# **AHRC Collaborative Doctoral Partnership (CDP) studentship Addressing legacies of slavery and Empire in the art museum**



Start date: **1st October 2021**

Application Deadline: **12 noon, Monday 17th May 2021**

Interviews will take place on **25th May 2021**

The University of Leicester, and Tate are pleased to announce the availability of a fully-funded Collaborative doctoral studentship from October 2021 under the AHRC’s [Collaborative Doctoral Partnership Scheme.](https://ahrc.ukri.org/skills/phdstudents/collaborative-doctoral-partnerships-scheme/) In light of the ongoing under-representation of scholars and professionals from Black, Asian and non-white minority ethnic backgrounds within both UK museums and universities, this award is offered as a positive action studentship for a UK student. For more details on eligibility, please see below.

This collaborative award aims to develop and test new approaches towards an ethical, inclusive and effective curation of Empire at Tate Britain. It will support a student to research the connections between Tate’s collection and the history of the British Empire and British involvement in the transatlantic Slave Trade, and to critically examine how these connections have been surfaced and interpreted over the last two decades within Tate’s curatorial practice and programming. The research will lead to new knowledge and approaches that can support Tate to enhance their work in this area.

This project will be jointly supervised by Dr. James Finch at Tate Britain, and Dr. Katy Bunning and Professor Richard Sandell at the Research Centre for Museums and Galleries, School of Museum Studies, University of Leicester. The student will be expected to spend time at both the School of Museum Studies and Tate, as well as becoming part of the wider cohort of Collaborative Doctoral Partnership-funded students across the UK.

Recognising the challenges of researching racial histories and contemporary practices within a predominantly white space, the student and supervisors will work together to create appropriate and additional mentoring opportunities alongside the research.

**Project Overview**

The research aims to contribute new knowledge to how an evolving contemporary British art museum has addressed institutional histories of racial slavery and Empire over recent decades. This work will be part of a range of activities to support Tate’s ambitions to develop new ethical and decolonial frameworks for interpreting colonial histories.

There are two overarching research questions:

* How have Tate’s curatorial and related practices addressed institutional links with the transatlantic slave trade and the British Empire more broadly in recent years?
* How can Tate ethically surface its connections with the British Empire in the contemporary moment?

The student will be expected to develop a particular focus for the project, which may be a collection, a sitter, a recent exhibition or programme, or another aspect of curatorial practice. The project may involve a range of approaches to research, including archival and collections research, exhibition analysis, and semi-structured interviews with Tate staff and other key informants. It may also involve action research methods to test new interpretative frameworks with Tate staff in practice.

The successful candidate will be eligible to participate in [CDP Cohort Development events.](https://www.ahrc-cdp.org/category/upcoming-training-opportunitues/)

**Details of Award**

CDP doctoral training grants fund full-time studentships for 45 months (3.75 years) or part-time equivalent. The studentship has the possibility of being extended for an additional 3 months to provide professional development opportunities, or up to 3 months of funding may be used to pay for the costs the student might incur in taking up professional development opportunities.

The award pays tuition fees up to the value of the full-time home UKRI rate for PhD degrees. **Research Councils UK Indicative Fee Level for 2021/22 is £4,500. \***

The award pays full maintenance. The National Minimum Doctoral Stipend for 2021/22 is £15,609, \*plus a CDP maintenance payment of £550/year.

Further details can be found on the UKRI website

<https://www.ukri.org/skills/funding-for-research-training/>

The student is eligible to receive an additional travel and related expenses grant during the course of the project courtesy of Tate worth up to £1000 over the course of the studentship.

The project can be undertaken on a full-time (3 years) or part-time (6 years) basis. However, the studentship must begin on 1st October, 2021.

**Eligibility**

We firmly believe that colonial histories and institutional cultures need to be examined by students and staff from a range of backgrounds. However, in light of the ongoing under-representation of scholars and professionals from Black, Asian and non-white minority ethnic backgrounds within both UK museums and universities, the School of Museum Studies is seeking to create postgraduate and doctoral opportunities for individuals from under-represented minority ethnic backgrounds across a range of themes and topics. As part of this commitment, this CDP will be offered as a ring-fenced positive action studentship. In addition to meeting the AHRC’s eligibility requirements, applicants will need to declare that they are from a Black, Asian or non-white minority ethnic background.

The following eligibility criteria apply:

* UK applicants only.
* Applicants must meet the standard UK Government criteria for Home fees and have no restrictions on permanent residency. For further advice please contact [pgradmissions@le.ac.uk](mailto:pgradmissions@le.ac.uk?subject=BAME%20GTA%202021) and include a copy of your current passport / immigration status. Further guidance can be found here - <https://www.ukri.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/UKRI-030221-Guidance-International-Eligibility-Implementation-training-grant-holders-V2.pdf>
* The studentship is offered as a Positive Action studentship for researchers from an under-represented non-white ethnic minority background, as a route for addressing under-representation in doctoral training for the cultural and heritage sector. For this reason, we are collecting data on ethnicity as part of the studentship application process.\* Candidates must self-identify as a Black, Asian or non-white minority ethnic (BAME) student:
  + Asian or Asian British – Bangladeshi Asian or Asian British – Indian
  + Asian or Asian British – Pakistani
  + Other Asian background
  + Black or Black British – African
  + Black or Black British – Caribbean
  + Other Black background
  + Chinese
  + Mixed
  + Other non-white ethnic background

\*Ethnicity data will be processed in accordance with GDPR and the data will be kept only for the lifetime of the studentship.

* Applicants should have an undergraduate degree (2.1 minimum). Applicants should also have or expect to receive a relevant Masters-level qualification, or be able to demonstrate equivalent experience in a professional setting. Relevant disciplines are flexible, but might include: art history, history, curatorial and museum studies, cultural studies or related fields.

* In recognition of the variety of different routes towards doctoral study, please note that applicants without a Masters’ degree are eligible to apply, provided they can demonstrate equivalent experience that has prepared them for doctoral research. Equivalent experience may include, but is not restricted to, research or curatorship within a professional setting.
* Applicants must be able to demonstrate an interest in the museum sector and potential and enthusiasm for developing skills more widely in related areas.
* As a collaborative award, students will be expected to spend time at both the University and at Tate Britain.
* All applicants must meet UKRI Conditions of Research Council Training Grants. See: <https://www.ukri.org/funding/information-for-award-holders/grant-terms-and-conditions/>

**How to apply**

Candidates should submit a completed studentship application form, which includes a short personal statement (up to 1000 words max) commenting on:

* your motivation for undertaking this PhD
* how your education and experience to date has prepared you for this research project
* any particular areas of interest to you within the stated scope of the project.

If shortlisted you will also be required to provide two references and a sample of writing.

In addition, and in order to confirm eligibility, the applicant’s ethnicity will need to be declared in the studentship application form.

The studentship application form is available at: <https://le.ac.uk/rcmg/current-research-and-events>. Please note that this is a bespoke form for this AHRC studentship with Tate and Museum Studies, and is not the full University of Leicester PhD application form.

The project can be undertaken on a full-time or part-time basis and will start on 1st October, 2021. For further details of the award, the research project and procedures for applying, please visit the page <https://le.ac.uk/rcmg/current-research-and-events>.

The deadline for applications is 12 noon on **Monday 17th May, 2021**.

Interviews will take place by video call online with the supervisory team on **25th May, 2021**.

The successful candidate will be required to attend a full day induction in London during the third week of October.

Informal enquiries regarding the award can be addressed to Dr. Katy Bunning ([katy.bunning@le.ac.uk](mailto:katy.bunning@le.ac.uk)).

For more information on the AHRC Collaborative Doctoral Partnership scheme, please see <https://www.ahrc-cdp.org/>

For more information on the School of Museum Studies, University of Leicester, see here - <https://le.ac.uk/museum-studies>