**JRRI Visiting Early Career Research Fellowship**

**Application deadline: 12pm, 14 December 2020**

**Applications should be e-mailed to** **jrri@manchester.ac.uk**

**Overview**

This Fellowship gives early career researchers the opportunity to visit the John Rylands Library (COVID restrictions allowing), and experience first-hand the University of Manchester Library’s unique Special Collections which count among the foremost repositories of primary sources in the UK. These collections offer research potential across an exceptionally broad array of disciplines, chronologies and geographical areas. The Fellowship also offers the opportunity to establish links with curators and academics at The University of Manchester.

**What is a Visiting Early Career Research Fellowship?**

Visiting Early Career Research Fellowships are an opportunity for applicants currently completing, or within two years of the award of their doctorate, to work on an application for an externally funded postdoctoral fellowship (for example, from the British Academy, Leverhulme Trust or Wellcome Trust) to conduct a future research project using the Library’s Special Collections. It is intended to allow those unfamiliar with either archival research or Special Collections, and specifically the rich holdings of The University of Manchester’s Special Collections, to identify areas of particular research promise for them. With the assistance of a skilled grant writer, successful candidates are expected to produce an application for a postdoctoral fellowship which would be focused on the holdings of the Library’s Special Collections and would be held at the John Rylands Research Institute for the duration of the fellowship. Fellowships for the 2020/21 academic year must be taken at a mutually agreed time between 1 January and 31 July 2020.

**Assessment of applications**

All applications are assessed by a grant awarding committee

Successful candidates will receive:

* A stipend of £2,000 per month for up to 3 months to cover travel, accommodation and living expenses during the Fellowship (subject to tax and National Insurance)
* Support from expert curators and the Institute grant writer
* Introduction and mentoring by a subject-appropriate academic
* Workspace and reading room provision
* A warm welcome into the life of the Institute and invitations to take part in its activities

Pre-application advice is available from:

* The Manager of the JRRI, Kat Lowe: katherine.lowe@manchester.ac.uk
* The Director of the JRRI, Hannah Barker: hannah.barker@manchester.ac.uk

The significance and scope of the University of Manchester Special Collections is extensive. We advise applicants to consult the [Guide to Special Collections](https://www.library.manchester.ac.uk/search-resources/special-collections/guide-to-special-collections/) and the searchable [A-Z](https://www.library.manchester.ac.uk/search-resources/special-collections/guide-to-special-collections/a-to-z/) on the University of Manchester Library website for more information on our holdings. We also strongly recommend that applicants get in touch with relevant curators early on in the application planning process. Information about curators and their subject specialisms can be found on the [JRRI website](https://www.jrri.manchester.ac.uk/about/people/curators/).

**Essential Criteria**

* Priority will be given to those candidates who show the greatest academic promise and whose current and proposed research demonstrates a good fit with the Library’s holdings
* Applicants must have submitted their thesis at time of application
* Applicants who have completed their PhD must be within two years of the award of their doctorate at the time of application

**Visiting Early Career Research Fellow Application Process**

Applicants are required to complete and submit an application (<http://www.jrri.manchester.ac.uk/research/funding/>) to include:

* Personal details
* Project details to include: title of project, proposed start and end date of fellowship, objectives, methodology, an outline of potential sources to be consulted, and a description of how this project will build upon your existing research
* An up to date curriculum vitae (maximum 2 pages)
* Details, including e-mail address, of two referees who can be contacted should the application be shortlisted

**What will the Institute expect from the applicant?**

* A short blog post at the end of the Fellowship
* Fellows will work with the grant-writer to develop concrete plans for postdoctoral fellowship applications