AHRC Collaborative Doctoral Partnerships (CDP) – CDP3 Cohort 2022/23

2021 Call for HEI Partners/Academic Supervisors

Information for HEI Applicants

AHRC Collaborative Doctoral Partnerships

The Collaborative Doctoral Partnerships (CDP) scheme offers PhD studentships fully funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) and supervised jointly by a university/Higher Education Institution (HEI) and an Independent Research Organisation such as the British Library. The Library receives an allocation of studentships for doctoral research projects that draw directly on its collections, expertise and resources. CDP students spend a substantial amount of time working on their projects directly with the Library.

Academic partners provide the lead supervisor and an additional academic supervisor for the studentship. The HEI is also the registering body for the studentship and receives and administers the AHRC grant. The Library provides two co-supervisors, to facilitate access to the Library, advise on collections and resources and offer additional training.

British Library CDP research themes are selected through internal competition and closely aligned with our *Living Knowledge* vision, key programmes and overall purpose as a national library. Higher Education Institutions are invited in an open competition to submit proposals to further develop and bring their own expertise and perspective to our research themes.

Funding and Student Development

CDP studentships will be funded by the AHRC for up to 4 years full-time or part-time equivalent.

The provision of additional professional development opportunities to the student is an integral condition of the CDP training grant. The student will spend 3 to 6 months of the funded period on development activities which are additional to their PhD research. This may include placements, training or delivery of impact activities. The supervisory team will be required to support students to plan and undertake development activities within Year 1 to 3, with the last phase of the studentship focussed on completion of the doctoral thesis by the end of Year 4.

In addition to AHRC funding for the studentship, the British Library provides financial support directly to the student for agreed research-related costs of up to £1,000/financial year.

Benefits of the Collaborative Model

CDP students become part of the British Library's cohort of collaborative doctoral researchers and benefit from staff-level access to its collections, resources and development opportunities, such as the Digital Scholarship Training Programme. Students also benefit from the dedicated cohort development programme delivered by the Library in tandem with other museums, galleries and heritage organisations in the CDP Consortium.

The AHRC CDP scheme offers a unique opportunity to experience work and practice-based research behind the scenes of a major cultural institution and gain a wide range of transferrable skills, complementing the academic research training and specialist expertise provided by the HEI.

Further information about collaborative doctoral research with the British Library is available on our website and through a range of short films.

Research Themes

The British Library now welcomes applications from academics of postgraduate standing currently employed at universities or HEIs in the UK and interested in joint supervision of CDP studentships beginning in October 2022.

We are inviting research proposals that develop one of the following themes:

Research theme 1

> *Investigating the origins and development of the Cotton Collection at the British Library*
> British Library co-supervisors:
> Julian Harrison (Lead Curator, Medieval Historical and Literary Manuscripts)
> Andrea Clarke (Lead Curator, Medieval and Early Modern Manuscripts)

Research theme 2

> *Football fanzines and fan communities in the digital age: Challenges for publishing, reading and collecting fanzines*
> British Library co-supervisors:
> Jason Webber (Engagement Officer, UK Web Archive)
> Dr Debbie Cox (Lead Curator, Contemporary British Publications)

How to Apply

To apply, please
- refer to the detailed research theme descriptions on our website;
- ensure that your application has the support of your Head of Department and institution;
- provide a short CV (max. 2 pages) for each academic supervisor;
- complete the Application Form for your chosen theme;
- submit application and CVs to the Library's Research Development Team: Research.Development@bl.uk

The deadline is **5 pm on Friday 10 December 2021.** Late applications cannot be accepted.

Contact for Queries

For questions on the application form and process:
British Library Research Development Office - Research.Development@bl.uk

For queries regarding the research theme:
Please email the contact named in the description of the research theme you are applying for.

Selection Process

The selection of academic partners (one for each of the research themes) will take place in January 2022, overseen by a panel of Library staff and one or more external academic representatives.

The assessment panel will consider the following criteria:

- development of the research theme and how well this complements British Library collections, resources or expertise;
- how well the proposal fits the overarching aims and objectives of the AHRC CDP scheme;
- how well the proposal fits the applicants' research interests and expertise;
- ability to manage co-supervision with the Library, and the track record of collaborating with non-HEI partners;
- ability to support the student's academic progress, and promote research engagement and impact;
- ability to support the student's wider training and development needs and offer overall support and pastoral care;
- commitment to equality, diversity and inclusion in student recruitment processes.

Once selected, the joint supervisory team may further refine the research topic in order for each partner to gain maximum benefit from the collaboration. Once recruited, the successful PhD candidate will contribute to the development of the final agreed research project.

Timetable

Open call for HEI partners published	1 November 2021
Application deadline	**10 December 2021 (5 pm)**
HEI selection panel	January 2022
Nominations submitted to AHRC	By end of January 2022
Je-S submission window	January – March 2022
CDP Consortium Workshop for supervisors	Spring 2022
Student recruitment	Spring/Summer 2022
Studentship agreement	Spring/Summer 2022
CDP Consortium Launch Event for new students	Autumn 2022
Studentships start	1 October 2022