Whitworth Research Fellowship 2024

The Governing Body of Downing College, Cambridge, invites applications for election to a three-year Whitworth Research Fellowship in any area of Human Geography starting on 1 October 2024 and continuing until 30 September 2027 when the Fellowship will terminate.

The Fellowship and Eligibility

The Whitworth Research Fellowship is open to graduates of any university with no age limit, but is intended to support those at an early stage in their academic careers, and will normally be awarded to a candidate within five years of, or who is close to, completing their PhD. The successful candidate must provide satisfactory evidence of eligibility to work in the UK. Applications are welcomed from a diverse range of backgrounds. The stipend is £33,966 (step 39). This figure is reviewed annually and standard increments awarded during the academic year will be included before October 2024. A non-stipendiary Fellowship will be offered to the successful candidate if they already hold a funded research position within the University of Cambridge.

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 Please note that these benefits are non-contractual and may be amended or withdrawn at our discretion.
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), and may be requested to act as a Director of Studies in Geography for the College if required. Research Fellows should expect to participate broadly in the governance and communal life of the College.

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 487 undergraduates, 460 postgraduates and 53 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 26 February 2024 at 12.00 noon via this link: https://app.casc.cam.ac.uk/fas_live/whitworthf.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 two referees to enable letters of recommendation to be uploaded by 12.00 noon on Monday 26 February 2024. 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 in mid June 2024. 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 2024.

**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.