

Call for applications: Fellowships for early career collection professionals in the UK

Release date: Wednesday 27 February 2019

Application deadline: **Friday 3 May 2019 (5pm)**

Applications are invited for five Understanding British Portraits Fellowship opportunities available to early career museum and gallery professionals working in UK collections.

Understanding British Portraits is a professional network for those involved in portrait research, curation, interpretation, and audience engagement, e.g. curators, academics, conservators, collection-based learning professionals, independent scholars and researchers. UBP offers a programme of seminars, collection visits, Fellowships, and a resource-rich website to enable professionals to share new research, best practice, and innovative case studies. By this means, the network aims to enhance understanding of the genre in all media and time periods, for the benefit of future research, displays, and learning programmes.

The Fellowship programme is now in its third year, and builds on the network's successful Bursary programme enabling museum professionals to significantly enhance their portrait expertise, develop their professional network, and deliver a substantial output to benefit their home collection and its audience.

Summaries of recent Fellowships can be found on our website here:

britishportraits.org.uk/resources/fellowships.

The Fellowships

Applicants are invited to develop a project proposal that relates to one or more examples of British portraiture in their home collection. The project should aim to develop the applicant's expertise around a portion of their collection, enhance their research and interpretation skills, and/or their understanding of the potential of learning programmes using portraiture. Applicants should also assess the benefits of their project to their colleagues, collection audience, and institutional records. The successful Fellows will manage their own timescales and project development, with access to the expertise of the Understanding British Portraits Steering Group members (britishportraits.org.uk/about-us) and National Portrait Gallery staff.

Allocation of Funds (£4,000 each)

Fellows will be able to devote a calendar month to focussing on their chosen projects, taken as a whole or as a series of days or weeks, as convenient. The budget allows for each Fellow's home institution to back-fill their post for one month (up to £1,800, with payroll evidence) to be taken at any time between June 2019 and June 2020 inclusive. Each Fellow's institution will be responsible for planning and administering this back-fill.

The budget will allow £1,000 to fund the Fellow's travel and accommodation costs to develop their chosen project.

A further £1,200 will be available to fund at least one substantial output from each Fellowship, such as a display, publication, event, digital resource, or other learning programme, etc. (these are suggestions only, and the Steering Group welcomes effective outputs that are most appropriate to the project described).

Two of the chosen Fellows will be granted an additional sum of £4,000 each to develop and co-produce a film resource that will serve as an extra output for their project.

The project, including delivery of the final output(s), must be completed by the close of June 2020. Payments will be made on receipt of invoices with relevant proof of spending from each Fellow's home institution.

Fellows will be expected to take up opportunities to meet up with one another, previous Fellows, and the Steering Group. They will also be expected to contribute to the Understanding British Portraits blog britishportraits.org.uk/blog, a final summary report for the website, and to share their findings by other means such as podcasts or seminar presentations, should the opportunities arise.

Eligibility

Applicants should be early career museum or gallery staff from collections within the UK. The Steering Group is particularly interested to see proposals from colleagues outside Greater London.

Intellectual Property

The project output(s) will be co-owned between the Fellows and their respective employers, and will be shared freely with the Understanding British Portraits network.

How to apply

Please complete and submit the application form (britishportraits.org.uk/resources/fellowships) in Word format only before **Friday 3 May 2019 (5pm)**. Informal enquiries prior to the deadline are welcome; please contact Caroline Pegum, Researcher/Co-ordinator for the Understanding British Portraits network, at 0207 321 6427 or cpegum@npg.org.uk.

Assessment criteria

All applications will be assessed by the Steering Group according to the following criteria:

- Originality of proposed project
- Relationship of project to applicant's collection
- Feasibility of project (timescale, budget, expertise)
- Expected impact on candidate, collection, and collection audience
- Benefits of intended output

Timescale

Deadline for applications: **Friday 3 May 2019 (5pm)**.

All applicants will be informed of the UBP Steering Group's decision before the end of **May 2019**.

The Fellows can work on their chosen projects between **June 2019 and June 2020 inclusive**. Funds will be disbursed flexibly during this period, in consultation with the relevant Fellows.



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