

Job Description

Associate Professor in Public History

Department: History

Grade: 9

Location: UCL East/Bloomsbury

Reports to

Head of Department

About UCL History

The History Department is located within UCL's Faculty of Social and Historical Sciences, but for most academic purposes it operates with a high degree of autonomy. It is unusual for its remarkable chronological breadth: expertise ranging from before 3000 BC to the present day. Our historians work in all fields of history, with departmental specialisms in intellectual and cultural history, history of the Ancient Middle East, British imperial history and history of the Americas. The Department has recently expanded provision for teaching and research in other areas, including South Asian and African history. In both our teaching and research, we encourage comparative and transnational approaches.

The Department currently has 39 permanent academic staff, including fourteen Professors. Departmental life is enriched by a number of research projects including Leverhulme-funded 'Transnational Monarchy: Rethinking the Habsburg Empire, 1804-1918' (Axel Körner), 'Women in the Miners' Strike, 1984-1985' (Florence Sutcliffe-Braithwaite), and the £1.8m AHRC funded Iraq-based research network 'Nahrein' (Eleanor Robson). The Department also hosts a number of British Academy and Leverhulme-funded post-doctoral research fellows. Teaching is further supported by a team of Teaching Fellows and Post Graduate Teaching Assistants.

There are just under 600 undergraduate students in the Department, and over 150 graduate students, both taught and research. Most undergraduates take a BA in History, and we also offer Ancient History, History with a European Language and History with a Year Abroad. Our taught masters degrees are MA in History, MA in European History, MA in Ancient History, MA in Medieval and Renaissance Studies, MA in Transnational Studies, MA in Intellectual History and the History of Political Thought, and MA in Chinese Health and Humanity.

For further information, please see our website: <http://www.ucl.ac.uk/history>

About UCL East

UCL East represents the largest ever single expansion of UCL since the University was founded nearly 200 years ago. It will be a new UCL campus, complementing the Bloomsbury one, and will be located on the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park, to the south of the Aquatics Centre and the ArcelorMittal Orbit. The School of Social and Historical Sciences' main focal point will be the interdisciplinary Culture Lab, which will offer teaching, research and engagement spaces, underpinned by new educational programmes in making, media, conservation & heritage, and public history. The first academic year at UCL East will begin in September 2021.

For further information about UCL East, please see the website: <https://www.ucl.ac.uk/ucl-east/>

Public History at UCL East

The new MA in Public History at UCL East provides an unrivalled opportunity to offer an innovative and contemporary programme. It will combine UCL's strengths and expertise in history and the public understanding of the past with the potential of new partnerships with the other education and heritage bodies on the Olympic Park, local communities in East London, and a sustained onsite engagement with UCL's own museum and special collections, especially those relating to the history of London. All these developments are taking place in the context of new, purpose-built teaching and learning spaces designed with public engagement and object-based learning in mind. There will be access to the most up to date digital and audio-visual labs to test and develop innovative public history dissemination and engagement practices and techniques.

The UCL programme aims to provide students with an advanced understanding of public history in both theoretical and practical terms. Rather than taking a narrow or overly-concentrated approach, the UCL East programme will introduce students to a broad range of public history approaches, including:

- impactful and public-facing historical research across a broad periodisation (i.e. not confined to modern history)
- the use of history in the development of policy and cultural understanding by a range of official and civil society bodies
- local, oral and community-based history and understandings of history in terms of identity and a sense of place, including overlaps with public and historical geography and public archaeology
- museum studies, archives and critical cultural heritage and the role of heritage institutions in promoting meaning and identities
- medical humanities and the public history of science
- the treatment and uses of history in film, mass media and the arts
- history, heritage and education
- the possibilities offered by the digital humanities for research and dissemination of public history.

Students will have opportunities to develop a particular interest or specialism in one or more of those approaches via a placement or dissertation. Students will be encouraged throughout not just to study public history but also to engage in public history activities throughout the course.

The MA will be led by the Associate Professor in Public History. It is also planned to appoint at least one further lecturer from September 2020 and to draw upon the teaching of existing UCL staff.

Main purpose of the job

Main purpose of the role: to bring nationally renowned expertise in public history to the department; to lead the development and delivery of the new MA in Public History at UCL East; to extend and deepen the role of public history at UCL; and to enhance the department's work in all areas (research, teaching, administration, and knowledge exchange).

Requirements: Applicants should have an established reputation as a leader in the field with a strong national or international profile. They should be able to demonstrate sustained and repeated contributions to the field of public history, through a combination of research, education and/or knowledge exchange, depending on prior experience. They must have a demonstrable aptitude for pedagogical innovation and leadership, and a strong track record in bringing members of the public into their research and teaching, whether as active participants, practitioners or advisers.

Research, publication and knowledge exchange

The History Department has a very well-developed research and knowledge exchange culture. The successful candidate will be expected to pursue, publish and communicate research of the highest quality within their field. Permanent members of staff can usually expect two terms of study leave every fourth year. There are certain UCL funds

available to help meet the costs of research and attending conferences, as well as for knowledge exchange and evaluation activities, but all staff are expected to apply for additional external grants as appropriate. Applications to the UK and European Research Councils for major research projects are particularly encouraged.

In the 2014 Research Excellence Framework (REF), 82% of our submission was rated 'world-leading' or 'internationally excellent'.

Undergraduate and Graduate Teaching

We are committed to excellence not just in research but also in teaching, and we believe strongly that high-quality teaching is both research-led and research-based. As such, members of staff are encouraged to design courses relating to their specialist research interests, and to introduce students to research across the entire syllabus. We continue to insist on small class sizes (no more than 15 students on most UG modules; no more than 10 on final year UG 'special subjects'; and no more than 12 on taught MA modules) and on offering students one-to-one feedback on their coursework essays. In the National Student Survey (NSS) we consistently score 90% or higher for teaching satisfaction.

Our degrees are designed to give students a lot of choice about the courses they take (10/12 modules of our BA History degree are options; MA students usually take a core course, two options and a dissertation). The Department has several collaborative core courses at both undergraduate and postgraduate level, to which colleagues contribute as required.

The UCL academic year is currently divided into three terms, the first two of which are teaching terms (12 weeks from late September to mid-December; 11 weeks from mid-January to late March), with the third term (7 weeks from late April to mid-June) devoted to examining. There is a reading week half-way through each of the two teaching terms, when no classes are held. Full-year modules are therefore taught for 20 weeks; half-year modules for 10 weeks.

The Department expects each member of staff to develop a portfolio of undergraduate and graduate modules, from which they will be expected to offer a range of modules in any one teaching year (i.e. 3 years out of every 4) as required by the Department. While for this post the emphasis will be on MA teaching, there will be opportunities to develop undergraduate modules if appropriate. We aim to ensure that no-one has more than 8 contact hours per week, averaged out over the 20 teaching weeks. In addition, we encourage all post-probationary staff to supervise research students (to a maximum of 6).

Administration and Academic Citizenship

The successful candidate will be expected to play a full part in the life of the Department, UCL and the wider research community, including administrative duties, pastoral care of students and contributions to research seminars and conferences. Most members of the History Department convene or regularly participate in seminars at one of the Institutes of the nearby School of Advanced Study, especially the [Institute for Historical Research](#).

Duties and responsibilities

- to develop an international reputation as a leader in the field
- to sustain an outstanding record of research, communication, and knowledge exchange
- to lead the development and delivery of the new MA in Public History at UCL East
- to do imaginative and inspiring teaching at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels
- to attract and supervise doctoral students to successful completion
- to contribute to the promotion of public history in UCL, the UK and internationally
- to contribute to pastoral care of students and to academic administration
- to carry out any other duties commensurate with the post, as requested by the Head of Department or the Dean of Social and Historical Sciences

Person Specification

Criteria	Essential or Desirable	Assessment method (Application/Interview)
Qualifications, experience and knowledge		
Recognition as a substantial contributor to the field of public history	E	A/I
Fluency in written and spoken English	E	A/I
Experience of academic or other institutional administration	E	A/I
Leadership of research or public engagement projects	E	A/I
Experience of teaching in academic or other settings	E	A
PhD	D	A
Competence in languages other than English	D	A
Experience of undergraduate and/or taught postgraduate teaching	D	A/I
A record of supervising research students to successful and timely completion	D	A
Skills and abilities		
Strong record of original research or knowledge exchange in public history	E	A/I
Publication record appropriate for submission for REF 2021	E	A/I
Capacity for undertaking research which has demonstrable 'impact' in line with REF guidelines	E	A/I
Capacity to develop exciting future research and/or knowledge exchange projects	E	A/I
Proven capacity to lead and develop a new teaching programme	E	A/I
Capacity for intellectual leadership	D	A/I
Personal attributes		
Willingness to develop creative new approaches to the teaching of public history	E	A/I
Willingness and ability to lead the development and delivery of a new taught programme	E	A/I
Willingness and ability to assume other administrative roles in the Department and beyond	E	A/I
Willingness and ability to undertake knowledge exchange and public engagement work	E	A/I
Commitment to equal opportunities and the ability to work harmoniously with colleagues and students of all cultures and backgrounds	E	A/I
Demonstrable commitment to interdisciplinary work	E	A/I

In addition to the person specification criteria, the successful candidate will need to meet UCL's expectations of:

1. academic excellence, as outlined in 'Excellence and the UCL community: a shared endeavour' (<http://www.ucl.ac.uk/excellence/>), and
2. management competency as outlined in 'Competency expectations of post holders with management responsibilities' (<http://www.ucl.ac.uk/hr/competencies/>).

Please note that as duties and responsibilities change, the job description may be reviewed and amended in consultation with the postholder.

Hard copies of these documents are available on request. These will inform the successful candidate's induction, probation, and appraisal, in discussion with the Head of Department.

How To Apply

Please apply online at <http://www.ucl.ac.uk/hr/jobs/>. Any candidates unable to apply online should submit an electronic copy to claire.morley@ucl.ac.uk or a hard copy to the Claire Morley, Department Manager, Department of History, University College London, Gower Street, London WC1E 6BT.

Applications should include the following **two** documents:

1. A full c.v. (maximum 10 pages), including a list of significant publications; public engagement experience; and the details of three referees (name, relationship to you, address, email, telephone number). References will be taken up after shortlisting.
2. A letter of application, including a summary of your interests and plans in research and/or public engagement; an evaluation of the significance of your research and/or public engagement; and a statement about your approach to teaching and supervision (maximum 10 pages).

Within the online application you should include a clear statement in response to each of the selection criteria which shows how your qualifications, experience and training fit each of the criteria. (Your response to the criteria is an essential part of the

selection process and thus a failure to provide this information will mean that the application will not be considered. An answer to any of the criteria such as "Please see attached CV" will not be considered acceptable.)

We particularly welcome female applicants and those from an ethnic minority, as they are currently under-represented within UCL at this level. This is in line with section 48 of the Sex Discrimination Act and section 38 of the Race Relations Act.

The closing date for applications is **27 September 2019**. The post is available from 1 July 2020. Please note that if you are shortlisted and are unable to attend on the interview date, regrettably it will normally not be possible to offer an alternative date.

Salary will be at a level commensurate with the academic standing of the appointee, and will include £3,031 London Allowance per annum and potentially an attractive relocation package. The Grade 9 salary range is currently £56,266 - £61,181 (with the discretionary range of the grade extending to £72,423) including London Allowance.

For academic enquiries about the post, please contact the Head of UCL History Department, Prof. Eleanor Robson, by email: e.robson@ucl.ac.uk.