Research Associate (Postdoctoral Fellow)
Department of English and Related Literature

Closing date: 03 April 2018
Interview date: 6 & 7 June 2018
Vacancy reference: 6423
INTRODUCTION

The Centre for Medieval Literature (CML) seeks to appoint two research associates (postdoctoral fellows) at the University of York. The CML (www.sdu.dk/cml) is a Danish Centre of Excellence based jointly at the University of Southern Denmark (SDU in Odense) and the University of York. This is a research post based in a collaborative, interdisciplinary and multilingual environment.

Successful candidates will be committed to

1) high quality research leading to publications,
2) collaboration uniting scholarship across disciplines and languages,
3) creating a shared research environment across both universities, and
4) situating their research within a wider European framework.

In the case of otherwise equally-ranked candidates, research in the area of Slavonic and/or Central European literatures will be preferred for one of the three positions at York and SDU. The research associates are expected to be based in York during the CML autumn (mid-September – mid-December), winter (February – March), and spring (April – June) terms and will make an extended visit to SDU.

There may be opportunities to teach, if mutually beneficial to the research associate and the University of York.

There is a further postdoctoral position at SDU. If you wish to be considered for positions at both York and SDU you must make separate applications following the procedures of each institution. (https://www.sdu.dk/da/service/ledige_stillinger/956175?sc_lang=en)

Application procedure:

Your application should take the form of a research proposal which:

- includes the research topic which you would pursue as a postdoctoral fellow in the CML
- addresses how the research topic fits into one or more of the three research strands of CML (‘Canon and Library’, ‘Imperial Languages’ and ‘Transformations and Translocations’)
- includes a statement about your potential contributions to the teamwork that is essential to CML.

The proposal should be no more than 1000 words. You will also be asked to provide between 1 and 3 pieces of written work.

Interviews will be held on 6 and 7 June 2018.
Main purpose of the role

- To conduct research under the supervision of senior colleagues and to contribute to the production of research
- To assist in the identification and development of potential areas of research and the development of proposals for independent or collaborative research projects

Key responsibilities

(Role holders will be required to undertake some or all of the duties below)

- To conduct individual and collaborative research projects, duties to include: analysis and interpretation of research data; use of appropriate research techniques and methods; writing up of research results and dissemination through publications, seminar and conference presentations and public engagement and outreach activities; contributing to the identification of possible new areas of research
- To contribute to the preparation of research proposals and applications to external bodies
- To undertake appropriate organisational and administrative activities connected to the research project, including conference organisation, and the development of promotional or educational material including website maintenance and development
- To develop and initiate collaborative working internally and externally, duties to include: the building of internal contacts and participation in internal networks; collaboration with colleagues on joint projects as required; participation in and identification of external networks in order to share information and identify potential opportunities for collaboration and possible sources of funding; attendance at and contribution to relevant meetings
- To provide guidance to other staff and students, as required, as well as coordinating the work of small research teams
- To assist with undergraduate teaching in own area of expertise.
## PERSON SPECIFICATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Qualifications</th>
<th>Essential / Desirable</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PhD in a relevant area of Medieval Studies</td>
<td>Essential</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Knowledge</th>
<th>Essential / Desirable</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Knowledge of medieval textual culture (in two or more languages) in order to engage in high quality research</td>
<td>Essential</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Knowledge of a range of research techniques and methodologies</td>
<td>Essential</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research expertise in an area that will complement and enhance the CML’s research strategy and goals</td>
<td>Essential</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Skills, abilities and competencies</th>
<th>Essential / Desirable</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ability to conduct individual and collaborative research projects</td>
<td>Essential</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ability to develop research objectives, projects and proposals for own and joint research, with the assistance of a mentor if required</td>
<td>Essential</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ability to write up research work for publication in high profile journals and engage in public dissemination</td>
<td>Essential</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ability to identify sources of funding and contribute to the process of securing funds, with collaborators if required</td>
<td>Essential</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ability to make presentations at conferences or exhibit work in other appropriate events</td>
<td>Essential</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Highly developed communication skills, in English, to engage effectively with wide ranging audiences, both orally and in writing, using a range of media</td>
<td>Essential</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ability to work in at least two of the languages of medieval Europe</td>
<td>Essential</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Knowledge of Slavonic and/or Central European literatures</td>
<td>Desirable</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## PERSON SPECIFICATION

### Experience

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Essential / Desirable</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Experience of carrying out independent research using own initiative</td>
<td>Essential</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Experience of writing up research work for publication or examination</td>
<td>Essential</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Experience working as part of a team</td>
<td>Desirable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Experience of carrying out collaborative research</td>
<td>Desirable</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Personal attributes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Essential</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Attention to detail and commitment to high quality</td>
<td>Essential</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commitment to building a collaborative ethos</td>
<td>Essential</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest in and enthusiasm for the subject matter of the project(s)</td>
<td>Essential</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Positive attitude to colleagues</td>
<td>Essential</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Willingness to work proactively with colleagues in other work areas/institutions</td>
<td>Essential</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ability to plan and prioritise own work in order to meet deadlines, including using initiative to plan research programmes</td>
<td>Essential</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commitment to personal development and updating of knowledge and skills</td>
<td>Essential</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
THE DEPARTMENT

The Centre for Medieval Literature

The CML’s research is interdisciplinary and multilingual, combining literary study with history, history of art, history of science, and other disciplines. We cover a broad range of topics addressing texts within and, especially, beyond the established medieval literary canons. The CML works to establish theoretical models for the study of medieval literature in a European scale. Our research is organised in three main strands: Imperial Languages, Canon and Library, and Transformations and Translocations. The Imperial Languages strand aims to provide a supplement and alternative to the concepts of ‘sacred’ or ‘cosmopolitan’ languages, operating on an Eurasian scale and focusing on written language from antiquity to the present day. The Canon and Library strand draws links and contrasts between medieval textual production and consumption and modern scholarly and educational practices involving medieval texts. Transformations and Translocations seeks to integrate and extend literary and historical methods and goals by focusing on the intersection of formal change and connections between people.

We work in a lively and collaborative research environment, in which individuals participate in and organize reading groups, conferences, workshops, and outreach events; participate in annual events bringing together CML members from both York and SDU, contribute material such as blog posts for the CML website, and help with our journal. CML members based at York also spend time at SDU, and vice versa, while members attend events happening at both institutions either in person or by videolink.

In addition to its activities at York and SDU, we are part of a large international network of scholars, and publish an online, open-access journal, Interfaces: A Journal of Medieval European Literatures, in collaboration with the University of Milan.

The Department of English and Related Literature

You will be based in the Department of English and Related Literature at York. The Department is one of the most successful departments in Arts and Humanities in the UK, ranked top for world-leading research in REF2014 and 25th in the QS world rankings. Located in the beautiful, historic city of York, the department has a richly interdisciplinary research culture. With around forty members of staff, it is one of the largest and most active English departments in the country.

Among the staff are a number from other countries, contributing to the international quality of the Department. The current Head of Department is Professor Helen Smith.
THE DEPARTMENT

The York English Department is committed the teaching of, and research into, literatures in languages other than in English, both in their own right and in comparative studies. (There are no Modern Language departments in the University.) Students studying English as their Single Subject at York are encouraged to take at least one World Literature Module. Modules in French, Italian, Spanish, Anglo-Saxon, Old Norse and Latin are all currently taught by members of the Department. Members of the Department publish on literature in French, Modern Greek, Italian, Latin, Anglo-Saxon and Old Norse.

The Centre for Medieval Studies

You will also have links to interdisciplinary postgraduate Centre for Medieval Studies (CMS). The CMS was founded in 1968, and is now one of the most successful teaching and research institutions in this field in the world. It offers an MA in Medieval Studies and higher degrees in Medieval Studies. Many of its graduates have gone on to academic posts in the UK and abroad. The contributing departments, along with English and Related Literature, are Archaeology, History, and the History of Art. In 2016-17 there were 26 MA students in the Medieval Studies course and 12 MA students in the Medieval Literatures and Languages course. The current Director of CMS is Professor Sarah Rees Jones.

The Humanities Research Centre

CML also participates in the activities of the Humanities Research Centre, an interdisciplinary hub for research in the Arts and Humanities at York. It hosts interdisciplinary events such as workshop series and public lectures. The HRC supports a diverse community of postdoctoral researchers with access to a vibrant multidisciplinary research environment, public engagement opportunities, professionalising training and social events. It also organises a termly Postdoctoral Forum.
Founded on principles of excellence, equality and opportunity for all, the University of York opened in 1963 with just 230 students. In 2017 it is the home of more than 17,000 students across more than 30 academic departments and research centres. Since opening over fifty years ago, we have become one of the world’s leading universities and a member of the prestigious Russell Group.

We are consistently recognised as one of the leading Higher Education Institutes and one of just six post-war universities which appear in the world top 100 (2013-14) and 15th in the Times & Sunday Times league table (2016). The University of York has won six Times Higher Education (THE) Awards and five Queen’s Anniversary Prizes.

The University is proud of its association with Athena SWAN, holding 12 awards in support of gender equality, representation and success for all, with gold awards for Chemistry and Biology and a University-wide bronze award.

Of 154 universities that took part in the Research Excellence Framework (REF) in 2014, The University of York ranked 14th overall and 10th for the impact of our research. The University is consistently in the top ten UK research universities and attracts over £60m a year of funding from research alone.

Our vision is to make the University of York a world leader in the creation of knowledge through fundamental and applied research, the sharing of knowledge by teaching students from varied backgrounds and the application of knowledge for the health, prosperity and well-being of people and society.
Attractive workplace

Centred around the picturesque village of Heslington on the edge of the city of York, our colleges are set in an attractive landscaped campus. York enjoys a safe, friendly atmosphere with facilities including bars, shops, theatres and concert halls all within easy walking distance.

The University has undergone an unprecedented period of expansion and renewal since 2000. We have invested in twenty new buildings on the original campus and have completed the first and second phases of a £750m campus expansion. Our investment in new colleges, teaching and learning spaces, laboratories, research facilities and a new sports village mean there has never been a better time to join us.

During this period of change we've worked hard to retain our friendly, informal and collegiate atmosphere, which is important to our core values of inclusivity and interdisciplinarity.

We have a thriving international community and are committed to providing staff moving to York with as much support as possible through our Relocation Package and Welcome Officers.

The University aims to offer a nurturing and supportive environment as an employer. Flexible working hours, nursery facilities, childcare vouchers, cycle to work scheme, generous holidays and an attractive pension scheme all make the University of York one of the region’s leading employers.

For further information please visit our employee benefit pages.
THE CITY AND THE REGION

The City of York

Internationally acclaimed for its rich heritage and historic architecture, York's bustling streets are filled with visitors from all over the world. Within its medieval walls you will find the iconic gothic Minster, Clifford's Tower and the Shambles - just a few of the many attractions.

But York isn't just a great place to visit - it's also a great place to live and work. While nourishing a vibrant cosmopolitan atmosphere, York still maintains the friendly sense of community unique to a small city.

Visit [www.visityork.org](http://www.visityork.org) for more information on the city of York.

Shopping, culture and entertainment

York boasts specialist and unique boutiques but also all the high street stores on its busy shopping streets. Alongside them you will find cinemas, theatres, an opera house, art galleries, a vast range of restaurants, live music venues and clubs. York is particularly renowned for its multitude of pubs and bars, from the modern to the medieval.

Housing and schools

Whether you choose to live close to the city, in one of the surrounding villages or further afield, you will find a wide range of housing within comfortable distance of York and the University. For families, the area has a range of excellent schools both in the state and independent sector.

Great location

York is one of Britain's best-connected cities. Halfway between London and Edinburgh on the East Coast mainline, on intercity trains you can reach London King's Cross in less than two hours and Edinburgh in two and a half hours. York is also well served by road links, and it is easily accessible from the A1, M1 and the M62.

For those travelling from overseas, Manchester Airport is two hours away and Heathrow Airport just three and a half. Flights from nearby Leeds Bradford Airport provide easy access to mainland Europe. By Eurostar from London St Pancras, Paris is just over six hours away.

Yorkshire

The Lonely Planet guide recently declared Yorkshire the third best region in the world to visit. There is something to cater to every taste, whether it be the rugged landscapes of the Moors or the Dales, the picturesque seaside towns of Scarborough and Robin Hoods Bay, the gothic architecture of Whitby or the vibrancy of cosmopolitan Leeds.
Apply online
- Go to [https://jobs.york.ac.uk](https://jobs.york.ac.uk)
- Find this job using reference 6423
- Complete the online application form

You will need to submit your completed application by midnight (local UK time) on 03 April 2018.

What will I need?
You will need to upload:
- your CV
- a letter describing how you meet the requirements of the job
- A 1000 word document detailing your proposed research topic (please see introduction)
- 1-3 pieces of written work

You will also need details of 2 referees.

Help and assistance
Direct any informal queries to Professor Elizabeth Tyler:
elizabeth.tyler@york.ac.uk

If you have any questions about your application, contact the HR Services team:
recruitment@york.ac.uk
+44 (0) 1904 324835