Applications for Postdoctoral Research Fellowships in the Arts, Design and Media

We are writing to you to tell you about the upcoming Birmingham City University Postdoctoral Research Fellowship opportunities in the Arts, Design and Media for an April 2018 start. These fellowships offer a fixed-term Research Assistant role in at least one of our four research centres for: Art and Design; English; Media & Cultural Studies; and Music & Performing Arts. The role will initially be for a six-month period, but extensions of these roles may well be available. The fellowships are part of the Faculty of Arts, Design and Media’s routes-out of doctoral study strategy and they seek to support graduating PhD students establish themselves as high performing researchers within the university by making a significant contribution to our research environment.

The Faculty of Arts, Design and Media (ADM) offers a range of postdoctoral fellowship schemes, and other opportunities exist through other postdoctoral research fellowship schemes funded by BCU, external funders and other universities, including those for later start dates. Often the other ADM schemes are based in specific centres or clusters, or connected to a specified activity. As a whole the schemes offer a wide range of potential routes into academic life available to a range of students completing their PhDs and aspiring to postdoctoral careers. Even if the fellowships advertised here are not suitable for you, we encourage students to explore alternative opportunities with your supervisory team and your Research Degrees Coordinator.

The Postdoctoral Research Fellowships in the Arts, Design and Media scheme

Applications are invited from those who will complete their doctoral studies before the commencement of the studentship and who meet the following eligibility criteria:

- Completed a Birmingham City University doctoral research degree within the academic year and before April 2018. Where the viva voce examination was passed subject to amendments, any offer would be conditional on the submission of all amendments by April 2018.

- Please note that for these particular fellowships, we are not able to provide sponsorship for an international candidate under a Tier 2 visa. Applicants will need to have the right to work in the UK without the need for a Tier 2 visa. We would like to ensure that you are clear that this restriction on applications is only being applied as the UK government requires posts to be advertised for a more extensive period in order to fulfil the Resident Labour Market Scheme for employers to then be able to sponsor applicants under the Tier 2 visa scheme.

Postdoctoral Research Fellowships in the Arts, Design and Media scheme awards fellowships on a competitive basis, and applicants must demonstrate clear outputs and outcomes that are achievable within the six-month period of the fellowship and which will make a contribution to furthering the development of the research environment within a designated cluster of at least one of our research centres covering art and design; English; media & cultural studies; and music & performing arts. Fellows who successfully deliver the agreed outputs and outcomes may be able to secure a further six-month extension of the fellowship. The awards provide for employment at Birmingham City University as a research assistant to work on the following:
1. To enable the award holder to convert their PhD Research Project into a 3* or 4* research output that can be submitted to REF 2021.

2. To enable the award holder to support the writing of an externally funded project application on which they would be a named researcher.

3. To enhance the work of a research cluster and contribute to the research community in the Faculty of Arts, Design and Media.

You will need to develop this application with Faculty of Arts, Design and Media research-active academics. In particular, you will need to be able to identify a proposed mentor who would make a commitment to support you during your Postdoctoral Research Fellowship. Any application also needs to have the support of the relevant UoA Research Centre and Research Cluster.

Because of the nature and timeframe of the awards, these Postdoctoral Research Fellowships are usually offered on a full-time basis, but we welcome applications that make a convincing case for part-time employment.

**Application Process**

You are strongly advised to develop your application through discussion with your supervisory team, Research Degrees Coordinator and proposed Mentor.

- Applicants need to **complete the standard online application form** for the advertised Postdoctoral Research Fellowships in the Arts, Design and Media Research Assistant post through the application at [https://jobs.bcu.ac.uk](https://jobs.bcu.ac.uk). Please note that the post is **not** ‘live’ on the jobs site at the time you are receiving this message. We are letting you know at the earliest opportunity so that you can begin preparing your Case for Support. **You will be notified once you can submit your application on the jobs site.**

- You should also **upload the Case for Support form** you develop with the appropriate Research Degrees Coordinator and proposed BCU Mentor at the same time. This can be done once the post is live on the jobs site as mentioned.

- Complete applications (**both** the BCU job application form and the case for support) **need to be submitted by Friday 9th March** in order to be considered for the April 2018 start.

- The awards are made by a panel made up of representatives from each UoA Research Centre, chaired by the Associate Dean for Research following a standard process and criteria used by the Arts & Humanities Research Council.