

Further Particulars

Job title	Asoke Kumar Sarkar Early Career Fellowship in Classical Indology
Location	Balliol College, Oxford, OX1 3BJ
Contract type	Fixed term for three years
Salary	Grade 6 of the Oxford salary scale, starting at stage 4, rising to stage 6 (currently £33,314 to £35,333)

Thanks to a generous endowment donation by the ABP Pvt Ltd of India in honour of long-term owner and editor-in-chief of *Anandabazar Patrika*, Asoke Kumar Sarkar, the College proposes to elect a fixed-term stipendiary Early Career Fellow in Classical Indology. The Asoke Kumar Sarkar Early Career Fellowship will be for three years, commencing at the start of academic year 2023/24 (1 October 2023) or as soon as possible thereafter. The post-holder will not be a Trustee of the College, and in its Statutes will be elected to a non-Governing Body Research Fellowship. Previous holders of the fellowship include: [Dr Anand Venkatkrishnan](#), [Dr Aleksandra Restifo](#), and [Dr Seema Chauhan](#).

Main duties & responsibilities

The main duty of the Fellow will be to undertake research, and to contribute to the College's academic culture. They will be expected to report annually to the Governing Body of the College on research activity and outcomes in a branch of Classical Indology. Applications are particularly encouraged from those working on research projects in Sanskrit, or on the relationship between Bengali language and literature and its classical foundations.

The Fellow will be required to participate in the admission to Balliol College of undergraduate and graduate students applying for [Asian and Middle Eastern Studies](#) courses, and to assist in [the College's oversight of its students in the Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies](#) (of whom there are around 6-8 undergraduates in residence at any one time, with a larger number of resident graduates). Further participation in the educational activities of the College, including a small amount of paid tutorial teaching, would be welcomed, but is not obligatory.

Skills & experience required

To be eligible for the Asoke Kumar Sarkar Early Career Fellowship, candidates will:

1. hold, or be close to completing, a doctoral degree in a relevant field;
2. be aspiring to a substantive academic appointment;

3. normally have at least one peer-reviewed publication either published or in press;
4. plan to work on a well-designed project that requires innovative and independent research and that can be achieved during the period of the fellowship;
5. be proficient in a branch of Classical Indology; ordinarily Sanskrit and one other Indian language, with applicants proficient in Bengali particularly welcome;
6. show outstanding promise in their field;
7. have a commitment to their own professional development.

Candidates who hold, or have held, a permanent academic appointment will not be eligible.

Balliol College

There are 38 self-governing and independent colleges at Oxford, giving both academic staff and students the benefits of belonging to a small, interdisciplinary community as well as to a large, internationally-renowned institution. The collegiate system fosters a strong sense of community, bringing together leading academics and students across subjects, and from different cultures and countries.

Balliol is one of the best known of all the Oxford colleges. It combines an outstanding academic reputation and strong sense of collective identity with a welcoming and cosmopolitan environment. It has approaching 400 undergraduates and a roughly equal number of graduates.

The College's 70 Fellows, among whom at any one time there will be several early career academics, are from a wide diversity of disciplines and backgrounds. They include [Professor James Mallinson](#), who has recently been appointed as Boden Professor of Sanskrit; Professor Kate Crosby, the Yehan Numata Chair of Buddhist Studies, and the College has particular strengths in History, Classics, and Modern Languages and Literature.

College research context

The College has a small library for Indological studies, being particularly strong in reference works for the study of Sanskrit. Its project on [Balliol and Empire](#) leaves scope for more archival research into the College's role in the creation of the Indian Institute, and its role in the recruitment and training of Indian Civil Service officers, along with a history of the College's involvement in the development of classical Indian studies in Britain and India during the period of the East India Company and the empire. More information about the College may be found on its [website](#).

Oxford University

The [Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies](#), located on a number of sites but with its base

at Pusey Lane in the centre of Oxford, is one of the largest institutions of its kind in Europe. The staff teach and research the ancient and modern languages, literatures, and histories of the Near and Middle East, South Asia, and East Asia. The Faculty is not departmentalized, but is divided into subject groups, the relevant one for this post being the South and Inner Asia subject group. The Faculty has active programmes in the study of Sanskrit, Pali, Prakrit, Tibetan, Hindi, and Urdu language and literature, and comparable programmes in Arabic and Persian language, literature, and history, as well as in early modern Indian social and intellectual history. An application for associate membership in the Faculty will be made on behalf of the successful candidate.

The Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies has some 180 undergraduate students and 250 postgraduate students (120 taught, 130 research) and over 90 teaching and research staff working across a wide range of subjects. The Faculty is committed to the view that its disciplines must be studied on the basis of mastery of the original languages in which they were communicated. It is constantly developing programmes of teaching and research on regions from Japan in the East to Muslim Spain in the West, and from late prehistory to the present day. Approaches and disciplines range widely, including language, literature, history, social sciences, archaeology and art history, among others.

Library Provision

Oxford has excellent library resources in Indian Studies and related subjects, both in the Bodleian Library and in the Indian Institute Library, which is part of the Oxford University Library Services. The Oriental Manuscripts department at the Bodleian possesses one of the finest collections of pre-modern South Asian manuscripts in the world.

Key libraries include:

- The Bodleian Library (a copyright library with some 6 million books);
- The Asian and Middle Eastern Special Collections in the Bodleian;
- The Nizami Ganjavi Library (the library of the Asian and Middle Eastern Studies Faculty)
- The Indian Institute Library (now housed in the Bodleian's Weston Library);
- The Sackler Library (Eastern Art, Ancient History and Classical Archaeology);
- The Theology Faculty Library.

The range of central University provision is supported by college libraries. The SOLO cataloguing system incorporates the holdings of all major and most college libraries.

The University and colleges also house a number of excellent museum collections supported by expert curators, notably the Ashmolean Museum and the Museum for the History of Science, and the Christ Church Picture Gallery.

College pay and benefits

1. Pay: the Early Career Fellow (ECF) will be appointed on Grade 6 of the Oxford salary scale, starting at stage 4 (£33,314), rising after successful completion of probation by one point annually to stage 6 (currently £35,333) in year 3.
2. Pension: the ECF will have the option of becoming or remaining a member of the Universities Superannuation Scheme (USS).
3. College Benefits: the ECF will be offered single accommodation in College if any is available, for which a modest rent will be charged (currently £8,350 p.a.).
4. An office (which may be shared) will be provided.
5. The ECF will be a full Member of the Senior Common Room and will be entitled to full dining rights at the College whenever the kitchens are open (noting that termly SCR membership and drinks and formal dessert charges apply and that, while most dietary requirements can be met, the College is not able to guarantee this in every case).
6. The ECF will be entitled to claim eligible research expenses up to £955 p.a., currently, pro-rated for part years.
7. The College has a contributory private Medical Insurance arrangement which the successful applicant may join.
8. The College follows University guidelines for parental leave, with options for maternity leave, and arrangements can be made for shared parental leave.
9. An ECF with parenting responsibilities for a pre-school child or children will be entitled to apply to the [Balliol Day Nursery](#). The University has four subsidised nurseries and also subsidises places at some local nurseries, although there may be a waiting list.
10. Access to bookable teaching and function rooms in College, as well as facilities such as overnight accommodation for academic visitors.
11. Discount on purchases at Blackwells Bookshop.
12. Access to postal, printing and photocopying facilities.
13. Access to 24/7 borrowing Library and to Special Collections Centre.

Terms and conditions

1. The Early Career Fellow will be wholly employed by Balliol College.
2. This is a fixed-term, non-renewable post, with an initial probationary period.
3. The successful candidate will be elected to a non-governing body Research Fellowship at Balliol College for an initial period of three terms. Following successful completion of probation, on the basis of a written report submitted in the third term and review by the College's Academic Committee, the ECF will be confirmed in post and re-elected to a non-governing body Research Fellowship for the remainder of the fixed term.
4. Any decision by the appointment committee is subject to the agreement and approval of the College's Governing Body (College Meeting) before it is formally an offer of employment.
5. Any offer of appointment will be subject to provision by the applicant of proof of the right to work in the UK. Applicants who would need a work visa if appointed to the post are asked to refer to the next section.

Global Talent Visa

Any offer of employment will be subject to the provision of an original document which indicates the holder's right to work in the UK. All candidates invited for interview will be required to provide information as to their right, or eligibility to apply for the right, to work in the UK.

Applicants who would need a work visa if appointed to the post are asked to note that any offer of employment will be subject to a successful application for endorsement under the [Global Talent](#) visa process.

Application procedure

Applications comprising a completed [application form](#), covering letter (1 page), a curriculum vitae with details of qualifications and experience, and a statement of current and future research plans and experience (1-2 pages) should be sent electronically to the [College Office](#). Potential applicants wishing to discuss the post should contact [Professor Christopher Minkowski](#) or the Senior Tutor, [Nicola Trott](#).

Applications must reach the College no later than 12 noon BST on Monday 22 May 2023. Applications received after the closing date will not be accepted.

Candidates should also complete the [Balliol Equal Opportunities Applicant Monitoring Form](#) (note that the form is anonymous and used only to monitor and ensure equality of opportunity for all candidates; it is not part of the selection process and will not be seen by the selection committee).

Academic references will be taken up for applicants who are shortlisted for interview. If a referee (or referees) should not be approached at that stage, this should be stated against the relevant name(s) listed on the application form.

Shortlisted candidates will be asked to submit written work and to attend interview, which will include a research presentation. **Interviews will be held mid-June 2023.**

Equal Opportunities

The policy and practice of Balliol College require that entry into employment with the College and progression within employment will be determined only by personal merit and the application of criteria which are related to the duties of each particular post and the relevant salary structure. Subject to statutory provisions, no applicant or member of staff will be treated less favourably than another because of their sex, marital status, racial group, disability, or sexual orientation. In all cases, ability to perform the job will be the primary consideration.

Where suitably qualified individuals are available, selection committees will contain at least one member of each sex.

All data supplied by applicants will be used only for the purposes of determining their suitability for the post and will be held in accordance with the principles of the Data Protection Act 1998.

Balliol College is an equal opportunities employer.

Applications are particularly welcome from women and black and minority ethnic candidates, who are under-represented in academic posts in Oxford.