

Job Description and Selection Criteria

Post	Chichele Professor of Medieval History
Department/Faculty	Faculty of History
Division	Humanities
College	All Souls College

Overview of the role

The University of Oxford intends to appoint to the Chichele Professorship of Medieval History with effect from 1 October 2025 or as soon as possible thereafter. The chair has been held by a succession of exceptionally distinguished scholars: in recent times, Richard Southern, J.M. Wallace-Hadrill, Karl Leyser, George Holmes, Rees Davies, Chris Wickham and Julia Smith have all made major contributions in their respective fields. The post is named after Henry Chichele, founder of All Souls College.

The Chichele Professor will play a leading role in researching and teaching Medieval History within the Faculty of History, and we welcome applications from scholars working in any aspect of the field (broadly conceived, ca. 250 – 1500) and on any area of the world, but with a capacity to think broadly and to connect their work to that of others working on different themes, times or areas, notably in Europe. The successful candidate will be a historian of the highest international standing, with an outstanding record of research and publication in the field of Medieval History, the ability to teach and inspire students at all levels, and the ability and willingness to undertake senior administrative duties.

You should have a successful record of undergraduate and graduate teaching, and a strong commitment to sustaining and developing the culture of graduate studies in Medieval History in Oxford. You will also possess proven leadership qualities. It is expected that you will share the Faculty's broad vision of the scope of medieval history, will have wide historical interests, and will wish to encourage interaction with other disciplines. You will be expected to create and maintain links with other History departments in the UK and abroad, as well as cognate faculties in Oxford and elsewhere. Such links will range from organising visits and lectures by leading scholars, to fostering individual and collaborative research and teaching projects, including the obtaining of research grants. You will be ready to assume a senior role within the administration of the Faculty; to take a lead in encouraging research achievement and nurturing a research culture; to represent the Faculty within the University; and to promote medieval history in Oxford, as well as stimulating interest in the subject within the academic community and beyond.

This post is a statutory professorship (for a description of the different types of academic posts at Oxford, please see <https://hr.admin.ox.ac.uk/academic-posts-oxford>). There are currently 12 statutory professors in the History Faculty. Statutory professors are expected to take a prominent part in the wider administration and leadership of the Faculty, serving regularly on the History Faculty Board, and being prepared to hold major offices within the Faculty.



Applications for the post are particularly welcome from women and from black and minority ethnic candidates, who are under-represented in academic posts in Oxford. The History Faculty won a bronze Athena SWAN award in 2019 after a rigorous process of self-analysis. We are fully committed to creating an environment in which everyone can fulfil their potential: more details on the Faculty's work on equality, diversity and inclusivity are provided below.

If you would like to discuss this post and find out more about joining the academic community at Oxford, please contact Professor John Watts, at john.watts@ccc.ox.ac.uk or +44 (0)1865 276771. All enquiries will be treated in strict confidence; they will not form part of the selection decision.

Duties of the post

As the Chichele Professor of Medieval History, you will be a member of the University and a Fellow of All Souls College. You will be part of a lively and intellectually stimulating research community which performs to the highest international levels in research and publication, and will have access to the excellent research facilities which Oxford offers. You will have a role to play in the running of All Souls as a member of the Governing Body and a trustee of the College.

The main duties of the post are as follows:

Research and public engagement

- to promote the study of Medieval History within Oxford and beyond;
- to maintain and enhance an internationally-recognised research profile, with a strong and sustained record of relevant academic publications in some aspect of Medieval History (between ca. 250 and 1500);
- to develop and submit grant proposals to support your own research portfolio and that of one the Faculty's research centres, and contribute to the collective research culture of the History Faculty;
- to take a lead in encouraging research achievement and nurturing a research culture, to develop and present proposals for external funding, to manage and collaborate with research teams, and to enhance the status and quality of the work produced by research projects.
- to strengthen the Faculty's impact and public engagement profile in the field, demonstrating the public value of research into medieval history and maximising its practical applications beyond academia.

Teaching

- to give not fewer than 36 lectures or classes in each academic year, in at least two of the three university terms and not less than twelve in each of two terms, on all aspects of Medieval History at both undergraduate and graduate levels;
- to provide a significant undergraduate teaching contribution which will typically include running an undergraduate paper (theme paper, optional, further or special subject), contributing to team-taught lecture series, and/or undertaking a minimum of 2 tutorial hours a week across a minimum of two terms;
- to be active in recruiting post-graduate research students and to act as assessor for graduate applications;
- to convene and develop the MSt in Medieval History, and to make a significant contribution to the teaching/supervision for this course, including a MSt option paper;

- to supervise and advise research students working on a broad range of medieval topics, with the expectation of supervising c.8-10 research students at any one time.

Examining

- to serve as an examiner or assessor at the undergraduate and graduate levels.

Administration

- to play a substantial role in the administrative work of the Faculty of History, in both term and vacation, under the direction of the Chair of the Faculty Board;
- to act as board interviewer in medieval history (managing the admission process for graduates).

The Faculty is managed by a Faculty Board, led by the Faculty Board Chair who holds office for a three-year term. The Chichele Professor will be eligible for election as a member of the Board and will be expected to play a full part in the Faculty's business. They may also be expected to take on the role of Faculty Board Chair (effectively Head of Department) in the future if asked to do so by the Humanities Divisional Board.

College

- to participate in the business of All Souls College, including serving as a trustee and member of the Governing Body. Fellows are required to attend Governing Body meetings and comply with the College's statutes, by-laws and regulations.

Selection criteria

Your application will be judged only against the criteria which are set out below. You should ensure that your application shows clearly how your skills and experience meet these criteria.

The University is committed to fairness, consistency and transparency in selection decisions. Members of electoral boards (selection committees) will be aware of the principles of equality of opportunity, fair selection and the risks of bias.

If, for any reason, you have taken a career break or have had an atypical career and wish to disclose this in your application, the electoral board will take this into account, recognising that the quantity of your research may be reduced as a result.

You will demonstrate the following:

Essential

1. An outstanding research and publications record in one or more aspects of Medieval History ca. 250 - 1500, with a substantial international reputation that will contribute to and enhance the profile of the Faculty of History.
2. Outstanding current and projected research in Medieval History ca. 250 – 1500 including success in securing major external research funding, as well as the ability to encourage others in making such applications.
3. Intellectual drive, with a broad vision and sufficiently wide historical interests to contribute effectively to the long-term development of medieval history at Oxford, to the maintenance and further development of interest in the subject in Oxford and its wide recognition outside, and to the

encouragement of links with other History departments in the UK and abroad, and with cognate Faculties and Departments in Oxford and elsewhere.

4. A record of successful doctoral supervision and a commitment to graduate-level teaching, underpinned by the necessary linguistic and technical skills to be able to teach and guide research on a broad range of historical themes between c. 250 and 1500.
5. The ability and readiness to lecture at an appropriate level to undergraduate and graduate audiences in an interesting and engaging manner, and to foster a high level of achievement in students.
6. The intellectual ability and capacity to lead and inspire academic colleagues, with the enthusiasm to guide and mentor junior colleagues, including encouraging and supporting the community of doctoral and MSt students in Medieval History
7. A commitment to the development of Medieval History as a discipline through editorships and memberships of public bodies, and a readiness to communicate to a wider public the central interest and importance of Medieval History.
8. The ability and readiness to contribute effectively to Faculty administration and leadership through Faculty structures.

Desirable

9. Experience of university governance and management, and of academic administration.
10. Experience of working with research councils, REF panels, or other public bodies with a bearing on historical scholarship

How to apply

To apply, visit https://my.corehr.com/pls/uoxrecruit/erq_jobspec_details_form.jobspec?p_id=177665, then click on the **Apply Now** button on the 'Job Details' page and follow the on-screen instructions to register as a new user or log-in if you have applied previously. Please refer to the "Terms of Use" in the left hand menu bar for information about privacy and data protection. Please provide details of three referees and indicate whether the University may contact them without seeking your permission. Referees should not write directly to the University, but may be contacted at any stage in the recruitment process if the electoral board requests your references.

You will also be asked to upload a CV and a supporting statement. The supporting statement should explain how you meet the selection criteria for the post using examples of your skills and experience. This may include experience gained in education or employment, or during career breaks (such as time out to care for dependants). Please also indicate your salary expectations for the position in your supporting statement.

The University and colleges welcome applications from candidates who have a disability or long-term health condition and is committed to providing long term support. The University's disability advisor can provide support to applicants with a disability, please see www.admin.ox.ac.uk/eop/disab/ for details. Please let us know if you need any adjustments to the recruitment process, including the provision of these documents in large print, audio or other formats. If we invite you for interviews, we will ask whether you require any particular arrangements at the interview. The University Access Guide gives details of physical access to University buildings www.admin.ox.ac.uk/access/.

Please upload all documents as **PDF files** with your name and the document type in the filename.

All applications must be received by **12.00 noon UK time on Monday 3 March 2025**.

To return to the online application at any stage, please go to: www.recruit.ox.ac.uk. Please email recruitment.support@admin.ox.ac.uk should you experience difficulties using the online application system. Further help and support is available from [www.ox.ac.uk/about the university/jobs/support/](http://www.ox.ac.uk/about_the_university/jobs/support/). All applications will be acknowledged after receipt by automatic email from our e-recruitment system. **Please check your spam/junk mail** to ensure that you receive it.

All shortlisted candidates will be interviewed and will be asked to give a short presentation to the Faculty as part of the selection process. They will also be asked to send a sample of their written work. All applications will be considered by the electoral board as soon as possible after the closing date. The electoral board is free to search for other candidates at this or any subsequent stage in its proceedings. You will be kept informed of the progress of your application at each stage, but in some cases there may be a delay while deliberations are ongoing. The composition of the electoral board will be published in the University Gazette (www.ox.ac.uk/gazette/) when it is finalised.

The Faculty of History

The Faculty of History in Oxford is the largest in the UK, and one of the largest in the world. It has a very strong international reputation for its scholarship and its teaching of undergraduate and graduate students, with particular strengths that reach from late Roman times to the contemporary world, in the history of the British Isles, the history of continental Europe, imperial and global history, the history of the United States, economic and social history, intellectual history, and the history of science, medicine, and technology. Within the Faculty there is also a department for the History of Art. With the size of its History Faculty, its lively and varied research seminars and the major resources for research, which include, among others, the outstanding collections of the Bodleian Library and the University museums, Oxford offers a uniquely attractive research environment.

The Faculty of History provides a robust and supportive framework for research, including:

- Financial support for research travel, research assistance, and editorial help;
- A standard sabbatical leave system, with the possibility of additional special leave;
- Peer mentoring and career development review of research plans and progress;
- Research collaborations with other institutions;
- Energetic encouragement and support of externally-funded research projects, and for internal and interdisciplinary collaborations, through research centres;
- Support of, and engagement with, interdisciplinary teaching;
- Assistance in the formulation of research plans and funding bids.

The Faculty enables all its postholders to request up to £800 per year for research expenses, and makes additional funds available for organising conferences in Oxford. Annual career conversations identify those staff who may need extra support in achieving their research objectives, e.g. through relief from teaching or administrative burdens. Postholders can apply for seed-corn funding for specific research projects from the University's John Fell Fund, which can then help applicants to secure major external funding. In addition, to assist newly-appointed postholders in the development and publication of their research, Faculty funds are available for each new postholder to hold a workshop at which colleagues can discuss drafts of their monograph in gestation.

The Faculty has received an Athena SWAN bronze award (2019), and we seek to provide a fully equal, inclusive and diverse environment for staff and students alike. There are working groups on gender equality, race equality and equality for people with disabilities, and an Equality and Diversity Committee which considers and implements policy. The Faculty has measured its performance against the recommendations of recent Royal Historical Society reports on gender and race equality and we regularly and actively implement policy to address inequalities.

For more information about the Faculty please see www.history.ox.ac.uk.

Humanities Division

The Humanities Division is one of four academic divisions in the University of Oxford, bringing together the following faculties: Asian and Middle Eastern Studies; Classics; English; History; Linguistics, Philology and Phonetics; Medieval and Modern Languages; Music; Philosophy; Theology and Religion; the Ruskin School of Art. The Division has over 500 members of academic staff, approximately 4,100 undergraduates (more than a third of the total undergraduate population of the University), 1,000 postgraduate research students and 720 students on postgraduate taught courses.

The Division offers world-class teaching and research, backed by the superb resources of the University's libraries and museums, including the famous Bodleian Libraries, with their 11 million volumes and priceless early book and manuscript collections, and the Ashmolean Museum of Art and Archaeology. Such historic resources are linked to cutting-edge agendas in research and teaching, with an increasing emphasis on interdisciplinary study. Our faculties are among the largest in the world, enabling Oxford to offer an education in Arts and Humanities unparalleled in its range of subjects, from music and fine art to ancient and modern languages. The Oxford Research Centre in the Humanities (TORCH) is the Division's vehicle for promoting interdisciplinary collaboration, international networks, and public engagement with research, with a highly active programme of events, fellowships, and research networks. The current TORCH Director is Professor Christine Gerrard (Professor of English Literature).

The Humanities Division has embarked on a major building project on the Radcliffe Observatory Quarter, following the recent announcement of the £175 million gift to create the Stephen A. Schwarzman Centre for the Humanities. The Schwarzman Centre will serve as a dynamic hub dedicated to the Humanities. The building will bring together seven Humanities faculties, the Humanities Divisional Office, a new library and significant cultural and public engagement spaces in a space designed to encourage experiential learning and bold experimentation through cross-disciplinary and collaborative study. The Schwarzman Centre's public and performance spaces will also host the new Cultural Programme, working with outstanding artists, writers and thinkers from around the world to create and present world-class arts and culture in collaboration with university, local, national and international partners.

The Faculty of History will move to the Schwarzman Centre upon the completion of the project.

For more information on the Humanities Division please visit: www.ox.ac.uk/divisions/humanities.html.

All Souls College

There are 39 self-governing and independent colleges at Oxford, which give academic staff and students the benefits of belonging to a small, interdisciplinary community as well as to a large, internationally-renowned institution. The collegiate system fosters a strong sense of community, bringing together leading academics and students across subjects, and from different cultures and countries.

All Souls was founded in 1438 and is primarily a research institution, especially in the Humanities and Social and Theoretical Sciences, and with strong connections to public life. The College has particular strengths in History and related disciplines, including Classics and Politics.

The College, which occupies a prime central Oxford site, has fine buildings dating largely from the fifteenth and eighteenth centuries. The College has 80 or so Fellows, some of whom are studying for graduate degrees,

and a well-established Visiting Fellows scheme. There are no undergraduate members. The Professor will be expected to participate in the intellectual life and work of the College.

More information about the College may be found at: <http://www.asc.ox.ac.uk>.

About the University of Oxford

Oxford's departments and colleges aim to lead the world in research and education for the benefit of society both in the UK and globally. Oxford's researchers engage with academic, commercial and cultural partners across the world to stimulate high-quality research and enable innovation through a broad range of social, policy and economic impacts.

Oxford's self-governing community of international scholars includes Professors, Associate Professors, other college tutors, senior and junior research fellows and a large number of University research staff. Research at Oxford combines disciplinary depth with an increasing focus on inter-disciplinary and multi-disciplinary activities addressing a rich and diverse range of issues. The current strategic plan can be found at <http://www.ox.ac.uk/about/organisation/strategic-plan-2018-23>.

Oxford's strengths lie both in empowering individuals and teams to address fundamental questions of global significance, and in providing all staff with a welcoming and inclusive workplace that supports everyone to develop and do their best work. Recognising that diversity is a great strength, and vital for innovation and creativity, Oxford aspires to build a truly inclusive community which values and respects every individual's unique contribution.

While Oxford has long traditions of scholarship, it is also forward-looking, creative and cutting-edge. Oxford is one of Europe's most entrepreneurial universities. It consistently has the highest external research income of any university in the UK (the most recent figures are available at www.ox.ac.uk/about/organisation/finance-and-funding), and regularly creates spinout companies based on academic research generated within and owned by the University. Oxford is also recognised as a leading supporter of social enterprise.

Oxford admits undergraduate students with the intellectual potential to benefit fully from the small group learning to which Oxford is deeply committed. Meeting in small groups with their tutor, undergraduates are exposed to rigorous scholarly challenge and learn to develop their critical thinking, their ability to articulate their views with clarity, and their personal and intellectual confidence. They receive a high level of personal attention from leading academics.

Oxford has a strong postgraduate student body who are attracted to Oxford by the international standing of the faculty, by the rigorous intellectual training on offer, by the excellent research and laboratory facilities available, and by the resources of the museums and libraries, including one of the world's greatest libraries, the Bodleian.

For more information please visit www.ox.ac.uk/about/organisation.

University Benefits, Terms and Conditions

Standard duties

The Chichele Professor shall undertake research, lecture and give instruction in Medieval History.

It is expected that professors will generally participate in the business and affairs of the relevant faculty or department.

Salary

Your salary will be determined after appropriate consultation. There is an annual 'cost-of-living' review. In addition you will be eligible for consideration, in regular reviews, for Professorial Merit Pay.

An additional pensionable allowance will be payable in respect of any period during which you are Head of Department/Faculty Board Chair. (Any allowance payable for a period of less than three years will not, however, be pensionable.)

Details of University policy in the following areas can be found at the links provided.

Salary

<https://hr.admin.ox.ac.uk/academic-staff-pay>

Pension

<https://finance.admin.ox.ac.uk/uss>

Sabbatical leave

<https://governance.admin.ox.ac.uk/legislation/council-regulations-4-of-2004>

Outside commitments

<https://hr.admin.ox.ac.uk/holding-outside-appointments>

Intellectual Property

<https://governance.admin.ox.ac.uk/legislation/council-regulations-7-of-2002>

Managing conflicts of interest

<https://researchsupport.admin.ox.ac.uk/governance/integrity>

Membership of Congregation

<https://www.ox.ac.uk/about/organisation/governance>

<https://governance.admin.ox.ac.uk/legislation/statute-iv-congregation>

Family support

<https://hr.admin.ox.ac.uk/family-leave-for-academic-staff>

<https://childcare.admin.ox.ac.uk/home>

<https://www.newcomers.ox.ac.uk>

Welcome for International Staff

<https://welcome.ox.ac.uk>

<https://staffimmigration.admin.ox.ac.uk>

Relocation

<https://finance.admin.ox.ac.uk/relocation-scheme-arrangements#collapse1094916>

Promoting diversity

<https://edu.admin.ox.ac.uk/home>

Other benefits and discounts for University employees

<https://hr.admin.ox.ac.uk/discounts>

Pre-employment screening

<https://jobs.ox.ac.uk/pre-employment-checks>.

Length of appointment

<https://hr.admin.ox.ac.uk/academic-posts-at-oxford#collapse1532056>

Retirement

The University operates an employer justified retirement age for academic posts of 30 September immediately preceding the 70th birthday. See <https://hr.admin.ox.ac.uk/the-ejra>

Data Privacy

<https://compliance.admin.ox.ac.uk/job-applicant-privacy-policy>

<https://compliance.admin.ox.ac.uk/data-protection-policy>

College benefits, terms and conditions

As a Fellow of All Souls College, you will be a member of the Governing and serve as a trustee of the College (for details of the responsibilities of a trustee, please see the Charity Commission's [Essential Trustee guidance](#)).

You will be entitled to the following benefits:

- an office in College-owned premises in central Oxford
- lunch and dinner without charge at the Common Table
- research expenses up to £4,489 per annum plus support towards computer costs. You may also apply for additional grants for research.

The College offers health insurance for the Fellow and dependants. Subject to availability, the College can provide temporary accommodation, discounted in the first year, to support relocation. NB these are taxable benefits.