



UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

## CANDIDATE BRIEF

Postdoctoral Research Assistant (Pastoral Care, Literary Cure and Religious Dissent in the Early Modern British Atlantic), School of English, Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Cultures



**Salary: Grade 6 (£27,511 – £32,817 p.a.)**

It is likely that an appointment will be made no higher than £28,331 p.a., since there are funding limitations which dictate the level at which the appointment can start.

**Reference: AHCEN1037**

**Fixed-term for 12 months from 28 January 2020**

**We will consider flexible working arrangements**



## **Postdoctoral Research Assistant**

### **School of English, Faculty of Arts, Cultures and Humanities**

**Do you have a humanities PhD focusing on early modern Britain or the British Atlantic? Would you like to be involved in an interdisciplinary project interrogating pastoral care and cultures of correspondence? Are you interested in the relationships between archives, digital humanities, institutions and public impact?**

We are looking to appoint a postdoctoral research assistant to support an interdisciplinary project entitled 'Pastoral Care, Literary Cure and Religious Dissent: Zones of Freedom in the British Atlantic c. 1630-1720'. With a humanities PhD in early modern studies, you will be responsible for transcribing and collating metadata about early modern correspondence held in archives in London, Oxford, Edinburgh and St Andrews, helping to populate a database of letters exchanged across the British Atlantic. You will also provide administrative support for symposia and workshops facilitating discussion about pastoral care as a concept and set of practices. This will involve liaising closely with project partners including archives and humanitarian organisations and will require a capacity to think broadly about how the past might inform and shape contemporary understandings of holistic wellbeing and practices of care.

### **What does the role entail?**

You will work on the AHRC-funded project, 'Pastoral Care, Literary Cure and Religious Dissent: Zones of Freedom in the British Atlantic c. 1630-1720'.

As a Postdoctoral Research Assistant your main duties will include:

- Transcribing letters and extracting metadata from three early modern archives of correspondence (Richard Baxter, Samuel Rutherford, and the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel);
- Working with Early Modern Letters Online (EMLO) to create discrete entries consisting of core metadata for several thousand items of correspondence;
- Assisting in organising two symposia focusing on the relationship between faith and humanitarianism and the interconnections between pastoral care and literary concepts of cure (e.g. bibliotherapy);



- Assisting in organising and facilitating three Early Career Researcher (ECR) workshops focusing on faith and policy, the institution and the archive, and faith and public health;
- Working with the Principal Investigator (PI), United Society Partners in the Gospel (USPG) and EMLO to create an online exhibition based on key documents from the USPG archive;
- Liaising with institutional partners and venues to ensure the successful organisation and functioning of the project's research and activities;
- Maintaining a weekly log of the research and activities undertaken as part of the project;
- Participating in regular meetings with the project team.

These duties provide a framework for the role and should not be regarded as a definitive list. Other reasonable duties may be required consistent with the grade of the post.

## What will you bring to the role?

As a Postdoctoral Research Assistant you will have:

- A humanities doctorate in early modern studies;
- Knowledge of historical, religious and literary culture in Britain during the seventeenth and early eighteenth centuries;
- Experience of working with and transcribing manuscripts from the early modern period;
- The ability to produce high-quality research materials, under the guidance of the PI, including managing scholarly data in a variety of digital formats;
- An ability to contribute to building the research culture and capabilities of the project's institutional partners;
- Good time management, organisational and planning skills;
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills including the ability to engage effectively with a wide range of stake holders;
- The ability to work as part of a team;
- A willingness to travel in the UK.

You may also have:

- Some experience of working with archives and/or in the digital humanities;



- Some experience of organising or participating in academic and/or public events;
- Some experience of working in sectors (e.g. charitable organisations or policy) that engage with care and its provision;
- A track record of scholarly publications in a related area of research.

## How to apply

You can apply for this role online; more guidance can be found on our [How to Apply](#) information page. Applications should be submitted by **23.59** (UK time) on the advertised [closing date](#).

## Contact information

To explore the post further or for any queries you may have, please contact:

**Dr Alison Searle, School of English, University of Leeds**

Tel: +44 (0)113 343 4743

Email: [a.a.searle@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:a.a.searle@leeds.ac.uk)

## Additional information

This post is funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council as part of a Leadership Fellowship awarded to Dr Alison Searle in 2019 (AH/T003197/1 Pastoral Care, Literary Cure and Religious Dissent: Zones of Freedom in the British Atlantic (c. 1630-1720)). More information about the post and the research project can be found in the separate 'Additional Information' document.

### Working at Leeds

Find out more about the benefits of working at the University and what it is like to live and work in the Leeds area on our [Working at Leeds](#) information page.

### Candidates with disabilities

Information for candidates with disabilities, impairments or health conditions, including requesting alternative formats, can be found on our [Accessibility](#) information page or by getting in touch with us at [disclosure@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:disclosure@leeds.ac.uk).





## Criminal record information

### Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974

A criminal record check is not required for this position. However, all applicants will be required to declare if they have any 'unspent' criminal offences, including those pending.

Any offer of appointment will be in accordance with our Criminal Records policy. You can find out more about required checks and declarations in our [Criminal Records](#) information page.

