Chair in Digital Humanities

'Our challenge is to become an indispensable component of the UK humanities research infrastructure.'
Professor Roger Kain, Dean and Chief Executive

SCHOOL *of*
ADVANCED STUDY
UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

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Background Information

The School of Advanced Study

The School of Advanced Study, University of London, is a unique institution in UK higher education. Comprising ten postgraduate institutes and a variety of central academic initiatives, it is located within the Bloomsbury precinct of the University in the intellectual heart of London. It is the UK's national and international centre for the support, promotion and facilitation of research in the humanities, broadly defined. It does this in collaboration with other organisations, notably the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC), the British Academy (BA), learned societies and government agencies.

The institutes of the School are:

Institute *of* Advanced Legal Studies
Institute *of* Classical Studies
Institute *of* Commonwealth Studies
Institute *of* English Studies
Institute *of* Historical Research
Institute *of* Latin American Studies
Institute *of* Modern Languages Research
Institute *of* Musical Research
Institute *of* Philosophy
Warburg Institute

Central academic initiatives include:

The Human Rights Consortium
Public Engagement: UK National Humanities Festival
Visiting Fellows Programme
The Human Mind Project
Digital Humanities

The mission of the School of Advanced Study (SAS) is to support national and international humanities researchers and scholars by creating opportunities for developing new research agendas and providing unique specialist services and resources. This stems from the special role and funding for research promotion and facilitation across the UK and internationally that the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) has given to the School.

In delivering our programme we are supported by the University of London which has, as a key part of its academic strategy, the School's mission to deliver world-class research promotion and facilitation.

Digital Humanities in SAS

The School views the digital humanities as an essential component of its research promotion and facilitation role. SAS and its institutes create and manage a wide range of digital resources to support, develop and promote the research of its scholarly communities in the humanities and social sciences. Centrally, these include SAS-Space (the School's e-repository), the SAS Open Journals hosting service, and a new online research training platform. The institutes support their subject communities by delivering a large number of key digital research tools and resources, working with external partners as well as with the University of London Computing Centre and the University's Senate House Library. Particular centres of expertise exist in the Institute of Historical Research, which has the largest digital humanities unit, in the Institute of Advanced Legal Studies,

and in the Institute of Philosophy. Notable projects and resources delivered by the institutes include:

- British History Online, a digital library of printed sources for British History (www.british-history.ac.uk)

- Bibliography of British and Irish History (http://www.history.ac.uk/projects/bbih)

- InScribe, an online Palaeography training tool (http://www.history.ac.uk/research-training/courses/online-palaeography)

- PhilPapers, a comprehensive directory of online philosophical publications, (http://philpapers.org/) and PhilEvents, a worldwide calendar of philosophy events (http://philevents.org/)

- FLARE (Foreign Law Research), improving access to foreign legal materials, (http://ials.sas.ac.uk/flare/flare.htm)

- Eagle-i (Electronic Access to Global Legal Information), a dedicated portal to high quality legal information sources on the Web, (http://ials.sas.ac.uk/eaglei/project/eiproject.htm)

The School and the institutes have also hosted a number of key workshops and events in the digital humanities, and are contributing to wider debates about policy and practice, including Open Access, and the peer review of digital resources. The School is well-placed to play a leading role in coordinating national discussion about the needs and the key developments in the digital humanities, and to provide a forum for developing and show-casing new thinking in the area of digital scholarship.

In establishing this new post, the School intends to build on these achievements to enhance its national role, promote new agendas in research, and collaboration. The Chair will provide leadership in Digital Humanities across the School as a whole, working with colleagues to develop new initiatives, build and enhance capacity, and coordinate activity across the institutes, in Senate House Library and in the University of London Computer Centre. One of the first tasks for the post holder will be to develop an overarching intellectual and operational strategy for the University's digital humanities activity.

http://www.sas.ac.uk/support-research/digital-resources

Senate House Library

The Library is one of the world's most significant collections in the arts, humanities and social sciences. With its partner libraries of the institutes of the School of Advanced Study, it provides services to over 100,000 registered readers every year, from the School of Advanced Study, the Colleges of the federal University of London, and from London, regional, national and international research communities.

The Library and its collections have been continuously developed since the 1870s. It now holds over two million printed books, thousands of printed and electronic journals, and the highest proportion of historic collections of any university library in the United Kingdom. Modern materials in printed and electronic formats are collected at research level and in Western European languages to support cross- and inter-disciplinary research in subjects such as English studies, history, philosophy, music, Romance and Germanic languages, palaeography, art history and area studies.

Senate House Library is located in the iconic Bloomsbury building designed by Charles Holden, with a range of study environments and reading rooms housing collections on open shelves, and giving remote access to digital resources through a range of devices. Library staff work with colleagues in the School of Advanced Study to exploit the collections for programmes of research and have established partnerships with external organisations to create digital content from the Library's rare materials. The Library has a digitisation service which creates digital copies from rare and modern materials.

An overview of Senate House Library, its collections and services, is available from the website at www.senatehouselibrary.ac.uk

The Role

Summary

The role of the Chair will be to provide leadership in digital humanities for the School of Advanced Study, working with colleagues within and beyond the School to develop new initiatives, to build and enhance capacity, and to promote and coordinate research, and support for research, across the institutes and in Senate House Library. One of the first tasks for the post holder will be to develop an overarching intellectual and operational strategy for the University's digital humanities activity, embedding this within the School's wider mission to promote and facilitate research.

The post holder will also play a major ambassadorial role, promoting the digital humanities nationally and internationally, helping to identify the future needs of humanities researchers, forging collaborative links with other centres of expertise in the UK and elsewhere, and contributing to the School's involvement in the transition to Open Access.

The Chair will be part of a new central academic initiatives team headed by a Pro-Dean, Professor Barry Smith, but will be based in the Institute of Historical Research, which has the largest cluster of digital activity in SAS.

Job Description

Academic Responsibilities

1.   Provide intellectual leadership for strategic initiatives in digital humanities as part of the School's remit to promote and facilitate research. This will include new central projects, as well as coordinating and developing capacity within and across institutes and Senate House Library as appropriate.

2.   Promote debate in the digital humanities across the UK and beyond, helping to identify and shape new agendas, and show-case new research and technology through conferences, workshops and other activities.

3.   Promote the development of skills training in the digital humanities, especially for early career researchers, as part of the School's provision and more widely.

4.   Play a key role in promoting the public benefit and scholarly value of the School's work in digital humanities.

5.   Ensure that the School, its institutes, libraries and Senate House Library make the best use of digital technologies for delivering services for their constituencies. Work with the SAS Libraries Group to develop a digital strategy for the libraries that reflects the School's national and research promotion/ facilitation roles, and promotes collaboration between academic staff and library staff in institutes and Senate House Library.

6.   Liaison with the University of London Computing Centre in the development of projects, preservation of data, and infrastructural support for SAS.

7.   Build effective partnerships with other leading DH centres across the UK and internationally.

8.   Develop cross-sectoral digital partnerships, especially with museums, libraries and archives, positioning the School as a partner of first choice in digital projects.

9.   Seek funding for new digital projects and initiatives.

10.   Produce internationally-excellent research and publish/disseminate the results of that research, of a quality to merit the title of Professor in the University of London.

11.   Participate in post-graduate training and student supervision as necessary.

Managerial Responsibilities

12.   Manage research projects and associated staff and budgets, as appropriate.

Other

13.   To maintain own continuing professional development.

14.   Any other duties consistent with both the grade and scope of the post.

15.   Any other duties reasonably required of the post-holder by the Dean and Chief Executive of the School of Advanced Study following consultation.

Working Relationships

The Chair is accountable directly to the Pro-Dean for Central Academic Initiatives.

Person Specification

All job requirements are ESSENTIAL

1.   EXPERIENCE

- A track record of internationally recognised published research in a humanities discipline and/or in digital humanities.

- Extensive experience in developing and leading digital humanities projects and partnerships.

- A track record of generating external funding for digital projects.

- Experience of innovation in the digital field, and wide awareness of current and emerging technical solutions.

- Experience of managing teams.

2.   TECHNICAL KNOWLEDGE / APTITUDE

- Knowledge of one or more specific areas within digital humanities (eg. text mining, digital mapping, semantic web, databases).

- Ability to effectively manage human and financial resources as part of research projects.

- Ability to operate effectively within a collegiate environment and within the managerial framework of the School and the University.

3.   EDUCATION / PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATION

- An academic standing to warrant the title of Professor in the University of London.

- A PhD or equivalent experience in a relevant subject discipline.

4.   PERSONAL QUALITIES

- Ability to work with colleagues at all levels across the School, and to promote collaboration and the achievement of common goals.

- Highly developed communication and interpersonal skills with an ability to influence, negotiate and network at a senior level internally and with external bodies/partners, including the media.

- Ability to act as an ambassador for the School and for the digital humanities.

Terms and Conditions of Service

The appointment is offered as either:

A substantive permanent appointment with the University of London as Chair in Digital Humanities.

Or

A secondment for five years to the role of Chair in Digital Humanities.

The successful candidate will also have the opportunity to be considered for a Pro-Dean appointment. The School of Advanced Study and University of London Libraries have five Pro-Deans (Libraries; History and Area Studies; Law and Philosophy; Languages, Literatures and Cultures; School of Advanced Study Central Academic Initiatives). The Pro-Deans have responsibility for enabling strategic cohesion across the areas they represent.

Professorial salaries in the School of Advanced Study are set by negotiation and will be offered subject to the skills and experience of the successful candidate.

An appointment with the University of London is offered on the Terms and Conditions of Employment for Academic Staff of the Central University: www.london.ac.uk/4238.html

All offers of appointment are subject to the University receiving satisfactory references. References will be taken up prior to interview.

The appointment is terminable by three months' notice on either side, where the notice will take effect in the period 1 July to 30 September. In other cases e.g. where it is necessary to preserve the integrity of academic programmes, the period of notice required may be extended to six months.

The University of London confirms its commitment to equal opportunities in all its activities. It is intended that no job applicant or employee will receive less favourable treatment on the grounds of political belief, sex, sexual orientation, disability, marital status, race, nationality, ethnic origin, religion or social class. Selection and promotion criteria will be kept under review to ensure that individuals are treated on the basis of the job requirements and on their relevant personal merits, and are not disadvantaged by conditions or requirements, which cannot be shown to be justifiable.

If you have a disability and are interested in this post, your application is welcomed. For an informal discussion you may wish to contact the Recruitment Team on:

Telephone: 020 7862 8159
Email: ULRecruit@london.ac.uk

Employee Benefits Summary

Pension	The University operates the Universities Superannuation Scheme Limited (USS) final salary pension scheme. The University will contribute a sum equal to 16% of your salary while you pay 6.5 or 7.5% depending on your eligibility for either the Final Salary or Career Revalued Benefits section of the scheme.
Holiday	6 weeks (30 days) paid leave per annum plus Statutory Public Holidays. In addition, the University is normally closed for six days a year: one day either side of Easter and the remainder between Christmas and New Year. Part-time staff will be entitled to the pro-rata equivalent.
Travel season ticket loan	Interest-free pay advances are available for staff to purchase annual season tickets (for tube and rail travel and certain privately-operated coach services, including annual fees for commuter parking).
Childcare voucher scheme	Childcare vouchers enable parents to pay for childcare from pre-tax and national insurance income.
Computer scheme	Opportunity to purchase IT goods at a discounted rate (up to 12% discount).
Life cover	Active members of the USS pension scheme automatically receive life cover. A lump sum of three times your salary together with a pension for your dependants will be payable should you die before retirement while in employment.
Cycle to work scheme	Qualifying employees may apply for an interest-free advance of salary towards the cost of a bicycle for all or part of their journey to work.
Enhanced maternity and adoption pay	Qualifying employees are entitled to enhanced maternity/adoption pay: 8 weeks' full pay, 16 weeks' half pay, 15 weeks' Statutory Maternity/Adoption Pay. This compares to the statutory provision of 90% of average pay for 6 weeks followed by Statutory Maternity/Adoption Pay for 33 weeks.
Enhanced paternity pay	Qualifying employees are entitled to the first week of the two-week paternity leave entitlement at full pay. This compares to the statutory provision of two weeks' pay at the statutory rate.
Enhanced sick pay	Occupational sick pay is offered in accordance with length of service rising to six months full pay/six months half pay after five years' service.
24/7 confidential support	Staff and their household members have access to a free, external confidential support service for work, financial, legal, family and personal problems 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.
Health	Access to the Gower Street Medical Practice. Free bi-annual eye tests for staff using VDUs and help towards the purchase of glasses. Discounted private medical insurance.

Timetable

Key Dates

Closing date: Sunday 17 August 2014.

Interviews are expected to take place at the end of September 2014. Candidates invited for interview should ensure their availability at this time.

Interview arrangements

Candidates will be required to give a public presentation and attend a panel interview.

Overnight accommodation can be arranged for shortlisted candidates.

Start date: 1 January 2015 or at another date to be agreed.

Queries

If you wish to have an informal discussion about the appointment then please contact Professor Roger Kain, CBE FBA, Pro Vice Chancellor (Research)/Dean-Chief Executive of the School of Advanced Study via his Executive Assistant:

Sarah Allan, Executive Assistant
0207 862 8736
sarah.allan@sas.ac.uk

For queries relating to the application process or if you need any additional information, please contact

Sophie Harris, Senior HR Manager
0207 862 8102
sophie.harris@london.ac.uk

How to Apply

To apply for this job please submit a comprehensive CV and covering letter, quoting reference **SAS09/14.**

Please ensure that your covering letter fully states how your skills and experience match the person specification for this role; your CV should cover your full career history and provide details of associated responsibilities and key achievements.

You should also provide the name, position, organisation and telephone contact number for two referees. **Unless you request otherwise, these will be contacted if you are shortlisted for interview.**

You are invited to complete and return the Equal Opportunities Classification Form. This enables us to follow the recommendations of the Equality and Human Rights Commission, that employers should monitor selection decisions to assess whether equality of opportunity is being achieved. The information on this form will be treated as confidential, and used for statistical purposes only. The form will not be treated as part of your application.

The following link will open a downloadable form for you to complete: Equal Opportunities Form.

Finally please ensure that you have included mobile, work and home telephone numbers on your CV, as well as any dates when you will not be available or might have difficulty with the indicative timetable.

The closing date for applications is Sunday 17 August 2014.

Applications should be emailed to ulrecruit@london.ac.uk.