

AHRC Collaborative Doctoral Partnership (CDP) studentship – *Acquiring the Mediterranean: exploring local agencies in the acquisition of antiquities from Greece and the Ottoman Empire by Charles Newton at the British Museum, 1861–1886.* Faculty of Classics, University of Cambridge and the British Museum.

Start date: 1 October 2024

Application deadline: 7 June 2024

Interview date: 20 June 2024 (in person in London, or online if required)

The University of Cambridge, and the British Museum are pleased to announce a fully funded Collaborative doctoral studentship from October 2024 under the AHRC's [Collaborative Doctoral Partnerships \(CDP\) scheme](#).

The project explores the acquisition of ancient Mediterranean artefacts by the British Museum from Greece and the Ottoman Empire in the later nineteenth century with a central focus on the role of local agents (from antiquities dealers to village diggers), drawing on the extensive archival and object collections of the British Museum.

This project will be jointly supervised by Dr Yannis Galanakis (Faculty of Classics, University of Cambridge) and Dr Thomas Kiely (Department of Greece and Rome, British Museum) and the student will be expected to spend time at both the University of Cambridge and the British Museum, as well as becoming part of the wider cohort of CDP funded students across the UK.

The studentship can be studied either full or part-time.

The studentship competition is fully open. We encourage the widest range of potential students from diverse academic trajectories to apply for this CDP studentship. We are also committed to welcoming students from different backgrounds, particularly welcoming applications from Black, Asian, Minority, Ethnic (BAME) backgrounds as they are currently underrepresented at this level in this area.

Students should have a Master's degree in a relevant subject (such as anthropology/sociology, archaeology, art history, classics, history, modern languages, museum studies or related disciplines), or can demonstrate equivalent experience in a professional setting (including, but not exclusively, a museum or heritage body). The collaborative nature of the project will allow the successful candidate to develop skills and empirical knowledge outside their core training and experience, though a demonstrable interest in material culture and archives is highly desirable.

The studentship is open to both home and international applicants.

Project overview

Focusing on Greece, Turkey and Cyprus c. 1850–1900, this project will explore the trade in antiquities in the later 19th century from the perspective of local agents, from village diggers to established dealers. Going beyond traditional emphases on heroic excavators and famous collectors, it aims to examine how the antiquities trade was generated within the ‘source countries’ themselves, and to explore the backgrounds and motivations of local individuals and communities who played a central role in this trade. Modern ethical and political responses to dealing and trafficking have obscured the biographies and agency of many of the ‘hidden hands’ of antiquities collecting.

Drawing on theoretical insights from recent work across a range of disciplines (especially history of collections), the project will be rooted in objects and their associated, yet largely unexplored, archival documentation from the period of Charles Newton, a central figure in the formation of the British Museum’s Mediterranean collections in the second half of the nineteenth century.

Adopting a comparative European framework, the project aims to reconstruct the personal and commercial networks in operation and examine the socio-cultural and economic history of the trade. It also aims to explore the choice and mechanisms guiding the acquisitions for the collection.

This project will contribute to the better understanding of the provenance and collection histories of the museums included in the study for comparative purposes (especially other UK collections, but also Athens, Berlin, and Paris). It therefore has broader implications for our understanding of how modern museums – through acquiring and displaying ancient Mediterranean artefacts – shaped emerging European identities and colonial attitudes. It will also help ground contemporary debates on illicit antiquities and restitution within a long-term historical context.

Key research questions

The successful candidate is encouraged and expected to develop the project in line with their evolving research and interests/background, but key research questions might include:

- 1) Who were the local people behind the antiquities trade, and how did they shape the trade in the period under investigation within the legal, cultural and economic realities of the time?
- 2) What objects were being sought, how many were bought by the museum, and how were they ‘valued’ (economically as well as aesthetically)?
- 3) How can we use critical historiography to examine 19th-century realities within the context of modern ethical discussions on casual excavation and trading in antiquities?

Research with the British Museum

This research studentship is allocated to the British Museum by the AHRC to also support the work of Dr Thomas Kiely. The successful student will be expected to spend time carrying out research and gaining relevant skills as well as work experience with the partner in the British Museum as part of their studentship. They will benefit from exceptional access to the archives and collections of the museums, as well as its library facilities, and from being part of a working museum environment throughout the duration of the project. The student will be supported to undertake internships and

work experience within the British Museum to expand their knowledge and experience of museum activities beyond the core project (e.g. collection documentation and curatorial work, including artefact study; archival activity; public programmes activities). Internships in other museums or institutions will also be possible, whether for research or for career building.

Details of award

CDP doctoral training grants fund a full-time studentship for 4 years or part-time equivalent up to a maximum of 8 year. The award pays tuition fees up to the value of the full-time home UKRI rate for PhD degrees. Research Councils UK Indicative Fee Level for 2024/2025 is **£4,786***

The award pays a full maintenance stipend for all students both home and international students. For 2024/25 this will be **£20,837** for the year. There is also an additional maintenance payment of £600/year because this is a Collaborative Doctoral Studentship, and an additional payment of £1000 a year because the British Museum is based in London. This stipend is usually non-taxable.

The student is eligible to receive an additional 'travel and related expenses' grant during the course of the project courtesy of the British Museum worth up to £1500 per year for 4 years. Additional research funding is provided by the Faculty of Classics on an annual basis (currently set at £1,000 per year for travel related to research).

The successful candidate will be eligible to participate in events organised for all Collaborative Doctoral Partnership students who are registered with different universities and studying with cultural and heritage organisations across the UK.

Eligibility

- This studentship is open to both Home and International applicants.
- To be classed as a home student, candidates must meet the following criteria:
 - Be a UK National (meeting residency requirements), or
 - Have settled status, or
 - Have pre-settled status (meeting residency requirements), or
 - Have indefinite leave to remain.

Further guidance can be found here - <https://www.ukri.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/UKRI-030221-Guidance-International-Eligibility-Implementation-training-grant-holders-V2.pdf>

- International students are eligible to receive the full award for maintenance as are home students.
- We want to encourage the widest range of potential students to study for a CDP studentship and are committed to welcoming students from different backgrounds to apply. We particularly welcome applications from Black, Asian, Minority, Ethnic (BAME) backgrounds, as they are currently underrepresented at this level in this area.

- Applicants should ideally have or expect to receive a relevant Masters-level qualification in a relevant subject. Given the broad ranging nature of the project, this might include anthropology/sociology, archaeology, art history, classics, history, modern languages, museum studies and related disciplines. Alternatively, they must be able to demonstrate equivalent experience in a professional setting (for example working within a museum or heritage organisation in a relevant area, including areas such as provenance research).
- Given the nature of this project, language knowledge beyond English relevant for this research is desirable (e.g., German, Greek, Italian, French, Turkish).
- Applicants must be able to demonstrate an interest in the museum sector and/or related subjects as well as potential and enthusiasm for developing skills more widely in related areas where relevant (for example artefact studies).
- As a collaborative award, students will be expected to spend significant periods of time at both the University and the British Museum.

NB. All applicants must meet UKRI terms and conditions for funding. See:

<https://www.ukri.org/funding/information-for-award-holders/grant-terms-and-conditions/>

How to apply

Applications will need to be made through the University Graduate Application Portal:

<https://www.postgraduate.study.cam.ac.uk/courses/directory/clclpdpcl> with Dr Yannis Galanakis identified as the University supervisor. Quote 'Acquiring the Mediterranean' in the proposed title of research and in any correspondence about this studentship.

You will be asked to submit the following documents:

- A max 400-word personal statement introducing yourself, describing your motivation and suitability for PhD research and explaining why you are applying for this studentship and how it supports your future career aspirations. Any ideas you may have as to how you would like to shape this project would be most welcome.
- A writing sample, in English (between 5000 and 10,000 words)
- A CV, including publications (if any)
- Transcript(s) of your degree(s)
- Evidence of competence in English (if required):
<https://www.graduate.study.cam.ac.uk/international-students/competence-english/will-i-have-language-requirement>
- Two academic references. **Please ensure your referees submit their letters by the deadline.**

In the section of the application about 'attainments', please add your museum and/or archaeological experience (including any archival and/or fieldwork skills), language skills (ancient and modern), and any other relevant and proven research abilities that you think would strengthen your application.

The University values diversity and is committed to equality of opportunity. There are no fees for applying.

Contact: Mrs Lina Undicino (graduate.secretary@classics.cam.ac.uk)