

CALL FOR VISITING EARLY CAREER RESEARCH FELLOW APPLICANTS 2025-26

John Rylands Research Institute Visiting Early Career Research Fellows

Application deadline 5pm, Monday 5th May 2025

Applications should be e-mailed to research.jrril@manchester.ac.uk

Overview

This Fellowship gives early career researchers the opportunity to visit the John Rylands Library and experience first-hand the University of Manchester Library's unique Special Collections which are among the foremost repositories of primary sources in the UK. These collections offer research potential across an exceptionally broad array of disciplines, chronologies and geographical areas. The Fellowship also offers the opportunity to establish links with curators and academics at The University of Manchester.

What is a Visiting Early Career Research Fellowship?

Visiting Early Career Research Fellowships are an opportunity for applicants currently completing, or who are within two years of the award of their doctorate (or longer if they qualify to apply for external schemes because of mitigating circumstances), to work on an application for an externally funded postdoctoral fellowship (for example, from the Leverhulme, the British Academy or Wellcome Trust) to conduct a future research project using the Library's Special Collections. It is intended to allow those unfamiliar with either archival research or Special Collections, and specifically the rich holdings of The University of Manchester's Special Collections, to identify areas of particular research promise for them. With the assistance of a skilled grant writer, successful candidates are expected to produce an application for a postdoctoral fellowship focused on the holdings of the Library's Special Collections, and which would be held at the John Rylands Research Institute for the duration of the fellowship.

Assessment of applications

All applications are assessed by the Institute Directors in consultation with curators and academics.

Successful candidates will receive:

- A stipend of £1,500 per month for up to 3 months to cover travel, accommodation and living expenses during the Fellowship
- Support from expert curators and the Institute grant writer
- Introduction and mentoring by a subject-appropriate academic
- Workspace and reading room provision
- A warm welcome into the life of the Institute and invitations to take part in its activities.

Pre-application advice is available from:

- The Director of the JRRJ, Guyda Armstrong: guyda.armstrong@manchester.ac.uk
- The JRRJ Research Facilitator, Guilherme Moreira Fians: guilherme.fians@manchester.ac.uk

Please also see the links to library curators below, who are best placed to advise on collections.

Essential Criteria

- Priority will be given to those candidates who show the greatest academic promise and whose current and proposed research demonstrates a close fit with the Library's holdings
- Applicants must have submitted their thesis at time of application
- Applicants who have been awarded their doctorate must be within two years of the award at the time of application (unless they qualify to apply for external schemes because of mitigating circumstances).

Visiting Early Career Research Fellow Application Process

Applicants are encouraged to contact the relevant curators in advance of submission to discuss their research plans. A full list of Special Collections staff and their curatorial responsibilities can be found on the JRRJ website (<https://www.library.manchester.ac.uk/rylands/about/our-people/library-staff/>).

Applicants are required to complete and submit an application (<https://www.library.manchester.ac.uk/rylands/research/support/funding-opportunities/>) to include:

- Personal details
- Project details to include: title of project, proposed start and end date of fellowship, objectives, methodology, an outline of potential sources to be consulted, and a description of how this project will build upon your existing research
- An up-to-date curriculum vitae (maximum 2 pages)
- Details, including e-mail address, of two referees who can be contacted should the application be shortlisted

What will the Institute expect from the applicant?

- That Fellowships are taken at a mutually agreed time within the 2025/26 academic year
- A short blog post at the end of the Fellowship
- Fellows will work with the grant writer to develop concrete plans for postdoctoral fellowship applications.