profile of the department, highlighting grants successes, on-going and completed projects and wider impacts and engagements.

Please provide evidence of previous collaborations with non-HEI partners.

How will the department support the CDP student(s)? How many PhD students are currently based within the department? What opportunities – in terms of training, teaching, resources and career guidance – will be made available to the student?

(Maximum ½ side A4).

Question 12
How will the heritage organisation and HEI supervisors work together for the benefit of the student? How will the collaboration operate?

How will supervisory meetings be organised and structured? Where will they be held and how often (at least once a month in the first year)? How will the student’s work and progress be reviewed? What mechanisms will be established for delivering joint and constructive feedback?

What role will the student have in shaping the direction of the project?

If the distance between the heritage organisation and university is considerable, how will this issue be addressed?

NB the CDP studentship needs to be truly collaborative and work for the benefit of the student and the project.

(Maximum ½ side A4)