Graham Robertson Research Fellowship 2023

The Governing Body of Downing College, Cambridge, invites applications for election to a three-year Graham Robertson Research Fellowship in the fields of Architecture, History of Art, Music, or Philosophy starting on 1 October 2023 and continuing until 30 September 2026. The Fellowship is not renewable after the end date.

The Fellowship and Eligibility

Established by the generous bequest of Graham Robertson, this Research Fellowship is intended to support the early careers of exceptionally talented researchers in the Arts and Humanities who will go on to make significant contributions to their fields. The successful candidate will become a full Fellow of the College, as well as member of the Governing Body, and will be entitled to all the rights and privileges of a Fellow, including seven meals a week in College, either lunch or dinner, at College expense. Accommodation within College, which would be subject to availability, is chargeable at a market rate. Other Fellowship benefits include an academic expenses allowance of £550 per annum and a Fund administered by five senior Fellows to which application can be made for further help with academic and conference expenses. In addition to the salary, the College offers an attractive benefits package including:

- 33 days holiday per annum including bank holiday entitlement, pro rata for part-time positions;
- subsidised lunches in the College Dining Hall on working days (only for positions of 6 hours or more);
- contributory group personal pension scheme;
- cash reimbursement scheme for day-to-day medical costs;
- subsidised private medical and dental schemes;
- annual season ticket loan;
- cycle purchase scheme;
- employee discount shopping scheme;
- use of the College gym for a small annual membership fee.

A full list of benefits is available from the College’s Human Resources office. Please note that these benefits are non-contractual and may be amended or withdrawn at our discretion.

The Graham Robertson Research Fellowship is open to postgraduates of any university working in the fields of Architecture, History of Art, Music, or Philosophy.
The ideal candidate will have a strong background in a relevant discipline and should have completed (or be approaching completion of) an outstanding doctoral thesis. Candidates must be within three years of PhD conferral (i.e. your doctoral degree cannot have been conferred before 30 September 2020). The successful applicant must provide satisfactory evidence of eligibility to work in the UK. Applications are welcomed from a diverse range of backgrounds.

Although this is a research post, Research Fellows are expected to take advantage of opportunities to undertake a small amount of University and/or College teaching up to four hours per week in term time (remunerated separately). Research Fellows should expect to participate broadly in the governance and communal life of the College.

The stipend is £32,348 (step 39). This figure is reviewed annually and standard increments awarded during the coming academic year will be included before October 2023. A non-stipendiary Fellowship will be offered to the successful applicant if they already hold a funded research position within the University of Cambridge.

The College

Downing College was founded in 1800 through a bequest made by Sir George Downing. Its beautiful neo-classical buildings set in spacious and peaceful grounds close to the centre of Cambridge offer room to think and space to breathe. Downing is a lively scholarly community of 507 undergraduates, 468 postgraduates and 51 Fellows, superbly supported by over 150 staff. The College’s teaching, learning and research span the full range of subjects studied at the University. Like other Cambridge Colleges, Downing is an independent, self-governing institution regulated by the Charity Commission. The Governing Body is the College’s Board of trustees.

Downing has a strong sense of community, with a positive and friendly ethos that nurtures academic excellence as its core purpose, but also encourages students to take full advantage of the cultural, intellectual and sporting opportunities that Cambridge offers. In all we do, we value mutual respect, diversity, and equality. As part of our outward-looking, inviting attitude we have our own contemporary art gallery, theatre and public café, and our extensive grounds are open to all in daylight hours.

Application and Dates

The deadline for applications is **Monday 30 January 2023** at 12.00 noon via this link: https://app.casc.cam.ac.uk/fas_live/grahamrobertson.aspx. Applications received after this date and time will not be considered.
Applicants must upload the following documents to the online application system:

A curriculum vitae (of no more than three A4 sides) including details of higher education, degrees awarded, positions held and a list of publications.

A document (of no more than 1200 words in length) containing descriptions of your current research and of the research you propose to undertake during the Fellowship.

Applicants must also supply the names and contact details of three referees to enable letters of recommendation to be uploaded by 12.00 noon on Monday 6 February 2023. Each referee will also be asked to provide the names of two further readers, not in the candidate’s institution, to whom work might be sent if the candidate is long-listed. It is the duty of the candidate to ensure that the referees submit the references and the names of two readers before the deadline.

Applications will not be considered in the competition until all references, including the names of additional readers, have been received. An email will be sent once this has occurred.

At the beginning of March, the College will contact long-listed applicants by email to ask for samples of written work, up to 10,000 words (either published papers, manuscript in press, or chapters of a doctoral thesis). This work must be uploaded within a week of sending the long-listing e-mail.

A very small number of candidates will then be short-listed and invited to attend an interview at the start of June 2023. Please ensure that you will be available for interview during this period, as it is not possible to arrange other times for interviews. Anyone interested in applying for the Fellowship should note that the standard needed to progress to the later stages of the competition is extremely high. The College will not reimburse candidates for travel costs, should they be shortlisted for interview. It is hoped that the Governing Body of the College will make an election in June 2023.

Further questions

If you have any further questions regarding any aspect of the competition, please e-mail research-fellowship@dow.cam.ac.uk to reach the competition administrator.