

British Library

Medieval and Renaissance Women PhD Placement

Application Guidelines

About the British Library

The British Library is the national library of the United Kingdom. It gives access to a comprehensive research collection with items from every age of written civilisation, supports traditional and digital scholarship and engages researchers and the public through online resources, events and exhibitions.

British Library PhD Placements

UK research funders, Higher Education Institutions (HEIs), Doctoral Training Partnerships and other postgraduate and early-career training providers encourage doctoral students to engage with research users and audiences outside the academic context to broaden their skill set and consider a wide range of career paths. The British Library PhD Placement Scheme was set up in 2016 to provide such opportunities and help meet the demand for postgraduate training and development in the UK.

Research across many different areas and disciplines is central to our work. This environment makes the Library an ideal place for PhD students to experience research in new contexts, engage with audiences, gain insights into career paths outside Higher Education, build professional networks and participate in the activities of a national library and major cultural organisation.

PhD placements offer the opportunity to work on a project in a specific area under the supervision of Library staff. Following an initial induction, placements will involve independent research and require the ability to work autonomously, supported by regular meetings with the British Library supervisor, towards an agreed set of objectives.

Students will be encouraged to refine, adapt or extend placement tasks and outputs in line with their own interests and development needs.

Projects offer an opportunity to experience practice-based research and the work of the Library tangibly and in a variety of ways. Projects may for example:

- improve the accessibility and understanding of collections, their history and context;
- support large-scale data analytics and digital scholarship;
- contribute to the Library's public engagement programmes;
- produce new research insights, teaching and learning resources and online content;
- help inform policy in core areas, such as digital preservation, sustainability or open access;
- support international engagement and partnerships.

Training and development

During their time at the Library, PhD placement students have access to a wide range of workshops, talks and training. Supervisors will offer advice on which opportunities may be of particular interest. Depending on when the placement takes place, development and networking opportunities may include, for example, the Digital Scholarship Training Programme, Research Roundtables, Business & IP Centre workshops, and postgraduate work-in-progress talks and seminars. Placement supervisors will provide an induction and facilitate other training that may be required to undertake a specific placement.

Eligibility

- The Library welcomes applications to its PhD Placement Scheme from all current PhD students registered with a UK university.
- International PhD students are eligible to apply, subject to meeting any UK visa/residency requirements.
- The Library is an equal opportunities placement provider and encourages applications from PhD students from all backgrounds.

- PhD placement scheme applicants must have the support of their supervisor. Successful applicants must secure the approval of their institution and training grant provider as necessary.

In addition, the following applies:

- If you are in the final year of your PhD: You are eligible to apply, provided that you are able to undertake all of the placement prior to submission of your thesis.
- If you have not begun your PhD: If you have been accepted as a PhD student from academic year 2022/23 onwards, you are not eligible to apply in this round. Feel free to contact us at Research.Development@bl.uk to be added to our mailing list and receive notification of future opportunities. Our PhD Placement Scheme runs annually.
- You must be based in the UK at the time of undertaking the placement.

Funding

This placement is funded as part of the Medieval and Renaissance Women Project (£1,600 per month, to a maximum of £9,600).

Timeframe, location and working arrangements

This PhD placement is offered for a maximum 6 months full time or, wherever possible, part-time equivalent. Part-time arrangements will be agreed between the successful applicant and the placement supervisor. The placement must be completed by March 2023 at the latest. There will be some flexibility around the placement start date.

The placement will be hosted by the British Library's Ancient, Medieval and Early Modern Manuscripts section based at St Pancras (London).

Any remote working arrangements will be discussed between the successful applicant and the placement supervisor. If remote working is agreed, the student will be required to ensure that they have access to the necessary technical equipment (e.g. laptop/PC, internet access) to successfully and safely undertake the agreed placement tasks. When working on site at the Library, all necessary equipment will be provided.

The student must be based in the UK at the time of undertaking the placement.

Selection process

Shortlisted applicants will be invited to interview in June 2022. Interviews will be held using Microsoft Teams. All applicants will be notified of the outcome within 4 weeks of the deadline.

All placement offers and start dates for successful candidates will be subject to the British Library's security clearance processes, which may take up to 6 weeks.

Placements offer student development opportunities within the specific context outlined in each project description and for the duration indicated. A placement offer does not constitute an offer of temporary or permanent employment at the British Library.

How to apply

1. Ensure that you have checked the eligibility criteria.
2. Read the requirements carefully.
3. Complete the Application Form.
4. Submit your completed Application Form to Julian.Harrison@bl.uk by the application deadline on **Monday 13 June 2022, 11.59 pm**. Please ensure you include an email subject line in the format specified at the bottom of the Application Form.

Questions?

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch with Julian Harrison, Lead Curator, Medieval Historical and Literary Manuscripts: Julian.Harrison@bl.uk

Good luck with your application!