

Research Fellowship in South Caucasus Studies

Full Particulars and Information about St. Antony's College and the Russian and Eurasian Studies Centre

February 2014

1. Particulars of the Fellowship

The Russian and Eurasian Studies Centre of St. Antony's College, Oxford, in association with the Academic Swiss Caucasus Net (ASCN) at the University of Fribourg, Switzerland, invites applications for a newly established postdoctoral Research Fellowship in South Caucasus Studies. The fellowship is tenable for one year (1 October 2014 – 30 September 2015) and will be attached to St. Antony's College.

Applications are open to all Armenian and Georgian citizens, with priority to be given to those who are normally resident in Armenia or Georgia. They should be social science scholars, with a doctorate awarded less than seven years ago. Preference will be given to candidates with several years of research activities at institutions other than where they obtained their doctorate and a record of research publications.

The Fellow will be expected to be resident in Oxford for the duration of the Fellowship, to conduct and present independent research on the South Caucasus and to engage fully with the intellectual life of the Russian and Eurasian Studies Centre as well as St Antony's College more broadly. The Fellow will be expected to organise one or more seminars in their field of study and to present their research at the College.

The Fellowship carries a stipend of £20,600 for the year. The taxation treatment in the UK and elsewhere will depend on the individual circumstances of the candidate and independent personal advice should be taken as necessary. The costs of international travel to/from Oxford at the start and end of the Fellowship will be covered. The Fellow will be provided office space and facilities, a High Table (dining) allowance and mentoring support. The Fellow will have access to all advertised events (seminars, lectures etc.) at the College and Oxford University as a whole.

There is no application form. Applications should consist of a *curriculum vitae*/resumé, a research proposal of not more than three pages, a covering letter, a copy of the passport and the names, addresses and email addresses of three referees. **The deadline for applications is 15 April 2014.** Applications should be sent by email to the ASCN at tamara.brunner@unifr.ch with the following email subject line: ASCN Oxford Fellowship 2014. Shortlisted candidates will be interviewed by the selection committee in Tbilisi on 23 May 2014.

Duties of the post

The successful candidate will be a scholar in the social sciences with a developing record of research and publications on the South Caucasus, which may focus on one or more states in the region.

Applications are encouraged from candidates with a primary specialisation in disciplines including, but not limited to, Political Science, International Relations, Sociology and Social Anthropology. Fluent English is essential.

Besides pursuing his or her own research, the successful candidate will be encouraged to organise one or more seminars in the broad field of South Caucasus studies, to play an active part in the academic and intellectual activities of the Russian and Eurasian Studies Centre and where appropriate contribute to wider college activities.

Person specification

Applications will be judged against the criteria which are set out below. Applicants should make sure that their application shows how they believe that their skills and experience meet these criteria.

The successful candidate will demonstrate the following:

Essential

Candidates should provide evidence of:

- A doctorate in an area relevant to the post, awarded less than seven years ago.
- A developing record of social science research and publications on the South Caucasus.
- An imaginative research project that can be conducted in one year.
- Good communication skills.
- Fluent English.

Candidates should be:

- Armenian or Georgian citizens. Priority will be given to those normally resident in Armenia or Georgia.

Desirable

Candidates should have:

- Commitment to work in an interdisciplinary research centre on Russia and Eurasia.
- Willingness to contribute to the intellectual life of the Russian and Eurasian Studies Centre and St Antony's College.
- Interest in developing the study of social sciences in Armenia or Georgia.

2. St Antony's College, Oxford

St Antony's College was founded in 1950 as a graduate college within the University of Oxford. Its 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 and adding a uniquely European viewpoint to its international vision.

During its 62 years, St Antony's has had five Wardens: Sir William Deakin (1950-68), Sir Raymond Carr (1968-87), Sir Ralf (later Lord) Dahrendorf (1987-97), Sir Marrack Goulding (1997-2006), and the current Warden, Professor Margaret MacMillan.

Like other Oxford colleges, the College is an independent self-governing institution. Its Governing Body consists of between 35 and 45 Fellows and is chaired by the Warden. The Fellows are distinguished scholars in their chosen fields and most of them hold senior academic posts in the University. Each conducts his or her own research programme. Almost all of them supervise postgraduate students from St Antony's and other colleges and some teach undergraduates as well. They also take part in University and College administration.

St Antony's is one of the seven colleges of the University of Oxford which admit graduate students only. It is the most international of the University's colleges both in the composition of its student body and in its concentration on international studies.

The College has seven regional Centres which cover Europe, Africa, Asia (except Japan), Japan, Latin America, the Middle East, and Russia and the rest of the former Soviet Union. Most of the Centres are housed 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.

Fellows and visitors are normally attached to one of these Centres, forming an interdisciplinary team which works together in postgraduate teaching and applied research on the region concerned. Weekly seminars are open to all members of the University and visiting scholars. The Centres also organise one- or two-day conferences and workshops. Each attracts academic visitors from all over the world, as well as practitioners in government and business, who come to the Centre for insights and advice on current developments and future prospects in its region. Together the Centres provide a unique inter-disciplinary and inter-regional overview of the process of globalisation.

St Antony's has between 450 and 550 postgraduate students working on taught master's courses and research-based doctorates. Coming from more than seventy countries, they learn from each other's experience and broaden their understanding of the world. They also benefit from the experience and scholarship of the hundred or more senior visitors whom St Antony's welcomes each year, including world-renowned scholars, businesspeople, politicians and government officials.

St Antony's College website: www.sant.ox.ac.uk

The Russian and Eurasian Studies Centre

The Russian and Eurasian Studies Centre was launched in 2003 to carry forward the work of the internationally renowned Russian and East European Studies Centre, established in 1953. The Centre is a major component of research on Russia, Ukraine, the South Caucasus and Central Asia at Oxford University. In matters

relating to this last area it has close links with the Oxford Society for the Caspian and Central Asia (TOSCCA).

Approximately half of all graduate students in one branch or another of Russian studies at Oxford University come to St Antony's.

Its former students occupy very prominent positions in academia, politics, the higher reaches of journalism, the civil service and international financial institutions.

The Centre organises seminars, addressed by visiting speakers, which have been weekly in term-time throughout the past fifty years. They have drawn in the most outstanding scholars in the field who come to Oxford both from the countries which are the object of study and from Western Europe, North America, Australia and elsewhere.

There are three senior (Governing Body) Fellows at St Antony's involved in teaching and research in the field of Russian and Eurasian studies. The Max Hayward Research Fellowship in Russian Literature is offered every other year. Between them, the Centre Fellows cover Twentieth Century Russian history, Russian and Soviet politics, Russian and Eurasian foreign policy, Russian literature and culture, and the economics of Russia, Ukraine and Central Asia.

Centre website: www.sant.ox.ac.uk/russian