**John Rylands Research Institute and Library Visiting Early Career Research Fellowships**

**Application deadline: 12pm, 31 May 2021**

**Applications should be e-mailed to: research.jrril@manchester.ac.uk**

**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 University of Manchester Library’s Special Collections. It is intended to allow those unfamiliar with the rich holdings of The University of Manchester’s Special Collections to identify areas of particular research promise. With the assistance of a skilled grant writer, successful candidates are expected to produce an application for a postdoctoral fellowship which would be held at the John Rylands Research Institute and Library for the duration of the fellowship. Visiting Fellowships for the 2021/22 academic year must be taken at a mutually agreed time before 31 July 2022.

**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 the time of application to this call
* Applicants who have completed their PhD must be within two years of the award of their doctorate at the time of application
* Applicants must be eligible to apply for UK postdoctoral schemes such as the British Academy Postdoctoral Fellowship scheme and the Leverhulme Trust Early Career Fellowship when they complete their Visiting Fellowship. Please check your eligibility on the relevant websites before making an application:
* <https://www.thebritishacademy.ac.uk/funding/postdoctoral-fellowships/>
* <https://www.leverhulme.ac.uk/early-career-fellowships>
* <https://wellcome.org/grant-funding/research-careers/stage-postdoctoral-research>

**Application Process**

The completed application form should 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

**Successful applicants 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 UK tax and National Insurance)
* Support from expert curators, conservators and imaging specialists as well as the Institute grant writer
* Workspace and reading room provision (subject to local COVID 19 restrictions)
* A warm welcome into the life of the Institute and invitations to take part in its activities including training opportunities for Early Career Researchers

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

* A short blog post at the end of the project
* All awarded funding must be spent before **31 July 2022** and claim forms must also be submitted to research.jrril@manchester.ac.uk by this date.
* Fellows will work with the grant-writer to develop concrete plans for postdoctoral fellowship applications, to be submitted at an agreed time.

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 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 [John Rylands Research Institute and Library website](https://www.library.manchester.ac.uk/rylands/), and Institute staff are also happy to be approached for advice.

Please note that whilst the Library is doing all it can to facilitate access to the building and to the Special Collections during the pandemic, some restrictions may apply and things may change according to local restrictions. It is worth talking to either Institute staff or specific collection curators, in advance of applying, to discuss any potential issues.