



NORTHERN BRIDGE CONSORTIUM

DOCTORAL
TRAINING
PARTNERSHIP

Venerable English College, Rome, Placement Opportunity

The Venerable English College (VEC), Rome, invites Expressions of Interest from Northern Bridge PhD students for a fully funded placement focussed on the development and opening up of the VEC's archival and heritage collections to an international scholarly community. This is an outstanding opportunity for a current PhD student to gain significant professional experience in the cultural sector in an exciting international context, and to gain practical experience of contributing to securing the future of the oldest British archival and heritage collection outside Britain.

The Venerable English College began life in 1362, on its present site in the heart of the city of Rome, as the English Hospice of the Most Holy Trinity and St Thomas of Canterbury – an endowed institution for pilgrims from England and Wales of all social backgrounds, not least those following the *Via Francigena* pilgrim route from Canterbury to Rome. Supported by the Plantagenets and the Tudors as a royal English and Welsh institution down to Henry VIII's break with Rome in 1538, the Hospice and its medieval endowment survived down to the French invasion of Rome in 1798. Since 1579, the site of the original Hospice has also housed the Venerable English College – a seminary for the education and training of future Roman Catholic priests for England and Wales and, more recently, for Scandinavia. The archives of the VEC today house many of the surviving records of the English Hospice since 1362 and of the College itself since 1579. The archival holdings are complemented by a substantial historical library dating from the time of the pre-Reformation Hospice and the earliest days of the printing press in Europe.

The trustees of the VEC have recently launched a major appeal to help conserve and make available to scholars this precious heritage. In this setting, the placement holder will develop a range of transferable skills including:

- contributing towards the setting up of a new infrastructure to support scholarly archival and library-based research;
- providing help with the electronic cataloguing of the collections;
- contributing towards the day-to-day running of the Archives;
- welcoming, hosting and guiding visiting scholars;
- helping explain the history of the institution to a constant stream of visitors, many of them high-profile;
- helping develop a new website and archival blog;
- preparing archival displays and exhibitions;
- contributing to project management;
- contributing to the development of relationships with external academic institutions.

During your placement, you will work closely with the project director, gaining in-depth knowledge of how the VEC's heritage collections were originally produced and how they are managed today. You will also gain insight into the many and varied activities with which the VEC Archives are becoming increasingly engaged. As far as is practically possible, work will be negotiated with the placement holder in response to individual skills, aspirations and interests.

The post will run between January and June 2019. The post will be based at the VEC in Rome. The post holder will work 4-5 days per week, usually between 9.30am and 5.00pm, although some occasional evening and weekend work may be required.

For more information about the history of the VEC, see:

<https://www.vecrome.org/history.html>

Responsibilities

- To assist collegially in day-to-day tasks and activities carried out by the VEC archival and library team.
- To work within the VEC's archival and library project team to support the on-going development of the current heritage project.
- To help ensure that information is shared effectively and that internal and external communications are handled smoothly.
- To assist the project director in carrying out research that informs future displays, exhibitions and blogs.

What we're looking for:

Essential attributes

- You must be a Northern Bridge award holder
- Research expertise in a field that contributes to the mission of the VEC Archives
- A strong interest in cultural history
- Excellent verbal and communication skills
- Excellent organisational skills
- Excellent interpersonal skills
- Initiative and creativity in problem solving
- Ability to apply research skills in a new professional context
- Ability to work effectively as part of a team
- Ability to work unsupervised when necessary
- Experience of using IT systems including Word, Excel and databases

Desirable attributes

- Research expertise relevant to an archive and library in an academic setting
- Ability to write for non-academic audiences

Expressions of Interest

To apply for this placement please submit to northernbridge.admin@ncl.ac.uk a 250-word expression of interest, a CV and a 100-word supporting statement from your supervisor by

Friday 30th November 2018, explaining your interest in the placement, how you fulfil the criteria, and how this placement would support your training and development needs. Please note that the Northern Bridge Training Grant will be able to meet reasonable travel, accommodation and subsistence costs associated with undertaking this placement.