

**Global and Area Studies Hub: Co-ordinators  
UCL Institute of Advanced Studies**

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**Overview**

The Institute of Advanced Studies (IAS) is creating a Global and Area Studies Hub, to act as a single focal point of UCL global and regional academic expertise. The rationale and the role of the Hub is set out below. In order to launch our work, we wish to recruit two co-ordinators to establish a strong basis for the Hub's work in the following academic year.

**Location:** London Contract

**Contract type:** As and When

**Hours:** Part-time

**Salary:** Grade 6, spine point 28 (£19.61 / hour)

**Duration:** May-July 2023

**Closes:** Midnight on Monday 27 March 2023

**About**

UCL's Institute of Advanced Studies in the Humanities and Social Sciences (IAS) was founded in 2015 and is based at the heart of UCL's Bloomsbury Campus in South Wing. It is a research-based community of scholars comprising colleagues and doctoral students from across UCL as well as visiting fellows and research collaborators/interlocutors from the UK and internationally.

The IAS is committed to critical thinking and engaged enquiry both within and across conventional disciplinary and institutional boundaries, and aims to provide a creative and generative context in which to question and dislodge habitual practices and modes of thought. In particular, in the context of a major multi-disciplinary university, the IAS harnesses UCL's extensive expertise across the humanities and social sciences, to investigate received wisdom, to bring the aesthetic and the political into dialogue with one another, to foster collaborative cutting-edge research, to identify and address the urgent ethical and intellectual challenges that face us today, and to confront our responsibilities as citizens of an increasingly contracting and inter-connected world, exploring our place (historically as well as spatially) within it.

We invite applications from current UCL PhD students working on global and/or area studies to join IAS from May to July 2023 (in the first instance). You will be asked to work an average of 10 hours per week on the Hub, hours which could be arranged flexibly. You will work with the IAS Director, Nicola Miller, whose field is Latin American Studies/History.

## Global and Area Studies Hub Co-ordinator Duties

- Online research to update and expand our lists of relevant expertise
- Organisation of meetings and research workshops
- Attendance and note-taking at meetings and workshops
- Online research about area studies work in other places
- Research about possibilities for grants, public engagement and knowledge exchange
- Other work as requested by the IAS Director to support the development of the cluster.

Computing and desk facilities will be provided on a hot-desking basis.

There are two posts available, each to be paid a maximum of £3,000 at Grade 6, Spinal Point 28. The successful candidates will have to register with Unitemps and submit regular timesheets.

**To apply:** Please send a short cv (1-2 pages), plus a letter of application (1-2 pages) outlining your field of research and giving the reasons you are interested in these posts, to Catherine Stokes ([c.stokes@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:c.stokes@ucl.ac.uk)) by midnight on Monday 27 March 2023.

### Global and Area Studies Hub: Rationale

UCL has extensive expertise in most areas of the world, spread across three kinds of academic unit:

- a) **Dedicated area-based units** specialising in knowledge of the languages, cultures, histories and social systems of particular regions of the world, including SSEES, Institute of the Americas, the European Institute and research centres on Africa, Asia and the Middle East based at IAS.
- b) **Cross-disciplinary units** framed by concepts that are global – or planetary – in scope while drawing upon specialist regional expertise, such as the Institute for Global Health, the Development Planning Unit, the Institute for Global Prosperity, the Sarah Parker Remond Centre for the Study of Racism and Racialisation, the Migration Research Unit and UCL Anthropocene.
- c) **Discipline-based units**, where many colleagues work who conduct research in or on countries overseas, some but not all of whom are also involved in the intellectual communities generated by a) or b). They include most departments in the Faculties of Social and Historical Sciences and Arts and Humanities, departments in the Institute of Education and the Faculty of the Built Environment, plus sections of Engineering Sciences, Laws, Population Health Sciences, Mathematics and Physical Sciences and Life Sciences.

The purpose of the Hub is to connect up these various intellectual communities in order to maximise UCL's research strength, educational offering and public engagement/knowledge exchange in the field of Global and Area Studies.

## Role of the Research Hub

- to map UCL's expertise in world regions
- to connect academics in Critical Area Studies with those in units focused on global – or planetary – challenges and with colleagues in all faculties who work in or on other parts of the world in their research
- to stimulate new thematic and comparative research through sandpits and other networking initiatives, with a view to major collaborative grant applications
- to collate and disseminate information about current research, education and public engagement
- to foster a better research environment for PhD and master's students with global/area studies interests by providing opportunities for intellectual exchange and networking
- to provide the co-ordination and support for collaborative and comparative work that is currently lacking
- to align the academic work with professional services expertise and funding support from teams such as Global Engagement and Grand Challenges
- to support implementation of the Grand Challenges by acting as a contact point for global and area studies expertise
- to serve as a portal to enhance visibility and legibility both internally and externally
- to create the conditions for a strategic approach to developing global and area studies at UCL