AHRC COLLABORATIVE DOCTORAL PARTNERSHIP SCHEME

Applying for a CDP studentship from the British Museum
July 2019

UNRESTRICTED

The British Museum has five fully funded Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) studentships to allocate to projects that will start in October 2020. These studentships will run for **48 months (4 years)**, unless the student is part time.

**The Deadline for proposals for these studentships is 5pm on 22 November 2019.** Completed forms should be emailed to: 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 focusing on several priorities stipulated below. 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. They are made to a museum, library, archive or heritage organisation, or group of such organisations for them to allocate to collaborative projects that support their work and research strategy.

The scheme began in 2013, developing out of the successful AHRC Collaborative Doctoral Awards scheme, which most CDP holders actively supported. A second round of Collaborative Doctoral Partnerships began in 2015. Now entering into a third round of funding, CDP3 will support students who will start their studies in 2020, 2021 and 2022.

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, in this case The British Museum. 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 subject area remit of the AHRC. Project proposals looking at a science or social science subject must demonstrate clear arts and humanities questions. Please refer to the AHRC website for more information: https://ahrc.ukri.org/funding/research/subjectcoverage/

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 four years of tuition fees and maintenance, this period must also include a range of professional development opportunities, these are expected to equate to between 3 and 6 months of the full project time. Further information on this can be found later in this document. These studentships are covered by standard AHRC rules and guidance for the 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 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.

**Studentship proposals are judged:**

1. on their academic quality
2. on how well they support the British Museum’s priorities
3. on how the proposal will provide opportunities to develop the student’s future career

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 Je-S 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 Priorities for Collaborative Doctoral Studentships**

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.

The CDP3 studentship projects should be focused on the current and future priorities of the British Museum. They should continue to support the Museum’s Research Strategy and Display Strategy by clearly addressing the stated themes and challenges, in particular:

1. Projects that have a clear relevance to future temporary exhibitions and permanent galleries.
2. Projects that work collaboratively across Museum departments, e.g. comparing and contrasting cultures
3. Projects that focus on under-researched parts of the collection.
4. Projects that consider visitor experience at the British Museum.
5. Projects that provide a clearer narrative of the British Museum collections and the history of and conservation of those collections.
Experience suggests that some studentships can be too narrow in focus to attract potential students. All proposals need to allow scope for the student to develop the research within the limits of the project's aims and focus.

**Student Professional Development**

An important aspect of the CDP scheme is the opportunity that the student has for professional development during the course of their PhD.

Details of proposed and potential development opportunities will be required as part of the assessment process for selecting CDP projects. Proposals that do not provide sufficient development opportunities (either by having them 'built in' or by demonstrating the clear potential for such opportunities to be developed over the course of the project) will not be nominated for funding. These opportunities can include delivering impacts from the PhD research for the British Museum, they can also include; language courses; placements; exhibition contributions; cataloguing projects, etc.

These opportunities can take the form of specific ‘blocks’ of activity (e.g. placements, language courses) or can be spread across a longer period of time (e.g. cataloguing projects). Such opportunities should, ideally, take place within years 1 to 3 of the project, with the final fourth year focused on the completion of the research and submission of the PhD thesis. Regardless of any training or development opportunities undertaken, the submission deadline for the PhD thesis will be 4 years (or part time equivalent).

Where any such opportunities incur direct costs, they will be deducted from the student’s four-year stipend, thereby reducing the period of the project for which the student receives the stipend from the AHRC. It is the Research Manager’s duty to liaise with the HEI partner to ensure that any such changes are recorded with the AHRC (in Je-S). Please do keep the Research Manager informed of any costs that have been incurred.

**SUPERVISOR GUIDANCE:**

Becoming a lead supervisor on a PhD project means a significant commitment of 4-5% of the supervisor’s time for the full 4 years of the project. Supervisors must be contracted to be working at the British Museum for the full term of the studentship in order to provide project and supervisory stability. All CDP students should have second Museum supervisor who will be actively involved with the project and can act as the lead supervisor, if required. This person can be on a Fixed Term Contract.

Students are expected to meet with both their Britism Museum and Higher Education Institution 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.

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.

When thinking about supervising a potential project, or choosing a second and co-supervisor, there are some questions to think about:

*How does the proposal fit with your research profile, interests and current role?*

*What is your experience in supervising PhD students? How many research students are you currently supervising? What is your current supervision workload? What support might you need to enable effective supervision?*

*What other commitments do you/they have over the four-year life of the CDP project, if awarded?*
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 British Museum, 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.

If this proposal is successful, the HEI co-supervisor will be asked by AHRC to fill in a studentship proposal form on the JeS (Joint electronic Submissions System). To help fill in this form for AHRC many of the sections in the BM proposal form are the same as on the JeS form

**Question 1**
**Title of the project:** Please provide a title for the proposal (150 characters, including spaces)

**Question 2**
**Project Summary:** Please describe the project briefly and clearly, using language and terminology that anyone can understand.
(maximum of 4000 characters including spaces)

**Question 5&6**
**British Museum supervisors:** Please include the name, email address, job title and department of the lead and secondary British Museum supervisors. Please include the name, email address, job title and department of (a potential) second British Museum supervisor (to ensure continuity of supervision in the event of staff changes).

**Questions 7&8**
**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.

**Question 9**
**Other partner organisations involved in this proposal:** If there are other partners, please name them and describe their roles.

**Question 10**
**Case for Support:** (Maximum 2 sides A4, 11-point font. AHRC require a Case for Support of this size if the application is successful).

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? Aims and Objectives?
- Why is the project important and original?
- What are the key research questions to be addressed?
- Methodology. 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.
- Can the project be delivered in the time allowed?
- What scope is available to the successful student candidate for moulding the project?
- What are the expected outcomes?
Question 11
Supervision Arrangements: (Maximum ½ side of A4)
How will the proposed supervisors work together to support the student and ensure they finish on time?
How frequently will the supervisors meet and where?
How will the student’s training and support needs be established?
What processes does the University partner have for monitoring and supporting the progress of PhD students?
How will they involve the British Museum supervisors in these processes?
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.

Question 12
Please provide details of any additional financial (or other) support required to undertake the research: (Maximum ½ side of A4)
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 British Museum provides up to £1,000 per year to the student to cover research expenses. Will this project require anything further to this funding?

Does the project require the support of additional departments/individuals within The British Museum, 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?

Question 13
What will be the impact of the studentship on The British Museum? How will the studentship contribute towards the priorities and objectives of the organization? (Maximum ½ side of A4)
PLEASE NOTE THIS AND THE SECTION ON ENGAGEMENT, OUTREACH, etc CAN BE USED TO FILL IN THE IMPACT SUMMARY BOX ON THE JES FORM
Please outline how this studentship will contribute to the British Museum’s strategic priorities and objectives and explain clearly how the studentship will make a direct contribution to these. Please include details of any current of future exhibitions or research projects which the studentship will contribute towards. Please refer to the notes on priorities on the first page of this guidance.
**Question 14**
Will the studentship lead to any impact such as outreach, dissemination and impact initiatives? (Maximum ½ side of A4)

PLEASE NOTE THIS AND THE SECTION ON ENGAGEMENT, OUTREACH, etc CAN BE USED TO FILL IN THE IMPACT SUMMARY BOX ON THE JES FORM

Please indicate clearly any events, publications, exhibitions, displays, etc. that the studentship will positively support and how.

Eg:
- Public engagement
- Audience development
- Exhibition / gallery display
- Public talks
- Guided tours
- Lectures
- Conferences / symposia

**Question 15**
Student Career Development: (Maximum ½ side of A4)

Please outline the likely careers this studentship might lead to. Taking in to account the fourth year of funding, outline how you provisionally propose to develop the skills, experience and opportunities the student will need for their future career?

Please refer to the information at the start of this paper regarding Student Development.

**Question 16**
Who will academically benefit from this proposed studentship: (maximum of 4000 characters including spaces)

Please summarise how the proposed research will contribute to knowledge and research on the subject matter of studentship, both within the UK and, if applicable, globally.

What new and original contribution will this project make to knowledge and understanding in the relevant field?

Thinking broadly, are there other researchers both within the UK and elsewhere who are likely to be interested in or benefit from the proposed research?

List any academic beneficiaries from the research and give details of how they will benefit and how the results of the proposed research will be disseminated. Specific beneficiaries might be:

- Researchers already in the field carrying out similar or related research
- Researchers in other disciplines
- Researchers in other academic institutions (in the UK and/or international)
- Also describe the relevance of the research to beneficiaries.

**Question 17&18**
Approvals for both Primary and Secondary Supervisors.

Please refer to the supervisor guidance at the beginning of this document.