



## Candidate Information

<b>Position:</b>	Research Fellow
<b>School/Department:</b>	School of Arts, English and Languages
<b>Reference:</b>	20/108302
<b>Closing Date:</b>	Monday 24 August 2020
<b>Salary:</b>	£33,797 per annum.
<b>Anticipated Interview Date:</b>	Friday 4 September 2020.
<b>Duration:</b>	This is a fixed term contract position and is available for three years.

### JOB PURPOSE:

This three-year project, led by Dr Ryan Perry at the University of Kent and Dr Stephen Kelly at Queen's University, Belfast, has been funded by the Leverhulme Trust and will appoint two postdoctoral research associates, one to be located at each institution.

Whittington's Gift aims to investigate the theory that London citizens created new programmes of religious education for both the City's clergy and for literate lay communities that have hitherto gone largely unnoticed by scholarship. Thanks to the legacy of Richard Whittington (d. 1423), perhaps London's most storied mayor, an extraordinary resource for religious education emerged under the auspices of Whittington's innovative executor, John Carpenter, common clerk of London's Guildhall. By tracking the transmission of texts, and the production of books that the applicants contend were sourced from the Guildhall Library, we aim to radically complicate understanding of fifteenth-century literary culture in the capital and beyond.

Research Fellows will be tasked with completing codicological assessments of the project's manuscript corpus and preparing textual transcriptions for the project's collaboratively-edited research anthology, 'Meke Reverence and Devotion': A Reader in Late Medieval Religious Writing (University of Liverpool Press/Chicago University Press/Exeter Medieval Texts). Post-holders will also prepare their analysis of the project's corpus for publication in reputable journals, and disseminate research findings in conference and seminar presentations. The roles will also involve the use of a range of digital humanities tools and data, including use of databases, social network analysis and digital photography. The role holders will be expected to learn some additional digital skills as necessary. Training will be provided.

### MAJOR DUTIES:

1. Undertake research on the project under the supervision of the Principal Investigator (PI) and Co-Investigator (Co-I).
2. Undertake training in line with the needs of the posts with the project's expert advisors (Professor James Carley and Professor Ralph Hanna) and with the project PI and Co-I.
3. The Research Fellow will have responsibility for producing diplomatic transcriptions of the project's textual corpus and undertaking preparatory work on the anthology. This PDRA will also help tag the texts and manuscripts to allow for social network analysis.
4. Communicate closely with the Kent based Research Fellow and present collaborative progress reports on research to the PI and Co-I and to external audiences to disseminate and publicise research findings; co-organise a conference with other Research Fellow.
5. Prepare, in consultation with the other investigators, material for publication in the project anthology, peer reviewed journals, and presentations at international conferences.
6. Carry out routine administrative tasks associated with the research project to ensure that the project is completed on time and within budget. These include organisation of project meetings and documentation, risk assessment of research activities, and assisting with the open access dissemination of data associated with the project, e.g., website, information sessions, non-academic outputs, etc.
7. To plan and manage research activity within parameters agreed with PI.
8. Contribute to the intellectual development of the project.

9. Liaise and consult regularly with the PI, Co-I, and the other Research Associate.
10. Produce publishable research relevant to the project objectives.
11. Work in co-operation with the academic support teams in the University of Kent and Queen's University, Belfast in support of the project.
12. Such other duties, commensurate with the grading of the post that may be assigned by the PI or their nominee.

**Planning and Organising:**

1. Plan for specific aspects of the research programme and contribute to team planning.
2. Plan own day-to day activity within framework of the research programme agreed with the supervisor.
3. Plan to meet deadlines for online publication and to prepare presentations and papers for conferences (where required) in agreement with the supervisor.
4. Coordinate and liaise with other stakeholders, as directed.

**Resource Management Responsibilities:**

1. Ensure the effective and efficient use of research resources.
2. Provide guidance, as required, to support staff and students who may be assisting with research.

**Internal and External Relationships:**

1. Liaise on a regular basis with colleagues, stakeholders and the research team. Communicate with research support administrators.
2. Communicate with the project's expert advisors to facilitate training and to test findings. Liaise with archives and libraries to arrange access to primary materials and the purchase of digital images or microfilms.

**ESSENTIAL CRITERIA:**

1. Have or be about to obtain a PhD in a relevant area of late medieval literary studies (e.g. late medieval English Studies, late medieval English religious History, medieval Book History).
2. 3 years relevant research experience to include:
  - Experience of undertaking codicological analysis.
  - Knowledge of fourteenth and fifteenth century English religious literature and culture.
  - Experience in writing and publishing high quality academic publications.
3. A record of giving research papers at conferences and seminars.
4. Willingness to participate in interdisciplinary research spanning different disciplines relative to the position.
5. Palaeographical skills in respect of a range of fourteenth and fifteenth century book hands.
6. Excellent interpersonal, presentation and communication skills.
7. Ability to work independently with minimum supervision.
8. Ability to assess and organise resources effectively.
9. Desire to contribute to the research and intellectual culture of the university.
10. Willingness to travel to relevant archives in the UK.

**DESIRABLE CRITERIA:**

1. Familiarity with the protocols of contemporary textual scholarship.
2. Familiarity with the principles of social network analysis and cognate modelling software (Gephi, GraphViz, Polinode, etc).
3. Experience of compiling data in excel spreadsheets.
4. Ability to develop and maintain website/ online database.
5. Ability to develop and deliver public engagement with research activities.
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