The Open University PhD Studentship in Gender and Otherness in the Humanities

Further Particulars

We are delighted to invite applications for an Open University PhD Studentship in Gender and Otherness in the Humanities.

Applicants are invited to propose a research project which relates to any area of gender and/or otherness in the humanities, but preference will be given to those working on topics that can be supervised by a team from The Open University Research Centre for Gender and Otherness in the Humanities. You can find a summary of our research interests on the website at http://fass.open.ac.uk/research/centres/goth.

Applications to the English Department, relating to Drama 1500-1800 are particularly encouraged. However, applications relating to any area of gender and/or otherness in the humanities, submitted to any Department of the School, will be considered.

Closing Date: 8 January 2020. The interview date range will be advertised in late 2019. Interviews will take place in Milton Keynes.

A selection of relevant publications by members of The Open University Research Centre for Gender and Otherness in the Humanities are listed on the website: http://fass.open.ac.uk/research/centres/goth

Recognizing that close attention to issues of human diversity enhances every field of Arts and Humanities research, The Open University Research Centre for Gender and Otherness in the Humanities aims to support all Open University colleagues engaged in researches relevant to the concerns of the Centre. The holder of the Open University PhD Studentship in Gender and Otherness in the Humanities will work under the auspices of this new research centre. Further information about the Centre can be found at http://fass.open.ac.uk/research/centres/goth. If you would like to discuss your application and proposal informally, please do not hesitate to contact the Centre’s Director, Peg Katritzky (m.a.katritzky@open.ac.uk).

This is a full-time, three-year studentship, beginning in October 2020 and based in Milton Keynes. This studentship has been made possible through the generosity of philanthropic donors who wish to remain anonymous. It will provide for the full fees of a three-year fulltime PhD studentship at the Open University as well as a maintenance grant of £20,000 a year.

The successful candidate will pursue their own research under the supervision of members of the Open University Research Centre for Gender and Otherness in the Humanities, which is based in the School of Arts and Cultures of The Open University’s Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences. During the period of the studentship the holder will be:

- expected to live within reasonable travelling distance of Milton Keynes (usually not more than 40 miles or 40 minutes away)
- contribute fully to GOTH’s activities and research programme.
- encouraged to participate in the rich variety of graduate student research activities and PG training offered by the OU Research School and Library, and at the level of Faculty, School and Department.
Applicants should have a good Honours degree in a relevant subject and should have, or expect to gain shortly, a Master’s degree or have equivalent research experience.

How to apply:

- Application forms are available from [http://www.open.ac.uk/research/degrees/apply](http://www.open.ac.uk/research/degrees/apply).
- Completed applications should be sent to [FASS-PhD-Applications@open.ac.uk](mailto:FASS-PhD-Applications@open.ac.uk).
- You are reminded that you must sign the form and should give the names and addresses of two academic referees who are willing to comment on your academic achievements to date and on your potential for undertaking research. (Please check that your referees will be available to be contacted during the application period.)
- Please send with your application form a short proposal for the topic you wish to research (maximum 2,000 words). In your proposal, you should include:
  - a provisional title for your topic;
  - brief information about how the topic relates to existing arts and humanities research with a strong focus on one or more aspects of human diversity, together with a statement of how you think your work will make an original contribution;
  - a summary of the evidence, primary sources and modern scholarship you will use;
  - the research methods you intend to apply.

You should also include information about the research skills or experience you have already gained (e.g. preparation of relevant dissertation at undergraduate or Master’s level, knowledge of languages, ICT literacy etc.).

Arts Research at the Open University:
Arts research at the Open University is based in the School of Arts and Cultures, within the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences. The School currently has 95 full-time equivalent members of academic staff. This popular area of study attracts over 3,000 new students each year (Open University students are part-time and based all over the UK and in continental Europe). In addition to undergraduate courses in the discipline areas of English, History, Classics, Art History and Music, there are taught MAs which last year attracted over 300 new students. The School has regular work-in-progress research days at which graduate students are encouraged to give papers. There are currently 22 full-time and 50 part-time research students in the School.

Doctoral Studies at The Open University
The Open University has an extensive doctoral studies programme, with over 950 current postgraduate research students (c.566 studying full-time, the rest studying part-time and combining research degrees with work). The University has therefore developed a rigorous yet flexible portfolio of skills training for postgraduate research students. The programme has a clear focus on transferable skills. There are currently c.150 Arts & Humanities postgraduate research students, registered either for a PhD or for an MPhil prior to doctoral study. Of these about a quarter are registered for full-time study and the rest are part-time. The Open University Research School provides an induction programme for new research students and a training programme for students. Students receive training in (for example): bibliographical databases and other IT skills and in managing a research project through its different stages. The Faculty then provides additional study skills training days focussed on the particular needs of arts students. Students will also get access to the Open University’s world-class library with particular strength in online resources.

For further information about research degrees at The Open University, visit [http://www.open.ac.uk/postgraduate/research-degrees](http://www.open.ac.uk/postgraduate/research-degrees).