



Harold Vyvyan Harmsworth Visiting Professorship of American History in association with The Queen's College

The Harmsworth Visiting Professorship is an exciting opportunity for a highly distinguished researcher working in the field of American History. Applications are now invited for the academic years 2025-26, 2026-27 and 2027-28. The tenure of each professorship is for 12 months.

History of the Professorship

The Harmsworth Professorship, inaugurated in 1922, was established by the 1st Viscount Rothermere in memory of his son Vyvyan, who died in the First World War. Since then it has been held by a series of distinguished historians of the United States. Recent holders of the Harmsworth Visiting Professorship include Professor Patrick Griffin (Notre Dame), Professor Peter Mancall (University of Southern California), Professor Barbara Savage (University of Pennsylvania), and Professor Annette Gordon-Reed (Harvard). A list of [previous holders of the Harmsworth Professorship](#) is available on The Queen's College website.

The Professor will be made a Fellow of The Queen's College and a Senior Fellow of the Rothermere American Institute (RAI), which is Oxford's research centre for the study of the United States and its place in the world.

Duties of the Harmsworth Visiting Professor

The duties of the Harmsworth Professor are to engage as fully as possible with the intellectual life of the Rothermere American Institute and the Faculty of History. In particular, we look forward to your presence and leadership at graduate student workshops and research seminars in American history. You will be expected to deliver the equivalent of thirty-six lectures or classes through teaching on one or more Masters or undergraduate class. Past Harmsworth professors have played a vital role in supporting graduate students and post-doctoral researchers. You will discuss the details of your contribution with relevant colleagues in advance of your arrival in Oxford. We will expect you to be present in Oxford during full term, although we also encourage Harmsworth professors to accept invitations to speak at other UK universities during their tenure.

You will be required to give a prestigious public lecture on a topic of your own choosing. The details in respect of this lecture will be agreed between yourself, the Electors to the Harmsworth Professorship, and The Queen's College. The lecture is normally held during the Michaelmas (Fall) Term.

You will be given an office in the RAI.

The Faculty of History

The Faculty of History in Oxford is the largest in the United Kingdom and one of the largest in the world. It has an outstanding international reputation for its scholarship and its teaching of undergraduate and graduate students, with particular strengths in the history of the British Isles, continental Europe, imperial and global history, the United States, economic and social history, intellectual history and the history of science, medicine and technology. Its lively and varied research seminars and the major resources for research available in the University make Oxford a uniquely attractive research environment for historical scholarship of all kinds. Within the Faculty there is also a department for the History of Art and a number of dedicated research centres.

The Faculty is located in the Old Boys' High School, George Street. This is a very central location, less than 10 minutes' walk from the rail station, and very close to bus station, shops and other University locations. The premises house a community of around 25 administrative staff and up to 30 other users, comprising doctoral students, researchers, and academics and professors. The building is also used for teaching and seminars. In 2025 the Faculty is expected to move to the new Stephen A. Schwarzman Centre for the Humanities.

The Faculty holds a bronze Athena Swan award to recognise advancement of gender equality: representation, progression and success for all.

More information about the Faculty can be found at: www.history.ox.ac.uk

The Rothermere American Institute (RAI)

The RAI is Oxford's centre for the study of the United States and its place in the world. Its mission is to support research in Oxford and beyond, to act as a catalyst for interdisciplinary work and research collaboration, and to engage non-university audiences, all with the aim of improving the scholarly and public understanding of America. The RAI's activity falls into three broad areas: hosting/supporting academic and public events, hosting Visiting Fellows, and directly supporting research. Its public programmes include a podcast, online and in-person lectures, and an annual event for schools.

The RAI community includes a large number of graduate students; the academic post-holders in US History, American Literature and US politics; two Junior Research Fellowships in US history; several Fellows-in-Residence; a group of Distinguished Fellows; and a wide group of early career researchers, retired colleagues and many others. The RAI collaborates widely with other research institutes in the University. The RAI's Vere Harmsworth Library offers the strongest collection in US history in Europe, including a wide range of digital resources for the study of twentieth-century US history.

The current RAI Director is the Edward Orsborn Professor of US Politics and Political History, Professor Adam Smith. The RAI has a small but dedicated staff including a full-time Administrator and two part-time Administration and Finance assistants. Opened by President Clinton in 2001, the RAI and its sister institution the Vere Harmsworth Library are housed in a magnificent modern building in the centre of Oxford.

For more information please visit: www.rai.ox.ac.uk.

The Queen's College

The Harmsworth Visiting Professorship carries with it an entitlement to a non-stipendiary Professorial Fellowship at The Queen's College. As a result you will be able to participate in the academic, intellectual and social life of the college. You will be a member of the Senior Common Room and will have dining rights (free of charge) at the Common Table.

The Queen's College is one of the oldest colleges in the University of Oxford and is conveniently and prominently situated on Oxford's High Street. Founded in 1341, it consists of splendid 17th- and 18th-century buildings, which replaced those of its mediaeval foundation, as well as more modern residential buildings in nearby parts of the city.

In addition to approximately 45 Fellows, 160 graduate students and 330 undergraduates, the College has two Tutorial Fellows in History, Conor O'Brien and Meleisa Ono-George. Dr O'Brien researches the early Middle Ages, with a particular interest in religious history and in the histories of Ireland and Britain. Dr Ono-George is a social-cultural historian of race and gender, with a focus on Black women's histories in Britain and the Anglo-Caribbean and a particular interest in community-engaged and Caribbean research methodologies.

More information about The Queen's College can be found at www.queens.ox.ac.uk.

Diversity and Equal Opportunity

The History Faculty, the Rothermere Institute, and The Queen's College embrace diversity and equal opportunity. Expressions of interest are particularly welcome from women and black and minority ethnic candidates, who are under-represented in academic posts in Oxford. The more inclusive we are, the better our work will be.

We also share the University's commitment 'to fostering an inclusive culture which promotes equality, values diversity and maintains a working, learning and social environment in which the rights and dignity of all its staff and students are respected.' The University's full policy is available at: <https://edu.admin.ox.ac.uk/equality-policy>

We are committed to the principles of equal opportunities and respect for individuals in creating and maintaining an inclusive environment that represents a variety of backgrounds, perspectives, and skills. We value and celebrate diversity and feel that is critical to achieving our strategic aims and long-term success. We work to recruit employees and admit students from a wide range of backgrounds and promote an inclusive culture in which:

- everyone feels that they are valued and can work to achieve their potential;
- opportunities are open to everyone, and decisions are based on merit and are free from bias; and
- all of our current and prospective students, staff, and visitors are treated fairly and with dignity and respect, and do not face discrimination.

Stipend

You will be paid a stipend of £77,312 for the academic year (at 2023 rates). Most previous holders' tenure have coincided with a period of sabbatical leave from their home institution.

Travel expenses

The University will reimburse you for the cost of one round trip from the US to Oxford for you (and your spouse/partner/children if applicable).

Accommodation

The Rothermere Foundation provide a 4 bedroom furnished house for the Harmsworth Professor. You would not pay rent, but would be expected to cover the cost of utilities and all other normal domestic expenses.

Eligibility

You will be a highly distinguished academic working in the field of American History. We invite applications across all historical periods and methodological approaches, although the electors may take these into account to achieve a balance across the three appointments to the Harmsworth Visiting Professorship in each recruitment cycle.

If you will require a visa in order to take up this position in the UK, it will be your responsibility to obtain a visa, although the University will provide advice and assistance as necessary.

How to apply

The closing date for applications is 12:00 (UK time) on **Monday 16 October 2023**.

Applications are to be made online at

https://my.corehr.com/pls/uoxrecruit/erq_jobspec_details_form.jobspec?p_id=167664.

Please complete the application form and give details of three referees. You should upload the following documents with your application:

- your CV (including publications list)
- a covering letter including:
 - an outline of the research you would plan to undertake at Oxford during your tenure as the Harmsworth Visiting Professor
 - an indication of how your work would complement that of the History Faculty and the Rothermere American Institute, including any topics you could offer to teach at undergraduate or graduate level
 - your availability for the academic years 2025-26, 2026-27, 2027-28, and any preferences

Contact details

For an informal discussion about this post, please contact Professor Adam Smith, Director of the Rothermere American Institute, on +44 (0)1865 282731 or adam.smith@rai.ox.ac.uk. For enquiries about the application process, please contact Sue Morris, on professorships@admin.ox.ac.uk.