

RESEARCH ASSOCIATES

In arts and humanities

- Title:** Research Associates in arts and humanities (3 posts)
- Grade:** UCL Grade 7
- Salary:** £32,055 - £38,744 per annum inclusive of £2,806 London Allowance
- Reports to:** Vice-Dean for Research in Arts and Humanities, or Vice-Dean for Research in Social and Historical Sciences

Summary of Role:

An interdisciplinary research associateship in the arts and humanities to be held within the newly created UCL Centre for Interdisciplinary Research in the Humanities. Successful candidates will carry out collaborative, interdisciplinary research in the arts and humanities and undertake a limited amount of teaching. Each associateship may be held for a period of two or three years.

Duties and Responsibilities:

- Carry out research and collaborate with academic colleagues in interdisciplinary subjects within the broad field of the arts and humanities and with the possibility of working in fields beyond them.
- Undertake a limited amount of teaching.
- Contribute to Public Engagement activities as appropriate to their research topic.
- Contribute to the drafting and submitting of papers to peer reviewed journals/conferences/workshops and of research bids and proposals.
- Contribute to the overall activities of the Centre and of the research team in which the postholder works.
- Contribute to the induction and training of other research staff and students as requested.
- The postholder will carry out any other duties that are within the scope, spirit and purpose of the job as requested. If duties and responsibilities change, the job description will be reviewed and amended in consultation with the postholder.
- The postholder will actively follow UCL policies including Equal Opportunities and Race Equality policies.
- The postholder will maintain an awareness and observation of Fire, and Health and Safety Regulations.

PERSON SPECIFICATION

Essential:

- PhD in a relevant subject, or having submitted a PhD dissertation by 27 April 2012.
- Expert knowledge of their chosen discipline in a field relevant to arts and humanities research, sufficient to produce excellent research, high-quality publications and to communicate the results of their work to the wider public.
- Ability to conduct high-quality research which is reflected in the authorship of a number of high-quality publications appropriate to the stage the individual's career has reached.
- Ability to teach at both undergraduate and graduate level and to give other forms of public presentation.
- Ability to manage time and work to strict deadlines.
- Excellent interpersonal, oral and written communication skills.

- Ability to undertake interdisciplinary or cross-disciplinary research.
- Ability to collaborate with other researchers and produce appropriate collaborative outputs.
- Aptitude for working collaboratively.
- Aptitude for working within an interdisciplinary setting.
- Aptitude for communicating knowledge to non-specialist audiences.
- Previous experience of active involvement in research at university level.
- Previous dissemination of the research outputs in peer-reviewed publications, as appropriate to the subject discipline.
- Commitment to academic research.
- Commitment to collaborative, interdisciplinary work.
- Commitment to continuous professional development.
- Commitment to UCL's policy of equal opportunity and the ability to work harmoniously with colleagues and students of all cultures and backgrounds.
- Commitment to public engagement and knowledge exchange.
- Good spoken and written English.

Desirable:

- Ability to carry out public engagement and knowledge transfer activities.
- Ability to write high-quality research grant applications and to take part in funded research projects.
- Experience of collaborative, interdisciplinary research.
- Teaching or teaching support at university level in a relevant area.
- Production of collaborative research outputs.
- Commitment to high-quality teaching and fostering a positive learning environment for students.

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 for each year, allowing a total of six ECRs to work at UCL. Each ECR's residency will last for up to three years.

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 five years before the application closing date, unless they can show that they have since had a career break. Those who have not yet been awarded their doctorate may only apply if they have submitted their doctoral thesis by the closing date for applications of 17.00 on 27 April 2012; confirmation of this is required as part of the application process.

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 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 not 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 FP8 '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.