

THE UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER
PARTICULARS OF APPOINTMENT
FACULTY OF HUMANITIES
SCHOOL OF ARTS, LANGUAGES AND CULTURES
HISTORY
RESEARCH ASSOCIATE (LEGACIES OF THE BRITISH SLAVE TRADE)
VACANCY REF: HUM-017428

Salary: £33,309 per annum

Hours: Full time

Duration: starting 1 October 2021 for 24 months

Location: Oxford Road, Manchester

Enquiries about the vacancy, shortlisting and interviews:

Name: Dr Edmond Smith

Email: edmond.smith@manchester.ac.uk

Overall Purpose of the Role

The University of Manchester is seeking to appoint one full-time Research Associate on a fixed-term contract for 24 months to work closely with project Co-Investigator Dr Edmond Smith. They will join two further Research Associates on the project who will be based at Lancaster and UCL. These posts represent an opportunity for individuals to participate in a new AHRC-funded project entitled *Legacies of the British Slave Trade: The Structures and Significance of British Investment in the Transatlantic Slave Trade, c. 1550-1807*. The remainder of the project team includes Principal Investigator, Prof. William Pettigrew (Lancaster) and Co-Investigators Dr. Nick Radburn (Lancaster) and Dr. Nicholas Draper (UCL).

The project will examine the economic, cultural, political, and physical legacies of individual slave-traders and create a comprehensive dataset as a basis for assessing the local, regional and national imprints of Britain's slave-trade. Each of the three posts will formally be attached to

one of the participating institutions, but successful candidates will be expected to work flexibly according to the needs of the entire project team.

The successful candidates will undertake archival, prosopographical, and bibliographic research relating to the business operations and commercial networks, cultural and philanthropic activities and physical legacies of c. 8,000 identified slave-traders in the period from 1550 to 1807. It will involve extensive work on digital resources as well as archival work in port-cities and regional archives. You will have the opportunity to organize and participate in academic and policy orientated events, contribute to peer-reviewed academic outputs, and assist in public engagement and policy-development activities. You will also have the opportunity to benefit from an 'impact secondment' with one of the institutions represented on the project's stakeholder panel.

Key Responsibilities, Accountabilities or Duties:

Work Processes and Results

- Plan and carry out primary research
- Contribute consistently to the systematic populating of the project's prosopographical database at a rate of roughly 100 entries per month
- Meet agreed objectives for the pace of work
- Assist achievement of the wider research objectives and deadlines, dealing effectively with problems which may affect the outcomes
- Support the Principal Investigator/Co-Investigators in the planning and promotion of workshops and public engagement activities
- Identify and understand work requirements, prioritising tasks and responsibilities within a timeframe agreed with the Principal Investigator
- Plan and manage research and administrative workload, reporting to the Principal Investigator
- Present research findings in conference presentations and, potentially, in publications
- Use own initiative to identify areas for research and potential sources of funding and develop those research objectives and proposals for own or joint research
- Use new research techniques and methods, as required
- Use creativity to analyse and interpret research data and draw conclusions on the outcomes

Team Work

- Collaborate proactively with the research team – PI, Co-Is, and the project's Stakeholder Panel
- Contribute to project meetings at Lancaster, Manchester and London and other locations as appropriate

Communication / Documentation

- Contribute to dissemination activities, including organising workshops, presenting at conferences, and preparing publications
- Communicate effectively across a wide range of audiences, academic and non-academic
- Manage the project's social media profile

PERSON SPECIFICATION

Essential Knowledge, Skills and Experience

Qualifications

- PhD in History or equivalent qualification

Experience

- Experience in planning and conducting research activities
- Experience of bibliographic and archival research using national and regional collections
- Evidence of achievement in the execution, writing-up and presentation of research studies

Skills/Aptitudes/Competences

- Competent at research design and processing information
- Ability to write high quality reports and other research documentation
- Excellent interpersonal and communication skills
- Ability to liaise effectively with colleagues, project partners, external stakeholders, and archivists
- Proficiency in IT skills, information management and email
- Good organisational skills and attention to detail
- Ability to manage time and workload, prioritise tasks, and meet deadlines
- Ability to work both independently and collaboratively

Other

- A professional and flexible approach to work
- Ability to work effectively as part of a team and under own initiative
- Resourcefulness as a researcher, and an ability to establish one's own immediate objectives
- Willingness to travel to archives and collections in the UK

Desirable Knowledge, Skills, Experience and Qualifications:

Experience

- Experience of research involving early modern or long 18th century economic and/or cultural history
- Project management experience
- Experience of working with datasets or of prosopographical research
- Experience of disseminating research through audio-visual media
- Experience of policy work
- Experience of social media

Skills/Aptitudes/Competences

- Proven ability to disseminate research findings to both scholarly and public audiences
- Competent in the use of original manuscript sources from early modern and long 18th century Britain
- Evidence of emerging research profile, for example through publications and/or conference presentations



The University of Manchester