

William St Clair Early Career Fellowship

Call for applications

Thanks to the generosity of the St Clair family, the Institutes of Classical Studies, English Studies, and Languages, Cultures and Societies at the School of Advanced Study, University of London are offering one five-month funded fellowship in languages, literatures and cultures. This is intended to support Early Career researchers advance their research and support their professional development at a critical point in their career.

1 About the William St Clair Early Career Fellowship Scheme

To honour the life and work of William St Clair, the St Clair family has established an Early Career funded fellowship to help support the research and professional development of early career researchers in languages, literatures and cultures. Fellows are expected to pursue their own research during the five months of the Fellowship and to contribute to the work of the Institutes of Classics, English Studies, and Languages, Cultures and Societies, as appropriate. A distinguished independent scholar, William St Clair was a Senior Research Fellow in the Institute of English Studies, whose wide-ranging multi-disciplinary research interests encompassed literary history and biography, Romanticism, archaeology and classical antiquities, and the history of the book and publishing, particularly open-access publishing. We invite applications from early career scholars who have active research interests in any of these areas.

The Fellows will be based in the Institutes of Classical Studies, English Studies, and Languages, Cultures and Societies, as appropriate.

Applicants are invited to submit a research proposal on a topic of their choice. This should specify as an objective a defined outcome for the research carried out during the period of the fellowship, such as a grant proposal, an article, chapter in a book and/or detailed proposal for a book.

The Fellowships will last five months. Because of the nature of the funding, successful applicants must be available to take up the fellowship by January 2024 at the earliest or by the end of June 2024 at the latest. Fellows will receive a stipend of £2,000 per month; this may be used as a contribution towards travel and/or accommodation costs during the Fellowship, though residence in London is not a requirement of these posts. Payment will be made in two instalments during the course of the Fellowship, at commencement and in month 3. The overall payment is £10,000 or pro rata if the fellowship is terminated early. Some additional funding will be available to support events and activities.

The Fellowships are intended to support early career researchers without a permanent academic post. In order to be eligible for the scheme, early career scholars (i.e. scholars within eight years of PhD award, not

including any period of career break) must have been awarded their PhD by the start of the fellowship. Independent researchers without a PhD would not normally be eligible.

2 About the School of Advanced Study

[The School of Advanced Study](#) (SAS), University of London, is a unique institution in UK higher education, being the only institution that is nationally funded to promote and facilitate research in the humanities. It performs a vital role as a driving force for knowledge sharing across the humanities in the UK and beyond, and receives special funding for this purpose from Research England.

The eight institutes of the School are dedicated to serving the research communities of their disciplines, both nationally and internationally. Together they complement the work of others by offering a broad research base and providing a range of services that far exceed the capacity of any one individual university to support, inspire and advance research activity. The School also enhances the dissemination of that research beyond what an individual or their institution could achieve alone.

Underpinning the School's national role is the research and scholarship undertaken by its academic staff. The process of undertaking challenging research in order to extend the boundaries of knowledge across disciplines and in collaboration with researchers from around the world is critical to the School's function as an innovative space for advanced study and its commitment to the highest standards of scholarship.

3 The Institute of Classical Studies

Since 1953 [the Institute of Classical Studies](#) (ICS) has promoted research into the cultures of the ancient Mediterranean and neighbouring lands, ranging from prehistory to Late Antiquity, and encompassing languages and literature, art and archaeology, history and philosophy. The ICS is home to one of the world's leading classical research libraries, developed in close collaboration with the Societies for the Promotion of Hellenic Studies and Roman Studies. It runs an extensive academic programme of seminars, lectures and conferences throughout the year, hosts visiting scholars and fellows from around the world. It is committed to providing research training for postgraduate students and ECRs and collaborates with partner associations such as the Council of University Classical Departments, the Classical Association and the Women's Classical Committee UK on initiatives to support Classics and classical researchers locally, nationally and internationally.

4 The Institute of English Studies

[The Institute of English Studies](#) (IES) is an internationally renowned research centre specialising in the history of the book, manuscript and print studies, textual scholarship, digital editing and new critical approaches to literary studies. The IES's three core areas of research are: texts and technologies; archives, authors, collections; and reading and interpretation. As well as offering postgraduate programmes, summer schools, and short courses, the IES hosts major collaborative research projects, provides research training in book history, manuscript studies and palaeography; and facilitates new and emerging research in all areas of English Studies. In addition, the Institute runs major externally funded [research programmes](#) and [post-graduate degrees](#). The Institute works closely with its major national partners, the English Association and University English; it also contributes to the [Decolonising the Discipline](#) network.

5 The Institute of Languages, Cultures and Societies

[The Institute of Languages, Cultures and Societies](#) (ILCS) promotes and facilitates research in Modern Languages. Though the ILCS has established strengths in French, German, Italian and Spanish, its work is increasingly focused on the study of language and culture in transnational perspective and the research that it supports is global in reach. The Institute enables researchers to collaborate in a wide range of national and international networks and activities, to engage in innovative research, and to demonstrate research value to the wider public. It offers research degrees and is the leading national provider of doctoral training for modern languages. The ILCS, and its seven research centres, run and contribute to national and international cross-disciplinary and cross-cultural research seminars, lectures, workshops, colloquia and conferences. The ILCS also hosts a thriving publications series, a conference support scheme,

and a fellowships programme. In close collaboration with the University Council For Languages, the British Academy and language area subject associations, the ILCS plays a leading role in debates that concern the shape of the disciplinary area and its engagement with issues of high topical concern. It aims to ensure that the social, cultural and economic benefits of modern languages research are widely recognised.

6 Facilities available to the Fellows

The Fellows will have access to shared office/research space within Senate House in the Bloomsbury area of central London, located adjacent to the British Museum and within walking distance of the British Library. Fellows will receive a SAS email account and a library card giving borrowing rights in Senate House Library and SAS institute libraries.

7 Financial arrangements

Fellows will receive a stipend of £2000 per month; this may be used as a contribution towards travel and/or accommodation costs during the Fellowship, though residence in London is not a requirement of these posts. Payment will be made in two instalments during the course of the Fellowship, at commencement and in month 3. The overall payment is £10,000 or pro rata if the fellowship is terminated early. Payments will be made direct to the Fellow.

The Fellowship agreement does not constitute a contract of employment and accordingly the Fellow shall be fully responsible for and shall indemnify the University of London for and in respect of any and all taxes including income tax, national insurance, social security contributions, corporation tax, value added tax and any other liability, deduction, contribution, assessment or claim arising from or made in connection with any payment or benefit received by the Fellow in respect of the Award, where such recovery is not prohibited by law. The Fellow may wish to take independent personal tax advice on how to treat this income in their own tax returns. The University of London is unable to provide personal advice but payment gross should not be taken to indicate that this income is not taxable in the Fellow's own tax return.

Living accommodation is not provided, and it is the responsibility of the Fellow to arrange it. The successful applicant will be able to take advantage, subject to availability, of accommodation reserved for visiting academics by the University of London Housing Services. Some additional accommodation suggestions can be found on the [ILCS](#) and [IES](#) websites.

8 The Research Excellence Framework

As the School of Advanced Study receives special funding from government, the School makes no submission to the Research Excellence Framework (REF). If a Fellow retains an affiliation elsewhere, their 'home' institution is therefore free to use the publications and other research outputs of the Funded Fellowship for reporting as part of the REF.

9 Entry to the UK

Selected Fellows who do not have the right to reside and/or work in the UK will require a visa and must ascertain which category of visa is most suitable. The successful applicant must already be in receipt of a visa permitting entry for research purposes for the period of the fellowship. Details of visa categories can be found on the UKVI website [here](#).

10 Method of application

Applicants must submit the online application form by the deadline of **November 20** together with:

- a Research Proposal detailing the research project to be carried out during the Fellowship (maximum: 500 words);
- a short CV (not usually longer than four pages including Publications).

11 References

Applicants to the scheme are expected to provide two references from appropriate academic referees specific to the application. These references **must be uploaded directly by the referee to the online application form** and provided on headed paper, from an institutional, not personal, email address. It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure that referees have provided references by the deadline of **20 November 2023**. Please note that references cannot be given by members of the School (which includes Fellows from within the School).

Please note that your application will not be considered complete until both reference letters are received.

12 Selection Criteria

A SAS Selection Panel will assess the applications, which will be considered against each of the following criteria. Applicants are advised to make clear in their application:

- The quality and feasibility of their research proposal;
- How their research can benefit from the resources and collaborations available in the Institutes and the School;

13 Closing Date

The deadline for applications is midnight (UK time) on **Monday 20 November 2023**. With regret, any application received after the deadline may not be considered. Applications should be submitted at the online link at https://universityoflondon.smapply.io/prog/william_st_clair_fellowship

Informal queries regarding the scheme may be directed by email to the Academic and Projects Officer: annie.sherratt@sas.ac.uk. Please ensure you have read the Call for Applications thoroughly before being in touch as many aspects of the scheme are outlined here.

We regret that it will not be possible to give feedback to unsuccessful applicants.