



Faculty of Medieval and Modern Languages

Job description and selection criteria

Job title	Post-doctoral Research Assistant (A Europeanized Elite in Russia)
Division	Humanities Division
Department	Faculty of Medieval and Modern Languages
Location	Wellington Square
Grade and salary	£29,099 - £35,788 (with discretionary range to £39,107)
Hours	Full time
Contract type	Fixed Term (2 years) – externally funded for a limited time period
Reporting to	Professor Andrei Zorin
Vacancy reference	
Additional information	

Introduction

The University

The University of Oxford is a complex and stimulating organisation, which enjoys an international reputation as a world-class centre of excellence in research and teaching. It employs over 10,000 staff and has a student population of over 21,000.

Most staff are directly appointed and managed by one of the University's 130 departments or other units within a highly devolved operational structure - this includes 5,900 'academic-related' staff (postgraduate research, computing, senior library, and administrative staff) and 2,820 'support' staff (including clerical, library, technical, and manual staff). There are also over 1,600 academic staff (professors, readers, lecturers), whose appointments are in the main overseen by a combination of broader divisional and local faculty board/departmental structures. Academics are generally all also employed by one of the 38 constituent colleges of the University as well as by the central University itself.

Our annual income in 2010/11 was £919.6m. Oxford is one of Europe's most innovative and entrepreneurial universities: income from external research contracts exceeds £376m p.a., and more than 70 spin-off companies have been created.

For more information please visit www.ox.ac.uk

Humanities Division

The Humanities Division is one of four academic divisions in the University of Oxford, bringing together the faculties of Classics; English; History; Linguistics, Philology and Phonetics; Medieval and Modern Languages; Music; Oriental Studies; Philosophy; and Theology, as well as the Ruskin School of Drawing and Fine Art. The division has responsibility for over 500 members of academic staff, for over 4,000 undergraduates (more than a third of the total undergraduate population of the University), and for about 1600 postgraduate students.

The Division offers world-class teaching and research, backed by the superb resources of the University's libraries and museums, including the famous Bodleian Library, with its 11 million volumes and priceless early book and manuscript collections, and the Ashmolean Museum of Art and Archaeology. Such historic resources are linked to cutting-edge agendas in research and teaching, with an increasing emphasis on interdisciplinary study.

The Division's faculties are among the largest in the world, enabling Oxford to offer an education in Arts and Humanities unparalleled in its range of subjects, from music and fine art to ancient and modern languages.

For more information please visit: <http://www.humanities.ox.ac.uk/>

Faculty of Medieval and Modern Languages

The Modern Languages Faculty has roughly 1,000 undergraduates reading for the Honours School of Modern Languages or one of five Joint Schools, and approximately 150 graduate students; there are around 100 academic and support staff holding university posts. The Faculty is one of the leading centres for the study of European language, literature, and culture world-wide, offering expertise in the entire chronological range from the earliest times to the present day, and with specialists in film studies, cultural studies, and cultural history as well as languages and literatures.

The main subjects studied are French, German, Italian, Russian, Spanish, Portuguese, Modern Greek, and Linguistics. The Faculty is partly college-based, and partly housed in University buildings in Wellington Square, where some academic staff and the Faculty's administrative staff

have offices, and at the Taylor Institution in St Giles' where some teaching takes place and the main Faculty and research library is based.

For more information please visit: <http://www.mod-langs.ox.ac.uk/>

Sub-Faculty of Russian

The Sub-Faculty of Russian and other Slavonic Languages was founded more than a century ago and has an excellent teaching and research profile. Over its history it has produced more doctorates in Slavonic studies than any other British department. The current enrolment of undergraduates reading Russian (that is, majoring in the subject) exceeds one hundred. The Sub-Faculty also currently has thirteen graduate students.

The Sub-Faculty has eight permanent postholders in addition to the Chair, an Instructor in Russian and one Lector in Russian. Its members, which include two experts in Slavonic linguistics, teach and research across virtually the entire spectrum of Russian literature and cultural history, from the medieval to post-Soviet period. The Sub-Faculty benefits too from the presence of a number of colleagues who support the teaching of the permanent postholders and enhance the research profile of the sub-faculty. These include some tutors employed solely by colleges, research fellows and academic librarians.

Job description

Overview of the role

Professor Zorin, in collaboration with Professor Schönle of Queen Mary University of London, has been awarded funding by the Leverhulme Trust for three years (from 1 October 2012).

The project (The Creation of a Europeanized Elite in Russia: Public Role and Subjective Self) seeks to provide a cultural history of the first Russian Europeanized elite from its emergence during the 'Petrine reforms' until 1825, when it engaged into open confrontation with the regime it had been created to serve. The researchers will analyse the subjective worldview of this social group, its shifting and fluid identities, multiple loyalties, and eclectic behavioural habits. This approach overcomes the binary oppositions created in the existing historiography. It investigates the mental outlook and subjective self of a Europeanized elite living in a non-European country as a distinct cultural formation and a historical precedent to the current processes of globalization.

This post, available for two years from 1 October 2012, will assist Professor Zorin and Professor Schönle in progressing the above research project.

Responsibilities/duties

- To conduct research in areas related to the project, leading to the preparation of at least 2 book chapters.
- To assist Professor Zorin and Professor Schönle in their research programmes.
- To organise meetings of the research team.
- To liaise with consultants working on the project in Russia.

Selection criteria

Essential

- A PhD degree in a subject related to the research submitted by 1 October 2012
- A track record of research in 18C-early 19C Russia
- Fluent language ability in both English and Russian
- Excellent organizational skills
- Good IT skills

Desirable

- Familiarity with web design and data management software
- A reading knowledge of French

Working at the University of Oxford

For further information about working at Oxford, please see:

http://www.ox.ac.uk/about_the_university/jobs/research/

How to apply

The application process is via the University's on-line recruitment system. To retrieve the relevant 'Job Details' page, search for ID ref (102306) at: www.recruit.ox.ac.uk

Once on the 'Job Details' page, click on the 'Apply Now' button and follow the on-screen instructions to register as a user.

You will then be required to complete a number of screens with your application details, relating to your skills and experience. You will also be required to upload a CV and supporting statement. The supporting statement should describe what you have been doing over at least the last 10 years. This may have been employment, education, or you may have taken time away from these activities in order to raise a family, care for a dependant, or travel for example. Your application will be judged solely on the basis of how you demonstrate that that you meet the selection criteria outlined above and we are happy to consider evidence of transferable skills or experience which you may have gained outside the context of paid employment or education.

Please save all uploaded documents to show your name and the document type.

You should also arrange for two referees to submit their references to recruitment@mod-langs.ox.ac.uk by the closing date of **Monday 2 April 2012**.

All applications (and references) must be received by **midday** on the closing date of **Monday 2 April 2012**.

Information for Priority Candidates

*A priority candidate is a University employee who is seeking redeployment owing to the fact that he or she has been advised that they are at risk of redundancy, or on grounds of ill-health/disability. Priority candidates are issued with a redeployment letter by their employing departments and this letter **must** be attached to any application they submit.*

The priority application date for this post is Monday 19 March 2012.

Full details of the priority application process are available at:

<http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/personnel/end/red/redproc/prioritycandidate>

If you have any queries about the post itself or the research project, please contact Professor Andrei Zorin (andrei.zorin@mod-langs.ox.ac.uk).

If you have any administrative queries about the application process for the post, please contact recruitment@mod-langs.ox.ac.uk

Should you experience any technical difficulties using the online application system, please email recruitment.support@admin.ox.ac.uk

Please note that you will be notified of the progress of your application by automatic e-mails from our e-recruitment system. **Please check your spam/junk mail** regularly to ensure that you receive all e-mails.

The selection process

The recruitment process will be undertaken by a selection committee including Professor Zorin and Professor Schönle.

It is the Faculty's policy not to send notification to individuals who are unsuccessful at shortlisting stage. If you have not heard by Friday 13 April 2012, you should assume your application has been unsuccessful.

Shortlisted candidates will be asked to submit a writing sample of 5,000 – 7,000 words (ie. an article or chapter). Further details will be circulated to shortlisted candidates.

It is anticipated that interviews will be held on **Friday 4 May 2012**. If you cannot make this date, please make this clear in your application materials.