



ST HUGH'S COLLEGE, OXFORD

Powys Roberts Postdoctoral Fellowship in Modern Languages

Job Description and Selection Criteria

Applications are invited for a Powys Roberts Postdoctoral Fellowship in Modern Languages at St Hugh's College, Oxford, tenable from 1 October 2026. This is a two-year, fixed-term, full-time position, suitable for an early-career researcher who has completed a doctorate or is close to completion and who wishes to follow an academic career. Applicants should not have held a comparable research fellowship previously.

The Powys Roberts Fellowship is open to those working in the following fields, in any period:

- French and/or Francophone literatures and cultures;
- German, Austrian or Swiss literatures and cultures;
- Italian literatures and cultures.

A comparative or interdisciplinary approach to work in these fields is also welcomed. The Fellow will have associate membership of the Faculty of Medieval and Modern Languages and of an appropriate Sub-Faculty in the University of Oxford.

The primary purpose of this post is research. The successful candidate will be expected to use the period of the Fellowship to build or continue building an international research profile by publishing outputs originating from their doctoral research and embarking on a new, defined research project. They will also be required to offer some teaching for the College (up to 4 hours per week, averaged across the three terms of the academic year), under the direction of the Tutorial Fellow in their field, and/or to teach and examine for the Faculty or appropriate Sub-Faculty. They may also be invited to participate in the selection of new undergraduates as part of the admissions process in December each year (for which additional payment would be made).

The Powys Roberts Fellow will be expected to play a full part in the collegiate life of St Hugh's and will be invited to attend meetings of the College's Governing Body in a non-voting capacity. They will be responsible to the Senior Tutor.

The Fellow will be required to present an annual research report to the College's Academic Committee and may if they wish hold a progress review with the Senior Tutor prior to submission of the report.

St Hugh's College

Founded in 1886 to provide an excellent education to women who were otherwise excluded from the University, St Hugh's is proud of its reputation for being a friendly, inclusive, and progressive community. It is one of the largest colleges in Oxford, with around 850 students, more than 80 Fellows and 70 lecturers working in a wide range of academic subjects, and a non-academic staff of 120 across all the College's support and administrative operations. From its beautiful, spacious site in North Oxford, the College enjoys a thriving culture of research and intellectual engagement.

Modern Languages, including its joint schools, is one of the largest undergraduate subjects in St Hugh's. There are three Tutorial Fellows. The Tutor in French is Professor Ève Morisi, whose research focuses on the intersections of poetics, politics, and ethics in 19th-, 20th-, and 21st-century French and Francophone literature, with particular emphasis on the representation of violence. The Tutor in Italian is Professor Emma Bond, who works on Italian cultures from transnational and comparative perspectives, with a special interest in the legacies of empire and colonialism in contemporary literary and visual cultures. The Tutor in German is Professor Maria Roca Lizarazu and her research focuses on German Jewish cultural production, cultural responses to post migration and citizenship, and artistic engagements with right-wing violence in contemporary Germany.

St Hugh's also has a Tutorial Fellow in Psycholinguistics, Professor Matthew Husband, who is an integral part of the Modern Languages team. There are currently also College Lecturers in Spanish, Portuguese, French, German, and Italian, and in various disciplines within the field of Linguistics. St Hugh's also has a French lectrice and an Austrian Lektorin, and the Senior Tutor, who is not a Tutorial Fellow, has research experience and expertise in modern German Literature.

The College currently admits on average twelve students per year to read Modern Languages and its joint schools (with Classics, English, History, Linguistics, Middle Eastern Languages, and Philosophy).

More information about St Hugh's College can be found at www.st-hughs.ox.ac.uk.

The Faculty of Medieval and Modern Languages

The Faculty is one of the leading centres for the study of European languages, literatures, and culture world-wide, offering expertise in a chronological range from the earliest times to the present day, and with specialists in film studies, cultural studies, history of the book, and cultural history as well as languages and literatures. The Faculty offers expertise in French, German, Italian, Modern Greek, Spanish, Portuguese, Russian, Polish, and Czech, as well as in a range of other languages spoken in Europe. Colleagues across the various languages work together in various interdisciplinary projects and research centres, which bring specialists in language and literature together with historians, philosophers, and social studies scholars. There are some 50 graduate students taking taught master's degrees, and approximately 120 research students. The Faculty has consistently been ranked amongst the leading Modern Languages departments in the world for many years.

More information about the Faculty can be found at www.mod-langs.ox.ac.uk, with links to the Sub-Faculties of French, German, and Italian, including papers and courses to which the successful applicant will contribute.

Terms of Appointment and Benefits

Salary

The basic stipend of the Fellow will be at National Pay Spine Point 29 / Grade 7.1 (currently £39,424 per annum), progressing to Grade 7.2 in the second year of the Fellowship (£40,514). These figures include the Oxford University Weighting.

Allowances

In addition to salary, there is a personal research allowance of (currently) £969 per annum. There is no entitlement to sabbatical leave or to any housing allowance.

Meals on Duty

The Fellow is entitled to free meals at the common table when the College kitchens are open. They will have membership of the Senior Common Room (for which there is a small annual charge). They may bring up to six academic guests to lunch each term at no charge. They may bring additional academic guests and personal guests to lunch or dinner at current rates.

Pension

The Fellow will have the option of becoming or remaining a member of the Universities Superannuation Scheme (USS).

Accommodation

College accommodation may be available for the Fellow to rent, although this is not guaranteed. The Senior Tutor can facilitate discussion about this once an offer has been made.

Employee Assistance Programme (EAP) & Wellbeing

A confidential support service is available to all employees, offering free advice and counselling on personal, financial, and work-related matters.

Health

Staff are entitled to a free annual flu vaccination. The College provides free eye tests for all staff and contributes towards the cost of new glasses when a prescription has changed.

Family-Friendly Policies

Enhanced maternity, paternity, adoption, and shared parental leave arrangements are available, alongside flexible working options where operationally possible.

Travel to Work Support

The College participates in the University-backed cycle-to-work scheme, enabling staff to purchase bicycles and equipment tax-efficiently, and a discounted travel scheme is available with monthly deductions from salary.

Selection Procedure and Criteria

Applications for this post will be considered by a committee responsible for the recruitment and selection process. This committee will make a recommendation to the College's Governing Body. No offer of appointment will be valid unless and until the recommendation has been approved by the Governing Body and a formal offer letter has been issued. The appointment will be subject to provision of proof of the right to work in the UK and the completion of any training the College deems mandatory.

The basic obligation of the Post-Doctoral Fellow is to engage in research and its dissemination in the relevant branch(es) of their discipline(s). Research-led teaching is also considered to be a contribution to the fundamental research endeavour of the post. The successful candidate will be expected to:

- propose, plan, and manage a high-quality programme of original research;
- disseminate the outcomes of that research through publications and the presentation of research papers at academic events;
- engage in the life and activities of the College;
- undertake teaching up to a maximum of an average of four hours a week during full term.

Applicants must already hold a PhD or DPhil or be close to completion (i.e. applicants will have successfully passed their viva before 1 June 2026). Applications will not be considered from candidates who have previously held a postdoctoral fellowship or equivalent post of 12 months' duration or more.

Applicants must demonstrate:

1. Evidence of the ability to produce research of international standing within the candidate's field, as demonstrated by a doctoral thesis and/or published or forthcoming books, articles in refereed journals, chapters in edited volumes, or evidence of the promise of such achievement.
2. Evidence of the ability to present research findings effectively to fellow professionals in the academic community (via seminar and conference presentations, lectures, etc., nationally and internationally).
3. Evidence of a clear and coherent plan of research for the duration of the appointment which may include the further development of doctoral work or a new project area that promises to make a valuable contribution to the candidate's field.
4. Where appropriate, evidence of an ability to engage a wider public with the substance of their research.
5. Where appropriate, evidence of an ability to work collaboratively with colleagues in the field to generate and/or manage research projects.
6. Ideas or plans for future research funding.
7. Commitment to promoting awareness of the importance of equality, diversity, and inclusion (EDI) within the research environment and in all aspects of academic life.
8. Strong presentation and communication skills.

9. Evidence that they can offer undergraduate teaching for Preliminary Examinations and Final Honour Schools in Modern Languages and joint schools.
10. Willingness to participate fully in the life of the College.

Application Procedure

Applications should be sent by email as a single PDF to academic.recruitment@st-hughs.ox.ac.uk by **9 a.m. (UK time) on Friday 13 February 2026**.

Applications should comprise:

1. a completed application cover sheet, which will include the names and contact details of two academic referees (available from the College website: <https://www.st-hughs.ox.ac.uk/people-life/work-for-us/staff-vacancies-at-st-hughs-college/>);
2. a covering letter (2 pages maximum) outlining the candidate's suitability for this post and including a brief account of any relevant teaching experience and training;
3. a full curriculum vitae, including a list of any publications;
4. a research proposal (1 additional page maximum) with an outline of the research that the candidate proposes to pursue during the tenure of the Fellowship.

Candidates should ask **two referees** to submit their references to academic.recruitment@st-hughs.ox.ac.uk by **9 a.m. (UK time) on Friday 13 February 2026**. References should include an assessment of the significance of the proposed research. The College would like to take this opportunity to thank in advance all those who write on behalf of candidates for this post.

Candidates invited for interview will be asked to submit written work of not more than 6,000 words. This might be (part of) a chapter of their doctorate, a chapter in an edited volume, or a journal article, and should include a brief covering note to indicate what the author considers is the significance and of the work and where its originality lies. **Written work should not be sent unless and until it is specifically requested.**

Interviews are likely to take place **in the week beginning 9 March 2026**.

Candidates are also asked to complete an equal opportunities form, also available from <https://www.st-hughs.ox.ac.uk/people-life/work-for-us/staff-vacancies-at-st-hughs-college/>, and return it to academic.recruitment@st-hughs.ox.ac.uk. This form is used for monitoring purposes only and will not be seen by any member of the selection committee.

Queries about the post should be addressed in the first instance to the Senior Tutor (senior.tutor@st-hughs.ox.ac.uk).

Promoting Diversity

St Hugh's College is committed to equal opportunity, and to being a place where everyone belongs and is supported to succeed. We recognise how the diversity of our community enriches our ability to deliver on our academic mission.

We welcome applications from individuals from all backgrounds, including those under-represented within higher education. No applicant or members of staff shall be unlawfully discriminated against on the basis of age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage or civil partnership, pregnancy or maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, or sexual orientation.

Employment with the College will be determined according to personal merit and the application of criteria related to the duties and conditions of the post. In all cases, the primary consideration will be the ability to perform the job.

As stated in the University's Equality Policy and Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Strategic Plan, our commitment to equality and diversity goes hand in hand with our commitment to academic freedom and free speech. See <https://edu.admin.ox.ac.uk/home>.