

# Oxford Centre for Islamic Studies

*An institution for the advanced study of Islam and the Muslim world*



## **Fellowship in the History of Islamic Art and Material Culture**

**Salary: £36,024 - £44,263**

Applications are invited for a Fellowship which will develop and co-ordinate the Centre's activities in the History of Islamic Art and Material Culture.

The appointment will initially be for a period of two years.

The Fellowship carries a stipend of £36,024 - £44,263 (depending on qualifications and experience).

The successful candidate should hold a doctorate in a relevant subject and have significant post-doctoral research experience, including a strong publication record. Curatorial experience is desirable.

Further information about the position and the Centre is available on the Centre's website [www.oxcis.ac.uk/vacancies](http://www.oxcis.ac.uk/vacancies).

The closing date for applications is **20<sup>th</sup> May 2025**.

## OXFORD CENTRE FOR ISLAMIC STUDIES

### Job description

**The Oxford Centre for Islamic Studies** (OCIS) is seeking a dynamic early-career scholar to join as **Fellow in the History of Islamic Art and Material Culture**, with strong potential for a curatorial dimension. This unique role combines academic research and public engagement with the chance to shape exhibitions and outreach projects in partnership with institutions in Oxford and beyond.

The main duties and responsibilities of this post holder include:

- Manage and develop their own academic research, publications and associated activities within the **history of art, architecture and/or the material culture of the Islamic world** (c. 650– 1800 CE). This may involve small scale project management and coordination.
- Develop new research on the **history of art, architecture, and/or the material culture of the Islamic world** (c. 650– 1800 CE) with a focus on the Arabic / Persian / Turkish-speaking worlds and its material culture, reviewing and refining methodologies and theories as appropriate.
- Participate in collaborative research initiatives across OCIS and the wider University.
- Engage in graduate teaching and public outreach in the history of art, architecture, and/or material culture of the Islamic world.
- Contribute to the Centre's broader gallery and exhibition programme, helping shape public-facing projects; this may involve collaborations with the History of Science Museum and other institutions in Oxford and beyond.
- Contribute to grant writing and project development for future research and exhibition work.

## Selection criteria

- A relevant PhD/DPhil with post-doctoral research experience.
- A publication record of international standing appropriate to the career stage.
- Familiarity with the existing literature and sufficient specialist knowledge in the discipline to develop research projects and methodologies.
- An ability to initiate and oversee curatorial activities of the Centre with broader Oxford community and international partners in the Centre's gallery space.
- Ability to plan and manage a research project independently, and to raise Programme and research funds from external sources.
- Excellent communication, interpersonal, and organisational skills.
- An ability to connect with relevant fellows
- An ability to work with primary sources in Arabic, Ottoman Turkish, Persian, or another relevant language.

## Further particulars

The Oxford Centre for Islamic Studies invites applications for a Fellowship to co-ordinate and develop the Centre's interest in Islamic Art and Material Culture.

The post offers several opportunities:

- **Academic Excellence Meets Public Engagement:** This is a rare opportunity to combine scholarly depth with hands-on curatorial experience.
- **Cross-Institutional Collaboration:** Be part of a vibrant, interdisciplinary network spanning OCIS, the History of Science Museum, and the University of Oxford.
- **Global Storytelling:** Shape how Islamic visual culture is represented and interpreted in one of the most diverse museum and academic settings in the UK.
- **Legacy-Building Work:** Help to continue and grow an ambitious programme that highlights the artistic contributions of the Islamic world.

The successful candidate will report to the Centre's Director and will be required to work with the Director in developing a research agenda and international networking in the field and, where relevant, to research funding opportunities in this area (including the preparation and submission of grant applications where appropriate).

The appointment will initially be for a **period of two years**.

The Fellowship carries a stipend of **£36,024 - £44,263** (depending on qualifications and experience).

This is a full-time position, and the successful candidate would be expected to be in full-time residence in Oxford.

The Centre also offers the following benefits:

- Membership of the Universities' Superannuation Scheme (USS pension scheme).
- Membership of the Centre's Common Room.
- Lunches during term time.
- Annual salary reviews.
- Office and IT facilities.

Applications should be made in the form of a current CV, list of publications and covering letter with names of two referees. Candidates should request references from their referees, which should be signed and dated, and emailed directly to [recruitment@oxcis.ac.uk](mailto:recruitment@oxcis.ac.uk) by the closing date.

Applications must arrive at the Centre by **20<sup>th</sup> May 2025**.

Further information on the Centre's activities is available from the Centre's website

[www.oxcis.ac.uk](http://www.oxcis.ac.uk)

**Background to the Oxford Centre for Islamic Studies**

## **About the Centre**

Established in 1985, the Oxford Centre for Islamic Studies is incorporated by Royal Charter and is registered as a charity (number 293072). The Patron of the Centre is HM King Charles III.

The Centre is committed to the advancement of academic excellence in teaching, research and publication. The Fellowship is drawn from a variety of academic disciplines including anthropology, Asian and Middle Eastern studies, development studies, history, and theology and religion, and science and technology.

The research profile is similarly diverse, ranging from regionally based study of the intellectual roots of Muslim civilisation and contemporary social movements in the Islamic world to investigations into the theory and practice of Islamic financial management, and the relationships between the sciences and Muslim societies.

The Centre has a thriving publications programme, which includes the *Journal of Islamic Studies*, which is published three times a year by Oxford University Press since 1990. It aims to encourage interaction among academics from diverse traditions of learning to enable the dissemination of their research and reflections. The Centre also facilitates, and actively encourages, the publication of monographs and other works by Centre Fellows.

The Centre's Library provides valuable and unique resources. It houses approximately 49,000 volumes and 360 manuscripts. The library collection is fully searchable on SOLO, the Oxford University's online library catalogue.

Potential applicants can find out more about the Oxford Centre for Islamic Studies at [www.oxcis.ac.uk](http://www.oxcis.ac.uk).

## **The Centre buildings**

The Centre occupies purpose-built premises on a 3.25-acre site on the Marston Road, Oxford. The complex of buildings combines the academic, social, and residential functions of the Centre, and is a physical symbol of partnership, tolerance, and friendship between the Islamic and Western worlds of learning. The Centre's buildings blend architectural features from traditional Oxford and Islamic collegiate architecture. They provide the Centre with accommodation for up to 54 students and Visiting Fellows, a dining hall, a mosque, an auditorium, beautifully landscaped gardens, cloisters and quadrangles, as well as teaching and seminar rooms.

## **Right to work in the United Kingdom**

As required by The Immigration, Asylum and Nationality Act 2006 applicants will be asked to provide proof of their right to work in the UK before employment can commence. Please note that original documents will be required. Where such documents are not in English, a certified translation is necessary. Please do not include these documents with your application. A request

for the relevant information will be made at a later stage.

### **Equality and diversity**

The Centre is committed to the principle and practice of equality of opportunity. The Centre seeks to ensure that all candidates are treated fairly, and that selection is based on individual merit and selection criteria relevant to the post.