

Junior Research Fellowship 2026-2029 In English (20th Century Literature)

The Governing Body of Somerville College invites applications for a Junior Research Fellowship in English, specifically the field of 20th Century literature, tenable for three years from 1 October 2026 and not renewable thereafter. The post is intended to enable the holder to pursue research of outstanding quality in a supportive collegiate environment. It will also provide a carefully structured period of professional preparation for those embarking on an academic career.

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. There are approximately 280 graduate students currently reading for masters and doctoral degrees and approximately 450 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 145 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.

Somerville has three Tutorial Fellows in English (Fiona Stafford, Annie Sutherland, and Philip West) and around 36 undergraduates across both English and joint schools degrees, alongside Masters and Doctoral students.

You can find further information about the College at <https://www.some.ox.ac.uk/>

Benefits

- The annual stipend will be £39,424, inclusive of Oxford University Weighting. This is aligned to grade 7.1 on the University pay scale (point 29 of the National pay spine). The stipend will be subject to annual review.
- College-owned accommodation may be available at an appropriate market rate.
- The postholder will be elected as a member of the Senior Common Room and will have full dining rights (breakfast, lunch and dinner whenever the kitchens are open).
- The postholder will also be eligible to join the University's Superannuation Scheme, and eligible for a place in an on-site Nursery run by the College, subject to availability.
- The stipend will be subject to annual review. Somerville College offers a research allowance of £1,000 per year for this post.

Duties of the Post

The Fellow elected shall be required:

- to devote themselves to research in the field of 20th Century literature in English.
- to present an annual research report to the Governing Body.
- to reside in Oxford during Full Term unless the circumstances of the Fellow's work require otherwise. Permission to reside outside Oxford for any part of the tenure of the Fellowship must be sought from Governing Body and will be granted only where there are good academic reasons.
- to undertake for Somerville College approximately six weighted hours of teaching per week, averaged over the three eight-week terms which constitute the academic teaching year.
- to engage in:
 - tutorial preparation
 - marking of written work
 - setting, marking and returning of scripts for collections (internal college examinations)
 - writing and submitting student reports
 - liaison with other staff on teaching and pastoral matters, as appropriate
- to take part in the annual admissions procedures for the selection of English undergraduates at Somerville College, which will include reading application material and interviewing in the two weeks following the first eight-week teaching term.

Selection criteria

- Candidates for the Fellowship will be expected to have completed or be close to completing a doctorate*. Applicants should not have completed their doctorate more than five years before the start of the Fellowship, allowing for extensions due to caring responsibilities. Although the Fellowship is intended for a relatively junior scholar, this refers to the career stage a candidate has reached, rather than to the age of the candidate; the College welcomes qualified candidates of all ages and will take into account the individual circumstances of each in selecting the successful candidates.
- The proposed research must fall in the field of 20th Century literature in English.
- Candidates will be assessed on the quality of their scholarship; in particular: research achievements and future plans; publications to date and future plans; academic career to date and future plans.
- Consideration will also be given to the degree of fit of the proposed topic of research with the College's research and teaching interests.

**If successful, you must be able to supply one of the following; a copy of your DPhil/PhD award certificate; an academic reference confirming the qualification has been awarded; an academic reference confirming the thesis has been submitted, if you have not yet completed.*

Nature and Terms of Appointment:

All appointments are subject to the relevant provisions of the *Statutes and Regulations* 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

Informal enquiries about this post may be directed in the first instance to senior.tutor@some.ox.ac.uk.

Applications

1. Applications should be made online at www.some.ox.ac.uk/jobs
2. You must submit all elements of your application by **12:00 noon Monday 22 June 2026**
3. Your application must include:
 - A covering letter, highlighting their suitability and motivation for the post
 - A one-page description of future research plans
 - Your CV with details of qualifications, experience, current research interests, teaching experience and publications
 - The names and contact details (including email address) of two academic referees. Please supply each referee with a copy of the further particulars of this post (you can find these at www.some.ox.ac.uk/jobs). And please note that it is your responsibility to ensure that your referees are prepared to supply references if required.
4. Shortlisting for the post will take place on Wednesday 1 July 2026, **after which the selection panel will request references for shortlisted candidates. Those invited for interview will, at the same time, be asked to submit a piece of written work of c10,000 words.**

Interview date: Interviews will be held on **Wednesday 15 July 2026**.

Any queries with regards to references or the application process can be emailed to academic.office@some.ox.ac.uk

Communications:

We will communicate with applicants by email regarding the status and outcome of their application. Please state clearly in your application if email communication is not a convenient method of communicating with you.

Your data

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 General Data Protection Regulations 2018 and the College's policies. Further details are available at <https://www.some.ox.ac.uk/privacy-foi/privacy-notice/>

Equal Opportunities

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.

Any offer of employment will be subject to the following:

1. Documentary proof of right 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. Our Human Resources team will provide further details at the appropriate stage in the recruitment process.

2. Satisfactory references

Please see above for details of how references should be submitted

3. Evidence of qualifications

You will be asked to provide original certificates and documentation to evidence any qualifications or training that is required for the role and that has been stated by you as having been obtained.

4. Medical fitness

Please note that any offer of employment will be conditional upon receipt of a completed pre-employment medical declaration. It may also be necessary to refer the successful candidate to our Occupational Health provider for confirmation 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).

5. Further checks

Where required for the role, further checks, such as DBS, may be required. We will advise applicants of the need for any additional checks as appropriate.