

## MHRA RESEARCH ASSOCIATESHIPS

The Association intends to make up to four research awards of £18,000 for the academic session 2012–2013 (with a start date on or after 1st October 2012).

### **Purpose of Grant**

The awards are designed to hasten the completion of research projects of special importance through the provision of part-time research assistance. An award will be made solely for the employment of a researcher, normally post-doctoral, to be selected and appointed by the project in consultation with the Association, and bearing the title of ‘MHRA Research Associate’. Since another important aim of the awards is to provide an interim academic position to younger scholars who have not yet obtained a permanent academic post, the appointment should not exclude a limited amount of remunerated teaching in the host institution, or other approved work. The final details of the contract will be agreed between the MHRA and the institution concerned.

### **Eligibility**

The awards will not be made to individuals as such, but to established corporate projects such as dictionaries, textual editions, bibliographies, or other major scholarly enterprises, within the field of medieval and modern European languages and literatures. The Modern Humanities Research Association exists to encourage and promote advanced study and research in the field of the medieval and modern European languages and literatures. English and the Slavonic languages are included in this definition. History, library studies, education and pedagogical subjects, and the medical application of linguistics, are excluded. Applicants will be directors of established research projects in the Modern Humanities and will normally hold a permanent academic position at a university in the British Isles. It is not envisaged that the Associateships will be used as a pump-priming exercise, and applications will not be considered from the directors of projects which have not yet been established, nor from

prospective Research Associates on their own behalf, nor from individual scholars seeking a personal research assistant. The awards will normally be for one year only, but applications will be considered from projects which have previously held an Associateship. Applications are also welcomed from those who have previously applied unsuccessfully for an MHRA Research Associateship, provided the conditions for eligibility continue to be met.

## **Application and Assessment Procedures**

Seven copies of applications for awards should be made by directors of established projects only to Dr Chloe Paver, Research Grants Officer, Modern Humanities Research Association, College of Humanities, University of Exeter, Queen's Building, The Queen's Drive, Exeter, EX4 4QH, to arrive **not later than 31 January 2012**.

Applications should be made on A4 paper using one side of the page only. Applications will not be accepted by fax or by electronic media. There is no special application form, but a full description of the project, and of the planned role of the Research Associate, should be supplied (bearing in mind the criteria listed below), together with an indication of any external funding already received and of the availability of part-time teaching to the Research Associate. It is important that the application clearly states the intended contribution of the Research Associate to the successful completion of the project. Applicants should arrange for up to two independent referees to supply references in support of their projects, and for the references to be sent direct to the Research Grants Officer, MHRA, at the address indicated below, before the closing date.

In assessing applications the awarding committee will consider in particular the following criteria:

- The scholarly value of the project as a whole, measured in terms of: scope; intellectual rigour; and the extent and quality of the foundations it is likely to lay for future scholarship.
- In the case of editing projects, the quality of the editorial methods and systems.

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- Strength of the references in supporting the above claims.
- A clear and detailed outline of the Research Associate's intended contribution to bringing the project, or one part or stage of the project to fruition. While it is not necessary that the outcome of the Research Associate's work be published within the timeframe of the Associateship, there must be clear and realistic plans for its publication in due course.
- A clear indication of the skills that will be required of the Research Associateship and of the training available should the appointee require knowledge of specialist techniques or systems.
- Evidence of commitment to the Research Associate's career and personal development, which might include: mentoring; access to the institution's training courses; opportunities to engage with the research community, including opportunities to disseminate research and to publish under his/her own name.
- Evidence that the project has long-term funding in place to sustain it until its completion, or a realistic prospect of obtaining such funding.
- In the case of applications from projects previously successful in the award of an Associateship: evidence that the initial Associateship was appropriately and productively used; evidence that the project is progressing satisfactorily and that the new Associateship is required for a new phase of the project (and not, for instance, to make up for delays in the original scheme of work).

## **Appointment of an RA and Disbursement of Awards**

Feedback is not a feature of the Research Associateships scheme, and the Association is, regretfully, unable to enter into correspondence regarding the decisions of the awarding Committee. Please note that by applying to this scheme, applicants undertake to accept the terms under which applications are assessed.

The Association may require the directors of the successful project or projects to advertise for the Research Associate and to interview suitable applicants. It is assumed that the whole sum awarded will be devoted to the Associateship, after allowance for salary

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## **MODERN HUMANITIES RESEARCH ASSOCIATION**

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overheads such as the employer's share of National Insurance contributions, and that the host institution will bear the cost of any further overheads which may be deemed necessary. As a charity, the MHRA is unable to make awards on the basis of Full Economic Costing.

In the event of the Research Associate being appointed to a full-time position, whether of an academic nature or otherwise, during the tenure of the Associateship, the Project Director undertakes forthwith to refund the Association in respect of the period from which the employment commences.

Further enquiries should be directed to Dr Paver at the address / email given above.