



Birkbeck
UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

JOB DESCRIPTION AND PERSON SPECIFICATION



JOB DESCRIPTION

Job title:

Postdoctoral Researcher

Faculty or School:

Faculty of Humanities & Social Sciences

Reports to: Dr. Joel McKim, Reader in Digital Media and Culture

Responsible for: N/A

Grade: 7

PURPOSE OF THE JOB

This is an exciting opportunity to contribute to the development of research proposals and/or objectives, and to conduct and write up both individual and collective research projects for publication.

Duration: 2 years.

Overview

The Klesch Postdoctoral Fellowship in History of Art and Technology supports exceptional early-career researchers whose work is redefining how art history is studied in the age of artificial intelligence and digital technologies.

The Fellowship seeks scholars who combine rigorous historical inquiry with methodological innovation. Rather than simply applying new technologies to existing questions, the Fellowship encourages projects that develop new approaches to art historical research through artificial intelligence, immersive technologies, computer vision, computational analysis, digital heritage, or related methods.

Applications are invited from researchers working on any aspect of art history from Early Renaissance Europe through to the twentieth century.

Research Environment

The successful Fellow will join one of the UK's leading interdisciplinary environments for research at the intersection of art history, digital humanities and emerging technologies.

The Fellowship is based within the Vasari Research Centre for Art and Technology and is closely connected to the Birkbeck Centre for Creative AI and the Birkbeck Immersive Learning Centre. Together these centres bring expertise in art history, museum studies, creative AI, immersive technologies, digital humanities and computational methods. The Fellow will also benefit from the wider research community within Birkbeck, with

opportunities to collaborate with colleagues in the Centre for Museum Cultures, the History and Theory of Photography Research Centre, and other research centres and institutes across the College.

The Fellow will have access to:

- high-performance Creative AI computing infrastructure;
- immersive visualisation technologies;
- interdisciplinary research seminars and workshops;
- collaborations with researchers across the arts, humanities and computer science;
- opportunities to engage with London's internationally significant museums, galleries and cultural organisations.

Research Themes

Projects should demonstrate how innovative methodologies can generate new knowledge within art history.

Relevant topics may include, but are not limited to:

- Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning in Art History
- Museums, Collections and AI
- 3D Scanning and Digital Heritage
- Extended Reality (VR, AR and Mixed Reality) as Art Historical Tool
- Network Analysis and Cultural Data
- Human–AI Collaboration in Art Historical Interpretation
- Digital Provenance Research and Collection Histories
- Computer Vision for Art Historical Research
- Cultural Analytics and Network Analysis
- Geospatial Approaches to Art History

Fellowship Activities

The Fellow will pursue an independent programme of research while participating fully in the intellectual life of the three host centres.

The Fellowship includes opportunities for:

- scholarly collaboration;
- public engagement;
- research seminars and workshops;
- mentoring and career development;
- developing future research funding applications.

Expected Outcomes

Year One

The Fellow will:

- develop their research programme;
- organise a public lecture, workshop or symposium hosted by Birkbeck;
- publish an account of research in progress.

Year Two

The Fellow will:

- complete and submit a major research output, normally either:
 - a peer-reviewed journal article suitable for a leading international journal; or
 - a scholarly monograph proposal or completed manuscript;

About the Fellowship

The Klesch Postdoctoral Fellowship aims to support a new generation of researchers developing innovative methods for the study of art history. By bringing together historical scholarship with advances in artificial intelligence, immersive technologies and computational research, the Fellowship seeks to expand the ways in which artworks, collections and visual culture are interpreted, analysed and shared.

The Fellowship is generously sponsored by A. Gary and Dr. Anita Klesch, founders of The Klesch Collection, a growing collection of European paintings from the 15th to the 17th century.

MAIN DUTIES

Research and Scholarship

- To develop research objectives and proposals for own or joint research, with the assistance of a mentor if required.
- To conduct individual and collaborative research projects and write up research for publication
- To update knowledge and understanding in field or specialism.
- To translate knowledge of advances in the subject area into research activity.
- To ensure that research content and the methods used are in accordance with equal opportunities.

Teaching & Learning

- To contribute to the assessment of student knowledge and supervision of their projects.

- To assist in the development of student research skills.

Communication

- To deal with routine communication using a range of media.
- To communicate complex information, and material of a specialist or highly technical nature orally, in writing, and electronically.
- To prepare proposals and applications to external bodies, for example, for funding and contractual purposes.

WORKING RELATIONSHIPS AND CONTACTS

People Management and Teamwork

- To manage own research and administrative activities, with guidance if required.
- To work with colleagues on joint projects, as required
- To collaborate with academic colleagues on areas of shared research interest.
- To attend and contribute to relevant meetings.

Liaison and Networking

- To liaise with colleagues and students.
- To build internal contacts and participate in internal networks for the exchange of information and to form relationships for future collaboration.
- To join external networks to share information and identify potential sources of funds.

DIMENSIONS

Problem Solving and Impact

- To use new research techniques and methods.
- To use own initiative and creativity to identify areas for research, develop new research methods, and extend the research portfolio.
- To use creativity to analyse and interpret research data and draw conclusions on the outcomes.
- To contribute to collaborative decision making with colleagues in areas of research.
- To understand equal opportunity issues as they may impact on areas of research content and methods.

Resource Management

- Plan and manage own research activity in collaboration with others.
- To use research resources, laboratories and workshops as appropriate.

Working Environment

- To balance, with help the competing pressures of research and administrative demands and deadlines.
- To carry out tasks that require the learning of certain skills.
- To engage in continuous professional development.
- To be aware of the risks in the work environment and their potential impact on their own work and that of others.

GENERAL RESPONSIBILITIES - These are universal to all Birkbeck roles

- To adhere to the College's Equal Opportunities policy in all activities, and to actively promote equality of opportunity wherever possible.
- To be responsible for your own health and safety and that of your colleagues, in accordance with the Health and Safety at Work Act (1974) and relevant EC directives.
- To work in accordance with Birkbeck's data protection policies, and relevant current data protection legislation.
- To undertake such other duties as may be reasonably expected.

PERSON SPECIFICATION

CANDIDATES WILL BE ABLE TO DEMONSTRATE THE FOLLOWING ESSENTIAL CRITERIA:

KNOWLEDGE
1. Sufficient breadth of depth or specialist knowledge in the subject area
2. Developing knowledge and skills of research methods and techniques
TECHNICAL AND/OR WORK-BASED SKILLS
3. Skills in research relevant to the subject area
4. Effective oral and written communication skills, to write up research findings and discuss these with colleagues/subjects as appropriate
5. Computer proficiency in standard packages (e.g. word processing, spreadsheets, email and internet use)
GENERAL SKILLS AND ATTRIBUTES
6. Effective presentation skills
7. Organisation and administration skills
8. Initiative and creativity to ensure research is effective
9. Commitment to working with diversity
EXPERIENCE
10. Previous experience of contributing to research
11. Experience of utilising research methods and techniques
QUALIFICATIONS
12. PhD (or equivalent) in a relevant subject area.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Salary:

£44,247 rising to £50,379 per annum

The salary quoted is Grade 7 on the College's London Pay Scale which includes a consolidated Weighting/Allowance which applies only to staff whose normal contractual place of work is in the London area.

Hours:

35 hours per week; Full Time

Working pattern:

Monday - Friday

Probation period:

6 months

Duration of post: Two years

HOW TO APPLY

Closing date:

11.59 PM on Saturday 31 October 2026

Application Requirements

Applicants should submit:

- a curriculum vitae;
- a research proposal (maximum 2,000 words) outlining:
 - the proposed project;
 - its contribution to art historical scholarship;
 - its methodological innovation;
 - its relationship to the Vasari Research Centre, the Birkbeck Centre for Creative AI and the Birkbeck Immersive Learning Centre;
 - a two-year programme of work, including publications and public engagement activities;
- two academic letters of reference.

Assessment Criteria

Applications will be assessed on the basis of:

- originality and significance of the proposed research;

- methodological innovation;
- scholarly excellence;
- feasibility of the research programme;
- publication potential;
- alignment with the strengths of the host research centres;
- potential to contribute to the research culture of Birkbeck.

Interview arrangements:

Interviews held on Friday 27 November 2026.

The selection process will involve:

- A presentation
- A panel interview

Start date:

To be confirmed following interview.

To apply for this position please go to our online [recruitment portal](#).

Please ensure your application includes full details of your employment history, education and qualifications, and recent development. For some roles, this will be collected in the application form, for others you will be asked to include this in a professional CV which can be uploaded.

If you would like to know more about the role, please contact Dr. Joel McKim, Reader in Digital Media and Culture, at j.mckim@bbk.ac.uk

ASYLUM AND IMMIGRATION

This post is not eligible for sponsorship. Successful applicants will need to demonstrate their right to work in the UK via another means.

HELP & ASSISTANCE

If you are having difficulties accessing the recruitment portal, please email jobs@bbk.ac.uk

OUR COMMITMENT TO EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY

The College is committed to providing the highest quality academic and working environment where all staff, students, visitors and contractors are welcomed respected and treated in a fair, consistent and non-discriminatory manner. The College is proud of its diversity and welcomes applications from all sections of the community. No one will be treated unfairly because of their sex, race, disability, sexual orientation, age, religion or

belief, carer status, political belief, pregnancy/maternity, social class, gender identity or marital/civil partnership.

Birkbeck is a member of the 'positive about disability' Disability Confident scheme and will interview all candidates who both declare a disability within the meaning of the Equality Act 2010 and meet the minimum essential criteria for the post, subject to any limits on the overall number of interviews.

Birkbeck is a member of Advance HE, holds an institutional Bronze level Athena SWAN award, is a Mindful Employers Charter signatory and subscribes to Stonewall's Diversity Champions.