

Somerville College

University of Oxford

www.some.ox.ac.uk



Mary Somerville Junior Research Fellowship in German Studies 2025 to 2028

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Somerville College invites applications for a full-time Stipendiary **Mary Somerville Junior Research Fellowship** for the period 1 October 2025 to 30 September 2028 (Not renewable thereafter). The Fellowship is offered for research in the field wholly or partly within German studies. Comparative and interdisciplinary proposals are welcome.

Junior Research Fellows play an important part in the intellectual and social life of the College and such Fellowships are designed to support academics in the early stages of their careers. The majority of the Mary Somerville JRF's time will be devoted to research and publication in their chosen academic field.

Somerville takes great pride in its pioneering history, its academic excellence, and its intellectual and social openness. It was founded in 1879 as a non-sectarian College, and one of the first Oxford Colleges to admit women tutors and students. It has been a mixed College since 1994. It was also one of the first to teach Modern Languages, long before the university introduced it as a subject in 1903. There are approximately 350 graduate students currently reading for masters and doctoral degrees and approximately 400 undergraduates following three and four-year courses across a wide variety of disciplines.

The College is governed by its Principal and a Governing Body consisting of professorial, tutorial and administrative fellows. Tutors are assisted by College lecturers, and the research community includes a number of postdoctoral research fellows. There are approximately 100 members involved in the College's academic community. We employ approximately 125 support staff whose role is to work together to support the provision of an inclusive, stimulating and safe environment in which the academic and research activities of the academic members and students may thrive.

More information about the College may be found at www.some.ox.ac.uk

Benefits

- The starting salary will be £36,924 with an additional £1,500 Oxford University Weighting (£38,674 total) this is aligned to grade 7.1 on the University pay scale and point 29 on the National pay spine.
- Somerville College offers a research allowance of £1000 per year for this post.
- The postholder will also be eligible to join the University's Superannuation Scheme and be eligible for a subsidised place in an on-site Nursery run by the College, subject to availability.
- Full Common table rights i.e. free lunch and dinner whenever the College kitchens are open
- Full membership of the Senior Common Room
- Accommodation in College may be available at an appropriate market rate.

Location: Somerville College, Woodstock Road, Oxford OX2 6HD

Main Duties

The Fellow elected shall be required:

- to conduct original research in a field wholly or partly within German studies
- to publish peer-reviewed research in book form or in journals or edited volumes. to present an annual report on their work to the Governing Body.
- The successful candidate is expected to participate actively in College life and the Modern Languages community in Oxford more widely.

While the Fellow elected will not be required to teach as part of their Fellowship, they may be asked to do so in return for extra payment at Oxford's standard tutorial rates.

Selection criteria

- Candidates for the Fellowship will be expected to hold, or be close to completion of, their PhD/DPhil. Applicants should not have completed their doctorate more than five years before the start of the Fellowship, allowing for extensions due to caring responsibilities or in other extenuating circumstances. Although the Fellowship is intended for an early career researcher, this refers to the stage a candidate has reached in their career, rather than to the age of the candidate.
- The proposed field of research must fall wholly or partly within German studies. Comparative and interdisciplinary proposals are welcome.
- Candidates will be assessed on the quality of their scholarship as appropriate to the stage in their research career; in particular:
 - a) Research achievements and future plans;
 - b) A good publication record, or promise of a good publication record for candidates at a very early career stage
 - c) Academic career to date and future plans.
 - d) Evidence of participation in conferences, seminars, and other research meetings

Desirable criteria

- Consideration will also be given to the degree of fit of the proposed topic of research with the College's research interests and teaching needs.

Nature and Terms of Appointment

All appointments are subject to the relevant provisions of the *Statutes and by-laws* of Somerville College. Other paid employment should not be undertaken without the permission of the Governing Body. No offer of appointment will be valid until and unless the recommendation has been approved by the Governing Body and a formal contractual offer has been made.

Application Procedure

1. Applications should be made via the online at www.some.ox.ac.uk/jobs
2. You must submit all elements of your application by **12:00 noon on Tuesday 18th March 2025**
3. Your application must include:
 - a) A covering letter, highlighting your suitability and motivation for the post

- b) A one-page description of future research plans
 - c) A *curriculum vitae* with details of qualifications, experience, current research interests and publications
 - d) Two academic references (see below).
4. You should ask your referees to write directly to academic.office@some.ox.ac.uk by **12:00 noon Tuesday 18th March 2025** and you should supply each referee with a copy of these further particulars. Please note that it is your responsibility to ensure that references are submitted promptly, as we will not approach your referees directly. References must be submitted by the application deadline.

You can find a copy of these further particulars at www.some.ox.ac.uk/jobs

5. We will communicate with you via email on the status and outcome of your application. Please state clearly in your application if email communication is not a convenient method of communicating with you.

Interviews are likely to take place on Wednesday 23 April 2025

Data Protection

All data supplied by candidates will be used only for the purposes of determining their suitability for the post and will be held in accordance with the principles of the Data Protection Act 1998 and the College's Data Protection Policy.

Equal Opportunities statement

The policy and practice of the University of Oxford and of Somerville College require that all staff are afforded equal opportunities within employment. Entry into employment and progression within employment will be determined only by personal merit and the application of criteria which are related to the duties of each particular post and the relevant salary structure. In all cases, ability to perform the job will be the primary consideration. Subject to statutory provisions, no applicant or member of staff 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. Where suitably qualified individuals are available, selection panels will contain at least one member of each sex.

Pre-employment screening

If you are selected for the post, employment with the College will be conditional upon satisfying the following requirements.

1. Eligibility to work in the UK

The Immigration, Asylum and Nationality Act 2006 makes it a criminal offence for employers to employ someone who is not entitled to work in the UK. We therefore ask applicants to provide proof of their right to work in the UK before employment can commence.

Please note that you will need to provide original documents and where any documents are not in English a certified translation will be required. Do not include these documents with your application. You will be sent a request for the relevant information at the appropriate point in the selection process.

2. Medical fitness

Please note that any offer of employment will be conditional upon receipt of a completed pre-employment medical health assessment questionnaire and confirmation from the University of Oxford

Occupational Health Service that the candidate is medically fit for the post (allowing for any reasonable adjustments that may be required, in line with the provisions of the Equality Act 2010).

The purpose of the pre-employment medical health questionnaire is to:

- I. assess the candidate's medical capability to do the job for which they have applied:
- II.
 - (ii) determine whether any reasonable adjustments or auxiliary aids may be required to accommodate any disability or impairment which they may have
 - (iii) ensure that none of the requirements of the job for which they have applied would adversely affect any pre-existing health conditions the candidate may have.

The appointment will not commence until medical fitness for work, and any reasonable adjustments that may be required, is confirmed by the University Occupational Health Service.