POST-DOCTORAL RESEARCHER
in Arts and Humanities

Further Information

The Centre for Interdisciplinary Research in the Humanities is intended to support the development of those building an academic career within the UK. During two successive years, three early career researchers (ECRs) will be recruited each year, allowing a total of six ECRs to work at UCL. Each ECR's residency will last for up to three years. The ECRs will be appointed as grade 7s, with a salary range between point 33 and point 35.

Eligibility

ECRs must not have held a full-time established academic post in a university or comparable institution: candidates who have not already held a post-doctoral position will be particularly welcome. Applicants whose doctorate has already been awarded must have had their doctoral viva not more than 5 years before the application closing date, unless they can make a case that they have since had a career break. Those who not yet been awarded their doctorate may only may apply if they have submitted their doctoral thesis by the closing date for applications of 5.00pm on 27 April 2012; confirmation of this is required as part of the application procedure.

The ECRs will be appointed in interdisciplinary fields within the arts and humanities with the possibility of working in fields beyond them. ECRs may be based in individual arts and humanities disciplines, but in their proposed projects they will be expected to use their expertise to address research questions that extend beyond their own immediate disciplines. This may be in collaborative, multidisciplinary arts and humanities projects, where there is a research question that goes explicitly beyond the individual disciplines, or in individual interdisciplinary research which combines the approaches of two or more arts and humanities disciplines. ECRs will need to be able to show how they will work across disciplinary boundaries and how they will interact with arts and humanities disciplines other than their own. Candidates with doctorates in non-arts and humanities disciplines may also apply, provided that their topic addresses research questions involving collaboration with at least two arts and humanities disciplines.

Mentors and research groups

The ECRs will work with more senior mentors. Mentors can be of any grade and should normally have already held externally funded research grants: they should currently be employed by UCL and based in a relevant department. ECRs will have more than one mentor (a panel of 2 or 3) to match the interdisciplinary scope of their collaborative project and/or individual research. Mentors will advise ECRs about career progress, publication strategy, and the development of further research proposals. Where the mentor is head or part of a research group or centre, the ECR will be expected to take part in its activities, developing joint research-grant applications and producing co-authored publications as appropriate to the field. They will be expected to establish links with other research groups within and beyond the two faculties and SSEES.

Thematic research areas

Applications from candidates who work in the context of an interdisciplinary theme that allows for future funding will be especially welcome. The AHRC, for example, has or has had the following strategic research interests: Translating Cultures; Connected Communities; Digital Transformations; Care for the Future; Science and Society. Other externally funded arts and humanities themes might include: the proposed EC FP 8 'Towards more inclusive, innovative and secure societies' challenge. Within UCL, strategic financial support is also available for thematic research under the 'Grand Challenges' and 'Research Frontiers'

Equally, applications will be welcomed from ECRs who help to build critical mass in relation to the AHRC's Block Grant Partnership 2 research groups in the broad core areas of: History and Thought; Creative and Performing Arts; Culture and Heritage; and Languages and Literature.

Duties of the post-holder

As well as undertaking research, successful candidates are expected to play a full part in the activities of UCL, the Faculties and SSEES. They will also be expected to undertake teaching as part of their preparation for their future careers. The amount of teaching shall not exceed 60 contact hours or 180 total hours a year including preparation and marking time. In particular, as part of their teaching load ECRs will be expected to contribute to research training (PhD) programmes. This might, for example, take the form of a structured workshop series led by ECRs and PhDs (and more senior academics) exploring different disciplinary approaches to the same themes. Guidance will be provided to ECRs about the provision of research training.

ECRs will have access to standard departmental and faculty administrative support. They will also be expected to take advantage of the support available to develop applications for externally funded research grants.

They will be line-managed by the appropriate Vice-Dean for Research or – if the ECR is already being mentored by one of the Vice-Deans for Research – by his or her opposite number. In cases where there are potential clashes of interest, the appropriate Dean will decide on mentors and line-managers. The Deans and Vice-Deans will determine to which department an ECR's research should be assigned for the purposes of the REF.

Application process

Applications must be made by potential ECRs themselves. If the applicant wishes to carry out their research with an existing research centre or group (within arts and humanities), s/he will be expected to have identified the group of which s/he wishes to become part. For details of the two principal faculties, their departments and centres, see:
http://www.ucl.ac.uk/departments/faculties
If the applicant proposes to create a new group, the nature of this new group should be described. Applicants are expected to have discussed plans with at least one agreed mentor

and/or with heads of the relevant research group or centre. It is unlikely that a Department *per se* will be recognized as a research group or centre in this context. In all cases, we shall be seeking excellent applicants who will undertake first-rate research.

These fellowships are not intended to support individual scholarly research projects alone. Rather, they should lead to the strengthening of existing research groups and/or to the formation of new collaborative research groups that will themselves produce grant-funded research and outputs by several authors (either together or singly, depending on disciplinary norms). As part of the project, applications should include a proposed outline for a seminar/workshop series (or digital alternative, such as a blog series or social-media strategy) to be undertaken in the second year of the project.

Applications should consist of: a letter that includes a statement about how their proposed research fits in with the scheme outlined above; a curriculum vitae of no more than four pages; a detailed research plan of no more than four pages; and a supporting statement from at least one agreed mentor, if no relevant grouping exists, or from at least one mentor and from the head of an existing research centre/group where such a grouping does exist. The panel will pay attention to the potential impact of the proposed research beyond academia and the opportunities it provides for public engagement. Applications may include potential placement/internship opportunities linked to the project.

Applications should be received by 27 April 2012; interviews will be held in June 2012. Appointments will begin in September 2012.