

Job Description



SCHOOL OF INTERDISCIPLINARY AREA STUDIES

Job title	Postdoctoral Research Officer in Middle East Studies
Division	Social Science Division
Department	School of Interdisciplinary Area Studies
Location	11 Bevington Road
Grade and salary	Grade 7: £31,604 -£38,833 per annum
Hours	Full time
Contract type	Fixed-term (24 months)
Reporting to	Principal Investigator, Professor Philip Robins
Vacancy reference	134122
Additional information	

Research topic	Middle East Studies
Principal Investigator / supervisor	Professor Philip Robins
Funding partner	The funds supporting this research project are provided by The The Sasakawa Peace Foundation

The role

Reporting to the Professor Philip Robins the post holder is a member of a research group with responsibility for carrying out research for two year project. This will include data collection, fieldwork and writing the publications based on the research for the project.

This programme which is being funded by the Sasakawa Peace Foundation (SPF) has been designed to bring Post-doctoral researchers with different academic backgrounds together with the specific commission to work together in small research teams, focusing on politics and religion in country cases like Egypt, Iran and Turkey. This Programme is part of SPF's wider goal to establish an international platform which will form a hub for MiddleEast Studies.

Researchers' time on the programme will be divided approximately into three equal parts:



- A period of exposure to the scholarly life of the University of Oxford under the supervision of an academic mentor from the University
- A period of field-based, co-research on the country and topic agreed by the mentor
- A period of 'writing up', when the research teams will return to Oxford and develop either single or co-authored 'outputs' with a view to publication

Responsibilities

- Manage own academic research and administrative activities. This involves relevant project management, to co-ordinate multiple aspects of work to meet deadlines
- Adapt existing and develop new research methodologies and materials
- Prepare working theories and analyse qualitative and/or quantitative data from a variety of sources, reviewing and refining theories as appropriate
- Contribute ideas for new research projects
- Develop ideas for generating research income, and present detailed research proposals to senior researchers
- Collaborate in the preparation of research publications, and book chapters
- Present papers at conferences or public meetings
- Act as a source of information and advice to other members of the group on methodologies or procedures
- Represent the research group at external meetings/seminars, either with other members of the group or alone
- Carry out collaborative projects with colleagues in partner institutions, and research groups

This job includes the following hazards or safety-critical activities which will require successful pre-employment health screening through our Occupational Health Service before the successful candidate will be allowed to start work:

Travel outside of Europe or North America on University Business

Selection criteria

- Already hold a relevant PhD/Dphil, together with relevant experience
- Possess sufficient specialist knowledge in the discipline to work within established research programmes
- Ability to manage own academic research and associated activities
- Previous experience of contributing to publications/presentations
- Ability to contribute ideas for new research projects and research income generation

- Excellent communication skills, including the ability to write for publication, present research proposals and results, and represent the research group at meetings both inside and outside the institution.

Desirable selection criteria

- Experience of independently managing a discrete area of a research project
- Experience of actively collaborating in the development of research articles for publication.

About the University of Oxford

Welcome to the University of Oxford. We aim to lead the world in research and education for the benefit of society both in the UK and globally. Oxford's researchers engage with academic, commercial and cultural partners across the world to stimulate high-quality research and enable innovation through a broad range of social, policy and economic impacts.

We believe our strengths lie both in empowering individuals and teams to address fundamental questions of global significance, while providing all our staff with a welcoming and inclusive workplace that enables everyone to develop and do their best work. Recognising that diversity is our strength, vital for innovation and creativity, we aspire to build a truly diverse community which values and respects every individual's unique contribution.

While we have long traditions of scholarship, we are also forward-looking, creative and cutting-edge. Oxford is one of Europe's most entrepreneurial universities. Income from external research contracts in 2015/16 exceeded £537.4m and we rank first in the UK for university spin-outs, with more than 130 companies created to date. We are also recognised as leaders in support for social enterprise.

Join us and you will find a unique, democratic and international community, a great range of staff benefits and access to a vibrant array of cultural activities in the beautiful city of Oxford.

For more information please visit www.ox.ac.uk/about/organisation

School of Interdisciplinary Area Studies

The School of Interdisciplinary Area Studies (SIAS) is one of the fourteen constituent parts of the Social Sciences Division. It represents a commitment by the University to enhancing teaching and research in Area Studies. The School brings together seven units: the African Studies Centre, the Latin American Centre (including the Brazilian Studies Programme), the Nissan Institute of Japanese Studies, the Contemporary China Studies Programme, Russian and East European Studies, the Contemporary South Asia Studies Programme and the Middle East Programme. The administration of the School is based at 12 Bevington Road.

The School is devoted to research and graduate teaching in academic disciplines which attempt to understand the complexity and the interrelatedness of society through anthropology, economics, politics, history, sociology and culture. Its teaching and research seek to take into account both the insights provided by the separate disciplines and the contextualisation provided by in-depth knowledge of specific regions and countries. Interdisciplinary collaboration to study specific social processes is encouraged, and a number of the current research projects are in collaboration with other departments.

Currently, Masters courses are run by the African Studies Centre, Latin American Centre, the Nissan Institute of Japanese Studies, Russian and East European Studies, Contemporary India and Modern Chinese Studies, which admit in total about 120 graduate students a year. Additionally, the School's academic staff supervise doctoral students and teach on a range of undergraduate programmes in other parts of the University.

For more information please visit: www.area-studies.ox.ac.uk

Social Sciences Division

Social Sciences is one of four academic Divisions in the University, each with considerable devolved budgetary and financial authority; and responsibility for providing a broad strategic focus across its constituent disciplines. Thirteen departments, one faculty, and three cross-divisional research units come under the aegis of the division which spans the full range of social science disciplines with links into the humanities and physical sciences (including Law, Management, Economics, Politics and International Relations, Sociology, Social Policy, Area Studies, Development Studies, Education, Anthropology, Archaeology, Geography, and Public Policy). There are over 700 academic staff, 2,700 graduate students (postgraduate taught and postgraduate research), and 1,900 undergraduates working and studying in the division.

The Division is established as a world-leading centre for research in the social sciences and regularly sits at the highest levels of international league tables of one form or another. It is the largest grouping of social science disciplines in the UK, and it is also home to several of Oxford's most widely recognised teaching programmes, such as PPE, the BCL, the MPhils in International Relations, in Economics, and in Development Studies, and the nationally regarded PGCE. We believe that excellence in teaching and research is synergistic and remain committed to sustaining and developing the high quality of our activities in both these areas. Our departments are committed to research which develops a greater understanding of all aspects of society, from the impact of political, legal and economic systems on social and economic welfare to human rights and security. That research is disseminated through innovative graduate programmes and enhances undergraduate courses.

For more information please visit: www.socsci.ox.ac.uk

Middle East Studies Programme

The Middle East Studies Programme in SIAS draws upon yet moves beyond Oxford's great tradition of Middle Eastern Studies. The Middle East Studies Programme faculty's expertise covers Turkey and Israel as well as the Arab world and encourages research in the politics, international relations, economics and modern history of the region.

How to apply

Before submitting an application, you may find it helpful to read the 'Tips on applying for a job at the University of Oxford' document, at www.ox.ac.uk/about/jobs/supportandtechnical/.

If you would like to apply, click on the **Apply Now** button on the 'Job Details' page and follow the on-screen instructions to register as a new user or log-in if you have applied previously. Please provide details of two referees and indicate whether we can contact them now.

You will also be asked to upload a CV and a supporting statement. The supporting statement must explain how you meet each of the selection criteria for the post using examples of your

skills and experience. This may include experience gained in employment, education, or during career breaks (such as time out to care for dependants).

Your application will be judged solely on the basis of how you demonstrate that you meet the selection criteria stated in the job description.

Please upload all documents **as PDF files** with your name and the document type in the filename.

All applications must be received by **midday** on the closing date stated in the online advertisement.

Information for priority candidates

A priority candidate is a University employee who is seeking redeployment because they have been advised that they are at risk of redundancy, or on grounds of ill-health/disability. Priority candidates are issued with a redeployment letter by their employing departments.

If you are a priority candidate, please ensure that you attach your redeployment letter to your application (or email it to the contact address on the advert if the application form used for the vacancy does not allow attachments)

Should you experience any difficulties using the online application system, please email recruitment.support@admin.ox.ac.uk. Further help and support is available from www.ox.ac.uk/about_the_university/jobs/support/. To return to the online application at any stage, please go to: www.recruit.ox.ac.uk.

Please note that you will be notified of the progress of your application by automatic emails from our e-recruitment system. **Please check your spam/junk mail** regularly to ensure that you receive all emails.

Important information for candidates

Pre-employment screening

Please note that the appointment of the successful candidate will be subject to standard pre-employment screening, as applicable to the post. This will include right-to-work, proof of identity and references. We advise all applicants to read the candidate notes on the University's pre-employment screening procedures, found at:

www.ox.ac.uk/about/jobs/preemploymentscreening/.

The University's policy on retirement

The University operates an Employer Justified Retirement Age (EJRA) for all academic posts and some academic-related posts. From 1 October 2017, the University has adopted an EJRA of 30 September before the 69th birthday for all academic and academic-related staff in posts at **grade 8 and above**. The justification for this is explained at: www.admin.ox.ac.uk/personnel/end/retirement/acrelretire8+/.

For **existing** employees, any employment beyond the retirement age is subject to approval through the procedures: www.admin.ox.ac.uk/personnel/end/retirement/acrelretire8+/.

From 1 October 2017, there is no normal or fixed age at which staff in posts at **grades 1–7** have to retire. Staff at these grades may elect to retire in accordance with the rules of the applicable pension scheme, as may be amended from time to time.

Equality of Opportunity

Entry into employment with the University and progression within employment will be determined only by personal merit and the application of criteria which are related to the duties of each particular post and the relevant salary structure. In all cases, ability to perform the job will be the primary consideration. No applicant or member of staff shall be discriminated against because of age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage or civil partnership, pregnancy or maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, or sexual orientation.

Benefits of working at the University

University Club and sports facilities

The University Club provides social, sporting and hospitality facilities. It incorporates a bar, café and sporting facilities, including a gym. Staff can also use the University Sports Centre on Iffley Road at discounted rates, including a fitness centre, powerlifting room, and swimming pool. See: www.club.ox.ac.uk and www.sport.ox.ac.uk/oxford-university-sports-facilities.

Information for international staff (or those relocating from another part of the UK)

If you are relocating to Oxfordshire from overseas, or elsewhere in the UK, the University's International Staff website includes practical information related to moving to and settling in Oxford such as advice on immigration, relocation, accommodation, or registering with a doctor. See: www.internationalstaffwelcome.admin.ox.ac.uk/

The University of Oxford Newcomers' Club

The University of Oxford Newcomers' Club is an organisation run by volunteers that aims to assist the partners of new staff to settle into Oxford and to provide them with an opportunity to meet people in the area. See www.newcomers.ox.ac.uk/

Childcare

The University has excellent childcare services with five University nurseries, as well as University-supported places at many other private nurseries. For full details including how to apply and the costs, see www.admin.ox.ac.uk/childcare.

Family-friendly benefits

The University subscribes to My Family Care (www.admin.ox.ac.uk/personnel/staffinfo/benefits/family/mfc/) and staff are eligible to register for emergency back-up childcare and adultcare services, a 'speak to an expert' phone line and a wide range of guides and webinars through a website called the Work + Family space.

Disabled staff

We are committed to supporting members of staff with disabilities or long-term health conditions. Please visit www.admin.ox.ac.uk/eop/disab/staff for further details including information about how to make contact, in confidence, with the University's Staff Disability Advisor.

Staff networks

The University has a number of staff networks including the Oxford Research Staff Society, BME staff network, LGBT+ staff network and a disabled staff network. You can find more information at www.admin.ox.ac.uk/eop/inpractice/networks/

Other benefits

Staff can enjoy a range of other benefits such as free visitor access to the University's colleges and the Botanic Gardens as well as a range of discounts. See www.admin.ox.ac.uk/personnel/staffinfo/benefits