

Job Description and Selection Criteria

Post	Eleanor Rathbone Professor of Contemporary European History
Department/Faculty	Faculty of History
Division	Humanities
College	St Antony's College

Overview of the role

This new senior post is intended to reinforce the Oxford History Faculty's established reputation as a major centre for research and teaching in the field of Contemporary European History. In particular, the post is intended to extend the Faculty's expertise into the history of the European present, by developing new teaching provision, and research-led scholarship, on the history of the final decades of the twentieth century and the early decades of the early twenty-first century.

The Rathbone Chair has been named in honour of Eleanor Rathbone to mark her lifelong work and engagement with issues of contemporary European politics and social inequality. The postholder will be based at St Antony's College, where they will maintain and develop the legacy of the work and scholarship undertaken on the contemporary history of Europe by Professor Timothy Garton Ash. It is therefore intended that the holder of this post will be a scholar who will combine innovative scholarship and teaching with a wider profile of intellectual engagement.

Central to the definition of this new post is its geographical and chronological scope. In geographical terms, the post is open to scholars with a scholarly expertise on any area of Europe. However, it is intended that the work of the postholder should engage with the evolving frontiers, and definitions, of Europe which developed around the fulcrum year of 1989. We are therefore particularly eager to invite applications from scholars whose work engages with the inter-relationship between different areas of Europe, and between Europe and the global world of the twenty-first century. In this way, we intend that the post should serve as a bridge between Euro-centric definitions of the European past and the emphatically global reality of 21st-century Europe. Equally importantly, the position will serve to extend the chronological expertise of the Faculty. The existing postholders (including the Chair in Modern History, Professor Patricia Clavin) predominantly focus in their work and teaching on the central decades of the twentieth century, reflecting the prominence of those years in established narratives of Europe's recent past. However, Contemporary History now concerns the era beyond the twentieth century, and a major benefit of this appointment will be the opportunity it will provide to engage with the history of the European present. The postholder will therefore be a historian whose work will embrace the final decades of the twentieth century (from the late 1960s onwards) while also providing the Faculty with a new focus on the emergence of the rather different Europe that developed in the early years of the twenty-first century. This will enable the Faculty to develop undergraduate and graduate papers (and provide supervision expertise) on the early decades of the present century.

In order to achieve these ambitions, we wish to appoint a distinguished, energetic and committed historian who will shape this new field. You will possess an excellent record of innovative archival research using one or



more European languages; a significant record of publications; the capacity to lead and inspire others; and an ability to communicate the importance of historical issues for an understanding of the contemporary identity of Europe. To that end, you will have a profile of engagement with scholarly initiatives within your field, as well as wider public debates. If appointed, you will be expected to lead the development of major new projects which will support the growth of Contemporary European History within Oxford, including funded grant applications, workshops, course design, public events and outreach, broadly defined; and, along with colleagues, to play an active part in the organising and direction of Contemporary European History within the History Faculty, including taking on roles relating to research, teaching, the organisation and convening of seminars, student admissions, and student progression.

In Oxford there is a considerable community of historians working on modern European history. These include Paul Betts, Venus Bivar, Patricia Clavin, Martin Conway, Abigail Green, Ruth Harris, David Hopkin, Matthew Kerry, Kate Lebow, Julia Mannherz, James McDougall, Alexander Morrison, Marc Mulholland, David Priestland, Catherine Schenk, Nick Stargardt, Natalya Vince, and Zbig Wojnowski. Further details of their research can be found at <https://www.history.ox.ac.uk/academic>. In addition, the Faculty has a large number of graduate students working on a wide range of Masters and doctoral theses in contemporary history, as well as a number of postdoctoral and visiting scholars working in the field. Moreover, teaching and research on European History in Oxford is not a self-contained field. Much of the work undertaken by historians of Europe incorporates wider regional and global contexts, and there are strong links with colleagues in other disciplines and units of the university, including International Relations and Area Studies.

The Rathbone professor will contribute to undergraduate teaching, including undergraduate thesis supervision and undergraduate lectures, on the Oxford History syllabus. In addition, you will work with colleagues on developing new options on the Masters courses in the Faculty. You will also attract and supervise high-quality graduate students at the Masters and DPhil levels.

The postholder will be a Fellow of St Antony's College, and will participate in its lively and interdisciplinary activities in the field of the contemporary history, politics and economics of Europe. In particular, you will be a member of the European Studies Centre of the College, which organises a wide range of seminars and workshops, as well as providing a focus for doctoral students, postdoctoral scholars, and visiting academics working on issues of Europe's contemporary society and history. As such, you will be required to participate in the direction of the Centre, including serving, when required, as its Director. More details of its activities are available at: <https://www.sant.ox.ac.uk/european-studies/european-studies-centre>.

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 the Chair of the History Faculty Board, Professor Martin Conway (martin.conway@history.ox.ac.uk). All enquiries will be treated in strict confidence and will not form part of the selection decision.

Duties of the post

As the Eleanor Rathbone Professor of History, you will be a member of the University and a professorial fellow of St Antony's College. You will be part of a lively and intellectually stimulating research community and will have access to the excellent research facilities that Oxford offers, as well as support from administrative staff in the History Faculty.

The main duties of the post are as follows:

Research and public engagement

- Maintain and enhance an internationally-recognised research profile, with a strong and developing record of relevant academic publications in the field of contemporary European history;
- Develop and submit grant proposals to support your own research portfolio and the collective research culture of the History Faculty;
- Working closely and collegially with other colleagues in the field, to lead the development of contemporary European history in Oxford;
- Develop international connections in research, working with colleagues in Oxford and at universities and research centres in Europe and elsewhere;
- Disseminate research through participation in, and organisation of, University, national and international conferences and seminars, and through other media;
- Encourage and support the research of colleagues in contemporary European history;
- Strengthen the Faculty's impact and public engagement profile in the field, demonstrating the importance of historical perspectives for an understanding of the evolving reality of Europe in the twenty-first century.

Teaching

- Engage in the teaching of undergraduates and graduates by giving no fewer than 36 lectures or classes per academic year, in at least two of the three university terms, and not less than twelve in each of two terms;
- Make a significant undergraduate teaching contribution which will include supervising undergraduate theses, running an undergraduate paper, and/or undertaking a minimum of 2 tutorial hours a week across a minimum of two terms;
- Lead and develop the History Faculty's taught Masters courses on contemporary European history, by developing options which engage with Europe's recent past and present-day reality;
- Supervise a number of graduate research students, across the field of contemporary European history, and participate in managing the progression of graduate research students;
- Participate in marking and examining at the undergraduate and graduate levels as required.

Administration

- Take on senior leadership roles relating to research, teaching and student admissions within the History Faculty, as required;
- Support the development and alumni relations work of the History Faculty and the Humanities Division;
- Become a member of the Governing Body of St Antony's College (which includes Charity Trustee responsibilities) and undertake college administrative duties as required, as well as taking on the role of Director of the European Studies Centre, as requested.

College duties and responsibilities

In addition to the duties relating to the University side of the post, the appointee will be a Fellow of St Antony's College, and will be expected to:

- Take on a small number of College Advisees;
- Serve, when asked to do so, as the Director of the European Studies Centre (ESC) of the College.
- Play an active role in the academic and research life of the College and Centre, for example by organising and/or attending seminars, workshops and other academic activities and events.

From time to time, Fellows may be asked to undertake specific administrative duties for which they would be separately remunerated.

All Fellows are appointed as Trustees of the College and a full induction into your charity trustee role will be provided. As a Trustee, you will be a member of the College's Governing Body which normally meets twice each term.

Headship of Department/Faculty Board Chair

Every professor who is employed by the University, unless individually exempted, has an obligation to accept headship of the department or faculty in which their post is held, if invited to do so by the divisional board. The postholder would therefore be expected to take on the role of Chair of the History Faculty Board, if asked to do so.

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. There will be both female and male board members.

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:

Qualifications and experience	
Essential	An outstanding research and publication record in contemporary European history, with a substantial international reputation that will contribute to and enhance the profile of the field at Oxford
Essential	Experience of academic leadership
Research and public engagement	
Essential	Outstanding and innovative current and projected research in contemporary European history with an international level of recognition
Essential	A demonstrable ability to contribute effectively to the long-term development of contemporary European history as a subject at Oxford, and to communicate effectively the importance of historical perspectives for an understanding of contemporary Europe within academia and beyond.
Essential	Ability to engage with and shape public understanding of contemporary Europe, including internationally and through the media.
Desirable	Success in securing major external research funding, as well as the ability to encourage and assist others in making such applications
Desirable	Success in promoting a wide public understanding of contemporary European history and/or in demonstrating the impact of research in the field beyond the academy
Teaching	
Essential	Ability to educate and inspire students in history at all levels, and a proven ability to foster a high level of achievement in graduate and undergraduate students
Essential	A demonstrable record of successful doctoral supervision and a commitment to the development of new Masters courses in contemporary European history
Essential	A commitment to the leadership, enrichment, and development of Oxford's postgraduate community in contemporary European history
Personal effectiveness	
Essential	Outstanding interpersonal skills and the intellectual ability to engage with, inspire and mentor colleagues, students and researchers at all levels, and to foster a positive, inclusive and productive environment in which to work and study
Essential	Professionalism as a colleague, and evidence of interest and effectiveness in promoting a culture of equality and diversity in the workplace
Essential	Willingness to take on senior administrative and leadership roles
Desirable	Interest and effectiveness in alumni relations, fund-raising for academic posts, student support and/or other relevant projects

How to apply

To apply, visit https://my.corehr.com/pls/uoxrecruit/erq_jobspec_details_form.jobspec?p_id=177349, 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 February 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 or contact the chair of the Faculty Board, Professor Martin Conway (martin.conway@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.

St. Antony's College

St Antony's College is one of the seven colleges of the University of Oxford which admit graduate students only. St Antony's chosen field is the interdisciplinary study of the modern history, politics, international relations, economics, sociology and culture of the regions of the world. It provides an informal and multicultural environment for advanced research and postgraduate education and has become the leading European centre for international studies, competing with the best graduate schools in the United States.

Like other Oxford colleges, the College is an independent self-governing institution. Its Governing Body consists of around 40 Fellows and is chaired by the Head of the College (known as the Warden). The Fellows are distinguished scholars in their chosen fields and most of them hold senior academic posts in the University. Each conducts their own research programme and almost all of them supervise postgraduate students from St Antony's and other colleges. Some Fellows teach undergraduates as well and also take part in University and College administration.

The current Warden, Professor Roger Goodman, was a student at the College. Immediately before becoming Warden, he was Head of the Social Sciences Division at Oxford between 2008 and 2017. He was Chair and President of the Academy of Social Sciences between 2016 and 2021.

The College has seven regional research centres, which cover Africa, Asia (except Japan), Europe, Japan, Latin America, the Middle East, Russia and the rest of the former Soviet Union. Most of the Centres are based on the College's campus in converted Victorian houses. Each Centre is run by a Centre Director who is normally a Governing Body Fellow of the College.

For more information please visit: <https://www.sant.ox.ac.uk/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 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 Eleanor Rathbone Professor shall undertake research, lecture and give instruction in contemporary European 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

As a Fellow of St Antony's College, you will be entitled to the following benefits:

- A taxable and pensionable Housing Allowance. This is £2,871 per annum in 2024/25 and is increased annually in line with University cost of living awards;
- College IT support in ensuring that their devices link with the College's networks, and in troubleshooting simple difficulties. Their computer will be provided by the History Faculty;
- An office located in the European Studies Centre of the College;
- Use of the College Library with the right to borrow books when resident in Oxford;
- The opportunity to join the Oxford Colleges' Healthcare scheme as long as it is the College's policy to provide this benefit;
- Free meals at common table (lunches and evening meals in the College Hall when it is open);
- 12 free High or Guest Night Tables each term. This dining allowance may also be used to host academic and business guests;
- Membership of the College's Senior Common Room;
- Car parking in the College's car parks, which is normally available if they live more than three miles from the College