



## CAREER DEVELOPMENT FELLOWSHIP IN EARLY MODERN FRENCH

### FURTHER PARTICULARS

|                         |                                                                             |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Location</b>         | The Queen's College, University of Oxford                                   |
| <b>Grade and salary</b> | £43,690 per annum, plus discretionary Queen's weighting of £3,335 per annum |
| <b>Hours</b>            | Full time (37.5 hours/week)                                                 |
| <b>Contract type</b>    | <b>Fixed-term for 5 years</b>                                               |
| <b>Reporting to</b>     | The Governing Body of The Queen's College                                   |

#### The role

The College proposes to elect a fixed-term (non-renewable) Career Development Fellow (CDF) in early modern French for five years with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2027.

We are committed to fostering equality, diversity and inclusiveness. We particularly encourage applications from women, disabled people and people from Black, Asian and minority ethnic backgrounds, as these groups are currently under-represented in the College's academic staff.

The Fellowship is open to candidates who hold a doctorate in French Language or Literature, or a closely related field, or are close to completing such a doctorate. The successful candidate will have a broad competence in any two centuries of early modern (sixteenth to eighteenth century) French literature. The Fellowship intended for early-career colleagues with less than two years' full-time postdoctoral research experience by the start date; further information about eligibility is below.

#### Responsibilities

The Fellow will be required:

- to pursue a programme of advanced research in early modern French literature
- to teach six weighted\* hours per week for the College or, should the hours required by Queen's be less, for other colleges, either under an exchange arrangement or in return for tuition fees to be remitted to the College, and to be responsible for report-writing at the end of each term, detailing their students' academic progress;
- to set and mark College examinations,
- to play a full part in the College's undergraduate admissions process;
- after the first year in post, to act in a pastoral role as Personal Tutor to some of the undergraduates reading for Modern Languages and as College Adviser to some graduates in the College reading for postgraduate degrees in Modern Languages and related fields;
- to contribute to College Open Days and outreach activities; and

- to undertake such other duties as the Governing Body may direct.

The successful candidate will be able to teach the following:

- first-year literature tutorials on the pre-modern texts of Paper III (short texts for commentary) and Paper IV (narrative texts). The appointee will be expected to teach much of Paper I (with the possible exception of translation from English to French) and Paper II (translation into English);
- second-year translation classes (French to English); Period Paper (FHS Paper VII), and Prescribed Author (FHS Paper X) literature tutorials for the relevant two centuries of the early modern period; and
- fourth-year translation classes; Prescribed Author (FHS Paper X) literature tutorials for the relevant two centuries; and one or more Special Subjects (FHS Paper XII).

The appointee will also be expected to help coordinate and convene a year-long fortnightly seminar on literary theory and to help support students as they prepare their year abroad (typically the third year).

Details of the Oxford undergraduate courses in French may be found at <https://www.mod-langs.ox.ac.uk/french/undergraduate-studies>. The undergraduate course handbooks for year 1 (Prelims) are available for download [here](#) and years 2-4 (FHS) are available for download [here](#).

\*Weighted hours are calculated from contact hours according to the number of pupils in tutorials and classes, as the sum of one hour for a single pupil and one-quarter of an hour for each additional pupil up to a maximum of five (i.e., according to the formula  $1 + 0.25(n-1)$ , where  $n$  is the number of pupils in the tutorial or class up to a maximum of five). If a group size of three is taken as the average, then on average three weighted hours equates to two contact hours.

### **Selection criteria**

The successful candidate will meet the following criteria. They will have:

- Hold, or be close to the completion of, a PhD/DPhil in French language or literature (or a closely related field);
- A strong record in and/or evidence of strong potential for research in early modern French literature, and a with a clear plan of research to be conducted during the five years of the Career Development Fellowship;
- An appropriate range of teaching, particularly in two centuries of the early modern period; the ability to cover the pre-modern texts in the first-year syllabus; and the ability to teach translation classes to all year groups. Candidates should already have some teaching experience at undergraduate level;
- The ability and willingness to take part in pastoral and administrative activities, including the undergraduate admissions process;
- The ability and willingness to contribute to the development of French at the College;
- The ability to communicate well about the subject;
- A willingness to be a 'team player' in the College; in particular, willingness to participate fully in the organisational and administrative responsibility for the subject.

While the postholder will be able to pursue their research in either French or English, the College's day-to-day activities are conducted in English. The successful candidate need not be a native English speaker (the College has a number of colleagues for whom English is not their native language), but

they should be comfortable joining our academic community fully: in formal and informal conversations, including during meals and symposia.

**Eligibility:** The Fellowship is intended to support those at an early stage of their academic careers. Candidates must have had their doctorate conferred (i.e. degree in hand) or have received official confirmation of successful completion of the doctorate no later than 1<sup>st</sup> June 2027, and must not have accumulated, by 1<sup>st</sup> September 2027, more than two years' full-time postgraduate research experience from the date of their doctoral award; however, these two years need not be continuous.

If, for any reason, you have taken a career break or have had an atypical career and wish to disclose this in your application, the selection committee will take this into account, recognising that the quantity of your research may be reduced as a result.

**Salary:** the annual salary for this post is £43,690 plus a discretionary pensionable £3,335 per annum Queen's Weighting payment which will be paid in monthly instalments. The Career Development Fellow will be automatically enrolled in the USS pension scheme unless they opt out.

**Research Allowance:** a personal research allowance of £4,165 per annum is provided by the College for research activities such as conference attendance, research assistance, and the purchase of books and IT equipment.

**Place of Work:** Subject to availability, the College will provide a non-residential study room on the main site in central Oxford.

**Entitlements:** The Fellow is entitled to sabbatical leave earned at the rate of one term for every two terms taught after the first two years in post. The person appointed will be a member of the Senior Common Room at The Queen's College, and entitled to free meals. They will be nominated for Associate Membership of the Faculty of Medieval and Modern Languages.

### **The Queen's College**

The Queen's College, founded in 1341, is one of the oldest Colleges in the University of Oxford and represents most aspects of the University community and its scientific and scholarly work. There are approximately 75 fellows, about 160 graduate students and about 330 undergraduates. The College is home to a large and vibrant community of early career postdoctoral researchers from across the disciplines who account for approximately 20 of the College's 75 fellows.

Modern Languages is represented by Official Fellows in French (Prof Seth Whidden), German (Prof Charlie Louth), and Spanish (Dr Laura Lonsdale); and the Schwarz-Taylor Chair of German (Prof Karen Leeder). The College usually admits approximately 13 students each year to study Modern Languages and its joint schools. The successful candidate will share the teaching of French in the College with Prof. Whidden, whose interests lie in modern poetry written in French; during his current period on leave, the modern period is being covered by Dr David Ewing (CDF in French) until the end of 2026–7. The College is also the home of the Queen's Translation Exchange, directed by Dr Charlotte Ryland.

The College has one of the finest college libraries in Oxford, with around 50,000 volumes in the current lending collection—used extensively by students—and around 100,000 volumes in the antiquarian collection. The library's recent expansion provides new reading rooms, enhanced accommodation for its special collections, and more space for students and the working collection. The College organises a symposium that meets twice a term for graduate students and faculty to showcase their research and discuss their interests.

More information about the College can be found at [www.queens.ox.ac.uk](http://www.queens.ox.ac.uk).

### **The Faculty of Medieval and Modern Languages**

The Faculty is one of the leading centres for the study of European language, literature, and culture world-wide, offering expertise in the entire 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.

The Faculty is partly college-based, and partly housed in the Schwarzman Centre for the Humanities, where some academic staff and the Faculty's administrative staff have offices, and at the Taylor Institution in St Giles' where some teaching takes place and the main Faculty and research library is based. The Taylor Institution, a fine nineteenth-century building sharing with the Ashmolean Museum a commanding site on St Giles', contains both the Tylorian Library, the largest and best resourced Modern Languages library in the country, and the Faculty's largest teaching rooms. Modern Languages at Oxford has been ranked top in the world in the last two QS World University rankings.

The Faculty is divided into seven sub-faculties: French, German, Italian, Portuguese, Russian and other Slavonic Languages, Spanish and Modern Greek. It includes 11 established professorships as well as 15 individuals with the title of professor and 80 permanent academic post holders. The colleges, which are responsible for undergraduate admissions and undergraduate tutorial teaching, admit a total of about 270 students a year to read for the Honour School of Modern Languages and its joint schools with Classics, English, History, Philosophy, Oriental Studies, and Linguistics. The Modern Languages Faculty Board is responsible for the admission and supervision of graduate students. There are about 50 graduates taking taught Masters degrees, and about 120 research students.

For more information, please visit: [About | Faculty of Medieval and Modern Languages](#)

### **The Humanities Division**

The Humanities Division is one of four academic divisions in the University of Oxford, bringing together nine faculties and the Ruskin School of Art. Our faculties are among the largest in the world, enabling Oxford to offer an education in Arts and Humanities unparalleled in its range of subjects, from music and fine art to ancient and modern languages.

We offer:

- world-class teaching and research, with an increasing emphasis on interdisciplinary study
- superb libraries and museums, including
- the Bodleian Library with 11 million volumes and priceless early book and manuscript collections
- the Ashmolean Museum of Art and Archaeology

For more information, please visit: [About | Humanities Division](#)

## The University of Oxford

Oxford's departments and colleges 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.

Oxford's self-governing community of international scholars includes Professors, Associate Professors, other college tutors, senior and junior research fellows, and over 2,500 other University research staff. Research at Oxford combines disciplinary depth with an increasing focus on inter-disciplinary and multi-disciplinary activities addressing a rich and diverse range of issues.

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

While Oxford has long traditions of scholarship, it is also forward-looking, creative and cutting-edge. Oxford is one of Europe's most entrepreneurial universities. It consistently has the highest external research income of any university in the UK (the most recent figures are available at [www.ox.ac.uk/about/organisation/finance-and-funding](http://www.ox.ac.uk/about/organisation/finance-and-funding)), and is ranked first in the UK for university spin-outs, with more than 130 spin-off companies created to date. Oxford is also recognised as a leading supporter of social enterprise.

Oxford admits undergraduate students with the intellectual potential to benefit fully from the small group learning to which Oxford is deeply committed. Meeting in small groups with their tutor, undergraduates are exposed to rigorous scholarly challenge and learn to develop their critical thinking, their ability to articulate their views with clarity, and their personal and intellectual confidence. They receive a high level of personal attention from leading academics.

Oxford has a strong postgraduate student body which now numbers over 10,000. Postgraduates are attracted to Oxford by the international standing of the faculty, by the rigorous intellectual training on offer, by the excellent research and laboratory facilities available, and by the resources of the museums and libraries, including one of the world's greatest libraries, the Bodleian.

For more information, please visit [www.ox.ac.uk/about/organisation](http://www.ox.ac.uk/about/organisation).

## How to apply

Applicants are invited to apply online via [www.queens.ox.ac.uk/vacancies](http://www.queens.ox.ac.uk/vacancies). The form will ask you to upload the following documents:

- CV
- A covering letter, which should speak specifically to the candidate's ability to fulfil the requisite teaching obligation
- A supporting statement of around 1,500 words of the planned post-doctoral research
- Two confidential letters of recommendation

The panel is happy to accept letters of recommendation written in French; all other application materials must be in English.

**We recommend your referees have Chrome or Safari set as their default browser when submitting letters of recommendation.**

Both confidential letters of recommendation should be requested through Interfolio. Further guidance on how this can be managed can be found at [this link](#). If your referee is unable to provide a reference letter via Interfolio, please email [academic.recruitment@queens.ox.ac.uk](mailto:academic.recruitment@queens.ox.ac.uk) for alternative instructions.

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

All applications must be received no later than 11:59pm (EST) Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2027.

Informal enquiries about eligibility, specific details of application materials, or other aspects of the post not covered in the present document may be made to the Senior Tutor Prof. Chris Norbury ([senior.tutor@queens.ox.ac.uk](mailto:senior.tutor@queens.ox.ac.uk)). All other queries, including queries about the application process, should be sent to [academic.recruitment@queens.ox.ac.uk](mailto:academic.recruitment@queens.ox.ac.uk). Due to the high number of applications, we are unfortunately not able to offer advice about the presentation of an application, the suitability of a research project, or feedback on applications that are not shortlisted.

Applications will be considered by a selection committee containing representatives from The Queen's College and the Faculty of Medieval and Modern Languages. The College is committed to fairness, consistency, and transparency in selection decisions. Members of the selection committees will be aware of the principles of equality of opportunity, fair selection, and the risks of bias.

## **Interviews**

Interviews are expected to be held in late February 2027.

Short-listed candidates will be asked to submit a sample of their research (between 5,000 and 6,000 words) prior to the interview. As part of the interview, candidates will be asked to give a presentation of 10 minutes' duration on an aspect of literature written in French during the early modern period, suitable for a second-year undergraduate audience. Further details will be provided for short-listed candidates.

## **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/](http://www.ox.ac.uk/about/jobs/preemploymentscreening/).

If the successful candidate requires a visa, the College will cover the visa application fee, but not the immigration NHS surcharge. This is subject to the eligibility criteria being met for the required visa route. Candidates are asked to note that the visa application process will require the submission of the doctoral thesis no later than three months prior to the start date of this post and to the provision of either a copy of the doctoral award certificate, or an academic reference confirming that the doctorate has been awarded, or an academic reference confirming the submission of the thesis, if not yet completed. The College also offers an [interest-free visa loan scheme](#) (in parallel to the University's

scheme) to assist successful candidates with meeting the costs of the NHS surcharge and visa fees for themselves and their dependents.

### **Diversity and Equal Opportunity at Queen's**

The Queen's College is committed to equal opportunity and to fostering an inclusive community. We recognise how the diversity of our community strengthens our ability to achieve excellence in teaching, research, and scholarship.

We welcome applications from individuals from all backgrounds, including those under-represented within higher education. No applicant or member 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.

Recruitment, progression within employment, and retention will be determined according to personal merit and the duties and requirements of the post.

The College invites all applicants to familiarise themselves with its equal opportunities policy, also available on its Equality Information page: [www.queens.ox.ac.uk/equality-information](http://www.queens.ox.ac.uk/equality-information). The College also shares the university's commitment 'to equal opportunity, and to being an inclusive institution where everyone belongs and is supported to succeed'. The university's full policy is available at: [Equality Policy | Equality and Diversity Unit](#)

We are committed to the principles of equal opportunities and respect for individuals in creating and maintaining an inclusive environment that represents a variety of backgrounds, perspectives, and skills. We value and celebrate diversity and feel that is critical to achieving our strategic aims and long-term success. Our commitment to equality and diversity goes hand in hand with our commitment to academic freedom and freedom of speech. We work to increase the diversity of the backgrounds from which our employees and students come by removing barriers to access and by promoting an inclusive culture in which:

- everyone feels that they are valued and can work to achieve their potential;
- opportunities are open to everyone, and decisions are based on merit and are free from bias;
- all our current and prospective students, staff, and visitors are treated fairly and with dignity and respect, and do not face discrimination; and
- academic freedom and freedom of speech are valued and upheld.

All College meetings include consideration of its duties under the Equality Act 2010 as they pertain to the meeting's actions and decisions. In formal and informal settings alike, the College endeavours to make decisions that afford equal opportunities to, and foster good relationships between, different groups of people. This commitment, supported by data and routinely monitored, extends to all aspects of our activities: in our outreach activities, in admissions, and in financial support, for undergraduates and postgraduates alike; in the procedures related to hiring and retaining academic and non-academic staff members of the highest calibre; in student support; and in all aspects of fostering an inclusive community in which everyone feels respected, valued, and heard.

October 2026