

*AHRC Collections & Communities in the East of England Collaborative Doctoral Partnership (CDP)*

## PhD Studentship: Collecting the Counter-Revolution: Refugees, Religion and Anglo-French Politics in the library of Richard Viscount Fitzwilliam (1745-1816)

- Start date: 1st October 2024
- Application Deadline: 26 May 2024
- Interviews: week beginning 10 June
- Online information session for applicants: 7 May, please [register your interest](#) in attending

Durham University and the Fitzwilliam Museum are pleased to announce a fully-funded Collaborative doctoral studentship, from October 2024, under the AHRC's [Collaborative Doctoral Partnership Scheme](#).

This project will be jointly supervised by Dr Tom Stammers and Dr Suzanne Reynolds and the student will undertake research at both the Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge, and the Department of History at Durham University, as well as becoming part of the wider cohort of CDP-funded students across the UK.

Please contact [cc-ee@fitzmuseum.cam.ac.uk](mailto:cc-ee@fitzmuseum.cam.ac.uk) if you would like this document in an alternative format.

The studentship can be studied either full or part-time.

We encourage the widest range of potential students to study for this CDP studentship and are committed to welcoming students from different backgrounds to apply. We particularly welcome applications from Black, Asian, Minority, Ethnic (BAME) backgrounds as they are currently underrepresented at this level in this area.

Students should have a Master Degree in a relevant subject or can demonstrate equivalent experience in a professional setting.

The studentship is open to both home and international applicants.

### Project Overview

Are you interested in the ways that people, books, images and ideas migrate across cultures, especially at times of conflict? Through immersion in an outstanding collection of rare books, prints and illuminated manuscripts, the PhD student we are looking for will investigate the impact of the French Revolution and Napoleonic Wars on British society, culture, and collecting, and contribute to mapping out a new future for the Fitzwilliam Museum library.

The collecting activity of Richard, 7th Viscount Fitzwilliam (1745-1816) took place against the backdrop of extraordinary turmoil, violence and political debate. The library assembled by him bears witness to his deep engagement with the events of the French Revolution, as expressed through his own anonymously published writings, his efforts to acquire books from endangered religious institutions on the continent, and his close relationship with French émigré networks in London. Using a combination of material and textual evidence, the project will reconsider Lord Fitzwilliam's relationship to the political fall-out of the French Revolution, and his participation in cross-Channel networks of ideas, as well as cast new light on Fitzwilliam's personal attitudes towards Catholicism, at a moment when its toleration in Britain as a potentially subversive minority faith was hotly contested.

Preserved intact since his death in 1816, the Museum's Founder's Library offers a fascinating lens onto the revolutionary period, although it has been hidden from visitors and undervalued by scholars. By investigating the library holistically (moving beyond studying its constituent parts - printed books, manuscripts, prints), this project aims to highlight processes of cultural transfer and collaboration between Lord Fitzwilliam and French refugees in London. Centred on the late eighteenth and early nineteenth century, the project nonetheless addresses issues with strong contemporary relevance about violence and migration, the scattering and re-gathering of cultural property across borders, and the role of collections in the formation of identities.

### Research questions include:

The project will be centred on Fitzwilliam's printed books (c. 7000 titles), illuminated manuscripts (130 in total), and archives (including letters and the post-mortem inventory from 1816), with contextualising work on the print collection. It will pose new and original research questions, such as:

- What was distinctive about Lord Fitzwilliam's collecting during the revolutionary period? How might comparison with contemporaries, such as the Norfolk antiquary Dawson Turner (1775-1858), reveal different actors or ideological priorities?
- How did Fitzwilliam's views of France develop through his encounter with émigré communities in Britain?
- What does Fitzwilliam's library reveal about the contours of Francophilia in British society and aristocratic cosmopolitanism?
- What influence did Fitzwilliam's Irish connections exert on his attitudes of the French Revolution?
- In what ways did Fitzwilliam's book collecting reflect his religious allegiances and differences? How far should we interpret his large purchase of medieval books as a form of cultural salvage?

These are preliminary research questions, and we would like to work with the student to help them develop their own, still framed within the major theme that underpins the project: what can the movement of cultural property reveal about the circulation of people and ideas in times of revolution, war and upheaval.

## Research with The Fitzwilliam Museum

This research studentship is one allocated to Durham University by the AHRC to support the work of The Fitzwilliam Museum. The successful student will be expected to spend time carrying out research and gaining relevant experience with the partner in Cambridge as part of the studentship. It is envisaged that the student will need to spend substantial periods of time in Cambridge, working on site with the collections at The Fitzwilliam Museum. Precise details and timings can be negotiated between the student and supervisors.

## Benefits and Opportunities

This collaborative PhD studentship offers the opportunity to develop skills and experience for careers in the creative and cultural sectors, supporting a pipeline of staff into the museum and cultural sector.

As the CDP programme emphasises work-based skills, four years of funding (up to eight years part-time), includes PhD research but also development activities including placements (usually 3-6 months or equivalent for part-time students), as applicable to meet the successful student's needs. At the outset of their PhDs, students will complete an individual training needs analysis and plan. This studentship is a unique opportunity to gain a wide range of transferable professional skills, including the critical analysis of sources, data collection and management, cataloguing and documentation, provenance research, and the fundamentals of collection care. As well as developing an expertise in working with rare books, manuscripts and prints, this project will provide opportunities for public engagement.

The successful candidate will be registered with the Department of History at Durham University. The History Department has a strong and dedicated postgraduate community made up of PhD and MA students, who organise and contribute to academic activities. The postgraduate community is an integral part of the History Department's wider research culture and takes part in seminars, conferences and research groups. The prospective student will have access to all University Library resources, support services and collections.

At the Fitzwilliam Museum and part of the Collections & Communities in the East of England (CC-EE) Collaborative Doctoral Programme (CDP), the student will become part of a vibrant cohort of collaborative doctoral researchers. The prospective student will have access to the relevant collections at the Fitzwilliam and become part of a varied, inter-disciplinary research culture with public benefit and engagement at its heart.

CDP students also benefit from a dedicated programme of UK-wide [CDP Cohort Development events](#) delivered in tandem with the other museums, galleries and heritage organisations affiliated with the AHRC CDP scheme.

## Details of Award

CDP doctoral training grants fund full-time studentships for four years or up to eight years if studied part-time). This time period will include development activities and relevant work experience placements.

The award pays tuition fees up to the value of the full-time home UKRI rate for PhD degrees. The Research Councils UK Indicative Fee Level for 2024/2025 is £4,786.

The award pays full maintenance for all students both home and international students. The UKRI National Minimum Doctoral Stipend for 2024/2025 is £19,237, plus a CDP maintenance payment of £600/year.

Further details can be found on the UKRI [website](#)

The student is eligible to receive an additional travel and related expenses grant during the course of the project courtesy of the Fitzwilliam Museum worth up to **£2,000** per year for 4 years, or pro rata for part-time students.

The project can be undertaken on a full-time or part-time basis.

There is no fee for applying for this Postgraduate course.

If you have a disability, you may be entitled to a Disabled Students' Allowance (DSA) on top of your studentship. DSA helps to cover the cost of any additional support that a person studying for a doctorate might need as a result of a disability, mental health problem or specific learning difficulty. You can read more about DSA:

<https://www.ukri.org/publications/disabled-students-allowance-dsa-framework/>

## Eligibility

This studentship is open to both Home and International applicants.

To be classed as a home student, candidates must meet the following criteria:

- Be a UK National (meeting residency requirements),
- or have settled status,
- or have pre-settled status (meeting residency requirements),
- or have indefinite leave to remain or enter

Further guidance can be found here - <https://www.ukri.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/UKRI-030221-Guidance-International-Eligibility-Implementation-training-grant-holders-V2.pdf>

International students are eligible to receive the full award for maintenance as are home students. The fee gap between the home and overseas fee rates will be covered by Durham University through internal co-funding for international candidates.

We want to encourage the widest range of potential students to study for a CDP studentship and are committed to welcoming students from different backgrounds to apply. We particularly welcome applications from Black, Asian, Minority, Ethnic (BAME) backgrounds as they are currently underrepresented at this level in this area.

Applicants should ideally have or expect to receive a relevant Masters-level qualification, or be able to demonstrate equivalent experience in a professional setting, such as a library or museum. Suitable disciplines are flexible, but might include History, Art History, French, English Literature, Politics, Philosophy, Theology, Museum Studies and Cultural Heritage. Many of the primary sources are in French and so reading knowledge of French is essential.

Applicants must be able to demonstrate an interest in the museums, galleries, archives, library and heritage sector and potential and enthusiasm for developing skills more widely in related areas.

As a collaborative award, students will be expected to spend time at both Durham University and the Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge.

NB. All applicants must meet UKRI terms and conditions for funding. See:

<https://www.ukri.org/funding/information-for-award-holders/grant-terms-and-conditions/>

## Application Process

Interested candidates should submit a **two-page CV**, and a **personal statement** of no more than two pages explaining why they would be an ideal match for the project in terms of their existing skills and interests. They should also include the name and contact details of **two referees** who could be contacted in the event of the applicant being shortlisted.

All applications will need to be made through the [Durham Application Portal](#). Please apply for the V1A001 History PhD programme and then state that you wish to be considered for the CC-EECDP Studentship when the form asks you to indicate how you intend to fund your studies. (Please select 'other' from the drop-down menu and insert CC-EECDP Studentship in the text box.)

Please let us know if you require any adjustments for the interview.

Your application will not be adversely affected by disclosing a disability, and it will be processed in exactly the same way as any other application.

[Durham University's Disability Support Service](#) offers guidance, information and support to prospective students, applicants and current students with any impairment/disability or health condition.

Shortlisted applicants will be invited to interview with the supervisory team and representative from the CC-EE CDP consortium the week beginning 10 June.

Applicants are encouraged to contact the supervisory team with informal enquiries about the studentship:

- Dr Tom Stammers, Associate Professor of Modern European Cultural History, Durham University - [t.e.stammers@durham.ac.uk](mailto:t.e.stammers@durham.ac.uk)
- Dr Suzanne Reynolds, Senior Curator Manuscripts and Rare Books, Fitzwilliam Museum - [scr42@cam.ac.uk](mailto:scr42@cam.ac.uk)

Please contact the Durham University History Department, if you have any questions or concerns about application or interview process:

- Mrs Katrin Krauss, Postgraduate Research Coordinator, Durham University History Department - [history.postgrad.research@durham.ac.uk](mailto:history.postgrad.research@durham.ac.uk)