



*University of Oxford*

## St Edmund Hall

### **Career Development Fellowship in Art and Wellbeing £41,939 per annum plus additional benefits Job Description and Further Particulars**

#### **THE ROLE**

St Edmund Hall proposes to elect a Career Development Fellow in Art and Wellbeing. Applications are welcome from researchers with a background in Contemporary Art Theory or Contemporary Art History. This is a fixed-term, non-renewable post available for the period 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2028.

This appointment will enable the post-holder to carry out full time research and teaching in the domain of Art and Wellbeing, with a specific focus on contemporary art practice. Research into the arts for wellbeing is a vital area of study, as it helps to unlock a deeper understanding of how creative activities can positively influence mental, emotional, and social health. By investigating the impact of various artistic practices—ranging from visual arts to music, theatre, and dance—researchers are uncovering evidence that highlights the therapeutic, cognitive, and communal benefits of the arts on wellbeing. Through understanding how the arts can influence mental health, cognitive function, social relationships, and cultural empathy, the research will provide insights to inform healthcare practices, education policies, and community initiatives, as well as contemporary art practice. This knowledge will help to promote a more holistic view of wellbeing, where artistic expression is recognised not only as a source of beauty and inspiration but also as a vital component of human health.

The appointment is intended to allow the post-holder to become familiar with the portfolio of activities - teaching, pastoral oversight, and administration - associated with an academic career, while allowing time for them to undertake postdoctoral research. The objective of the College in making this appointment is to support our undergraduate provision whilst strengthening the research profile of the College.

In addition, the postholder will strengthen relations between Fine Art and Medical Sciences, including the work of the Centre for the Creative Brain (<https://www.seh.ox.ac.uk/discover/research/centre-for-the-creative-brain-2>), and provide a focus for interdisciplinary study of art and wellbeing.

In making this appointment, the College wishes to promote equality of opportunity. Applications for this post are particularly welcome from women, disabled, and black and ethnic minority candidates, who are under-represented in academic posts in Oxford.

## ST EDMUND HALL

St Edmund Hall's roots are in the 13th Century, making it one of the oldest educational institutions within the University of Oxford. It is the only medieval academic Hall to have preserved its identity; the ancient name of 'Hall' has been retained to reflect its long history and pre-collegiate university roots. At Oxford, the collegiate university comprises the colleges collectively associated with the academic departments and central offices. However, in legal, financial, and organisational terms each college is an independent corporation, self-governing and self-contained. St Edmund Hall, in common with all Oxford colleges, has been granted status as a registered charity. Our current Principal, Professor Katherine Willis, joined the Hall in October 2018.

St Edmund Hall is one of the constituent colleges of the University of Oxford and occupies a historic site in the middle of Oxford, just off the High Street. The Hall currently has approximately 70 academic staff (Fellows and Lecturers), 376 undergraduate students, 315 graduate students and 38 visiting students. Students are admitted in a range of subjects. General information about the College is available at [www.seh.ox.ac.uk](http://www.seh.ox.ac.uk).

The Queen's Lane main site accommodates many of our facilities, including the administration, Fellows' rooms, the Senior, Middle and Junior Common Rooms, Dining Halls, and student accommodation. Our Library is on this site, occupying the beautiful former church of St Peter-in-the-East. We have further extensive student accommodation properties in north and east Oxford: in Norham Gardens, and on Iffley Road and Dawson Street.

Artists at St Edmund Hall form a large and welcoming community supported by the College's Director of Studies for Fine Art, [Professor Jason Gaiger](#). There are opportunities to exhibit work in the college and to contribute to the various extra-curricular art activities. Professor Gaiger is a Fellow and Professor of Aesthetics and Art Theory at the Ruskin School of Art. Further information about St Edmund Hall can be found at [www.seh.ox.ac.uk](http://www.seh.ox.ac.uk).

## MAIN RESPONSIBILITIES AND DUTIES

The aim of this post is to provide an opportunity to undertake independent research while providing support for Professor Gaiger. The duties of the post-holder will therefore include teaching and administration alongside research activity. It is expected that the post-holder will spend no more than 30% of their time on teaching and administration, with the remainder spent on research activity. The precise balance of teaching and other administrative support (pastoral oversight, admissions and learning support) will be under the direction of Professor Gaiger. The post-holder will be expected to work in Oxford during weeks 0 to 9 of the University term.

### *Research*

The post-holder should be engaged in advanced study or research, leading to publications in peer-reviewed journals, edited collections, or a monograph, such that the College could reasonably expect to include them as part of its return for a Research Excellence Framework. An academic allowance will be available to assist with research costs.

### *Teaching*

The post-holder will be expected to contribute to the teaching needs of the College and the Ruskin School of Art. The post-holder may also expect to supervise a small number of undergraduate research projects.

### *Administration*

The post-holder will work with Professor Gaiger to co-ordinate the organisation of the undergraduate subjects in Fine Art and participate in the undergraduate admissions exercise (held each December, after the end of term). They will assist in the educational and pastoral oversight of undergraduates, including the organisation and running of classes and other events, as well as providing support with students' study skills. They will act as College Adviser for up to four graduate students in cognate areas. Fellows will also be expected to participate in the College's Open Days for prospective students, and to be willing to assist in the College's wider outreach activities.

The post-holder may also become involved in the wider administration of the College, for instance by serving on one or more of its committees.

## **SELECTION CRITERIA**

1. This Fellowship cannot be held in conjunction with any other full-time employment.
2. Applications will not be considered from individuals who have held a permanent university post.
3. Applicants should have undergone examination for a doctorate by the application deadline and should not normally have completed a PhD or equivalent earlier than 1 April 2020 (with the exception of career breaks, for example, for parental leave).
4. Applicants must demonstrate:
  - an outstanding level of academic achievement, appropriate to the stage of their career, with evidence of, and potential for, producing distinguished research in their field.
  - the ability to engage with research in the medical sciences and other cognate disciplines, and to carry out interdisciplinary research.
  - a commitment to sharing the results of their research to a wider audience and to evaluating its impact on society in terms of measurable change.
  - the ability to provide excellent tutorial and small-group teaching in contemporary art history and theory.
  - a commitment to supporting and inspiring academic excellence in all students.
  - excellent communication skills and the sensitivity to deal with pastoral duties.

- the organisational skills and motivation to undertake College administration.
- an informed interest in the full range of academic duties of the post and the ambition to progress to an academic post, whether at Oxford or elsewhere.
- evidence of commitment to their professional development.
- evidence that the post-holder's development as an academic will benefit from this appointment.

## **TERMS AND CONDITIONS**

Full terms and conditions of employment will be provided in writing to the successful candidate.

### **Term of appointment**

This is a fixed-term, non-renewable post for the period 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2028.

### **Salary & Pension**

The successful applicant will be appointed on a salary of £41,939 per annum (St Edmund Hall Salary Scale Grade 7.5) and will have the option of becoming or remaining a member of the Universities Superannuation Scheme (USS). Contributions to the scheme are made by salary exchange which is an implied consent scheme under which all USS members are enrolled automatically unless they choose to opt out. Salaries are paid in arrears on or around the 25th of the month by bank transfer. Salaries are reviewed annually in August in line with the University's cost of living allowance.

The post-holder will be entitled to an Academic Allowance (currently £3,000 per annum).

### **Dining Rights**

Fellows are full members of the Senior Common Room and entitled to full dining rights when the College kitchen is open.

The post-holder will be elected to a Junior Research Fellowship but will not become a member of the Governing Body. A shared study room in College will be available.

Fellows are entitled to membership of Congregation, the University's sovereign body.

The College follows the University guidelines for parental leave.

The appointment will also be subject to provision of evidence of right to work and live in the United Kingdom (see below).

### **Application Process**

There is no application form.

Applicants should submit the following documents:

1. A covering letter no longer than three pages of A4, setting out their research plans and teaching experience.
2. A curriculum vitae.
3. A sample of their research output of no more than 5000 words.
4. The names of **three academic referees** (see below). If candidates have been examined for a PhD or equivalent, but the degree has yet to be awarded, they should ask referees to comment on the timeline for graduation.

Applications should be sent to [recruitment@seh.ox.ac.uk](mailto:recruitment@seh.ox.ac.uk) by no later than **GMT noon on Tuesday, 14 January 2025**.

Interviews are expected to be held remotely on Friday, 24 January 2024.

Any enquiries relating to the post should be directed to Professor Jason Gaiger in the first instance by emailing [jason.gaiger@seh.ox.ac.uk](mailto:jason.gaiger@seh.ox.ac.uk)

Please note that applications received after the closing date will not be accepted.

## Referees

You are advised to contact your referees before applying, to ensure that they are aware of your application and the requirements for the post, and to ensure that they would be content to write a reference for you for this post if asked to do so, in the event that you are shortlisted. Your application should include for each referee their name, position, relationship to you, postal address, email address and contact telephone number, and whether you give permission for us to contact them. Shortlisted candidates will be asked to contact their referees and ask them to submit the references directly to us.

The College welcome applications from candidates who have a disability or long-term health condition and are committed to providing long term support. The University's disability advisor can provide support to applicants with a disability, please see

[www.admin.ox.ac.uk/eop/disab/](http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/eop/disab/)

for details. Please let us know if you need any adjustments to the recruitment process, including the provision of these documents in large print, audio or other formats. If we invite you for interviews, we will ask whether you require any particular arrangements at the interview.

## Recruitment Monitoring

Please also consider completing the online Equal Opportunity Monitoring Form. Submission of this form is voluntary and does not form part of the selection process, but we would be grateful if you are willing to return it with your application to assist us with our equal opportunity monitoring. A paper copy can be obtained on the website or by emailing [recruitment@seh.ox.ac.uk](mailto:recruitment@seh.ox.ac.uk).

All applications will be acknowledged after receipt.

### **Equality of Opportunity**

The Equal Opportunities policy of the College requires that all staff are offered equal opportunities within employment. Entry into employment will be determined only by personal merit and the application of criteria related to the post. Subject to statutory provisions, no applicant will be treated less favourably than another because of age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage or civil partnership, pregnancy or maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, or sexual orientation.

### **Privacy Notice**

The College's Privacy Policy can be found by visiting <https://www.seh.ox.ac.uk/policies-accounts-and-legal-documents>.

### **Notes**

- 1. This employment is subject to the candidate demonstrating that they have the right to work in the UK. At all times your employment is subject to the provision of original documentation to establish your right to work and remain in the UK, which the College requires in order to comply with its duties under the Immigration, Asylum and Nationality Act 2006. It will remain your responsibility to ensure that you are able to produce such documentation as and when requested from you. Candidates that require a visa to work in the United Kingdom are encouraged to check before applying to ensure that they are eligible for an appropriate visa using the information provided by the [University of Oxford Staff Immigration Team](#).*
- 2. All data supplied by applicants will be used only for the purpose of determining their suitability for the post, and will be held in accordance with the principles of the General Data Protection Regulations.*
- 3. St Edmund Hall is an Equal Opportunities Employer. Conduct against fellow employees and college members that is offensive or detrimental to them on grounds of age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage or civil partnership, pregnancy or maternity, race, religion or belief, sex or sexual orientation, is not tolerated.*
- 4. Smoking (including electronic devices) is not permitted at any of the sites or buildings belonging to St Edmund Hall.*