

Project Proposal Application

To be completed by the lead proposed supervisor,
with input from the non-HE Partner Organisation(s).



Arts and
Humanities
Research Council

SECTION 1: PROJECT SUMMARY AND APPLICANT DETAILS			
Proposed Project Title:		Periodicals in the Life of a Literary House: Dove Cottage, 1799-1818	
Project Summary: <i>(Maximum 100 words)</i>		The writers William and Dorothy Wordsworth and Thomas De Quincey occupied Dove Cottage – now an important literary heritage site - between 1799 and 1818, celebrating their life here in writing. Despite the remote location of Dove Cottage, these writers however were far from isolated. Periodicals, which were a ubiquitous and relatively new form of publication in this period, brought news and information from across the globe and locally into the house. This project will study the ways in which periodicals entered the intellectual, socio-political and domestic life of the house, and influenced the literary works of these writers.	
Host University:		Queen's University Belfast	
Name of Non-HE Partner Organisation(s): <i>(Add more lines if needed)</i>			
1. Wordsworth Grasmere (comprising Dove Cottage, the Wordsworth Museum, and the Jerwood Centre)			
2.			
Contact(s) at Non-HE Partner Organisation(s): <i>(Add more lines if needed)</i>			
Name:	Mr. Jeff Cowton, MBE	Email:	J.Cowton@wordsworth.org.uk
Name:		Email:	
Primary AHRC Subject Area: <i>Select one subject area from the list here. Do not add or amend subjects - there will not be a corresponding Subject Area panel to assess the application.</i>		English Language and Literature	
Does the project include a Creative Practice component?		YES <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Do you consider the project to be interdisciplinary?		YES <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If you consider the project to be interdisciplinary, please state why: <i>(Maximum 100 words. Note, all applications will be assessed by the appropriate primary subject area cross-institutional panel.)</i>			

N/A

SECTION 2: PROJECT PROPOSAL AND CASE FOR SUPPORT

Please provide full details of the proposal and make your case for support below:

(Maximum 750 words)

Research Context

Dove Cottage was the residence of the poet William Wordsworth (WW) and his sister Dorothy (DW) between 1799 and 1808; and of De Quincey (TDQ) between 1808 and 1818. It is now a major heritage and tourist attraction managed by the Wordsworth Trust which aims 'to advance public knowledge and enjoyment' of these writers. Dove Cottage and its location have since become emblematic of the poetic vision expressed in WW's influential 'Preface' to *Lyrical Ballads* (1800), and of the communitarian lifestyle adopted by these writers. Such ideas have shaped common perceptions of the Romantic movement with which these writers are linked, often associated with retreat and seclusion from the contentious world of political affairs. Yet it is evident that the Wordsworths and TDQ remained deeply interested in the wider world around them during their residence at Dove Cottage. One important conduit for current information and opinion, and for the dissemination of a limitless variety of topics of interest to its inhabitants, was the periodical press. Newspapers, magazines, reviews, annuals, and journals catering to a wide spectrum of interests were by the early 1800s a ubiquitous feature of the publishing landscape, the product of new consumer tastes among the reading public and of the fast-improving print technology of the period. These were the beginnings of social media. There is ample evidence that the inhabitants of Dove Cottage in this period were accessing various kinds of periodicals avidly during their time here despite their many slighting remarks on magazines and reviews. (DW's passing comment in her journal of 27 Jan 1802 that 'William [had] wasted his mind in the Magazines' captures both the interest evoked by such publications, and the annoyance they sometimes evoked). This project will focus on periodicals as a relatively neglected area of research relating to the Lake writers and their heritage legacy. The project will aim therefore to illuminate the influence of periodicals on the imaginative world and writings of these celebrated writers over this formative period in literary history.

Methodology

Periodicals research is currently one of the fastest developing fields within literary studies, as many millions of pages and columns – hitherto accessible mainly in specialist archives and surviving in highly fragile physical conditions – have been digitized and made widely available to scholarship via databases. Such research deepens our understanding of ideological factors inherent in the dissemination and reception of knowledge - and the uses to which such knowledge were placed - in the production of literary works. The doctoral candidate will be encouraged to explore such resources in selective and in-depth ways by paying due attention to the often subtly shifting ideological positions inherent within the periodicals, the personalities of the literary figures involved (via biographical scholarship), and the great width of scholarship available on these Romantic writers and their relationship to print culture. In short, the methodology involves a marriage of access to materials and techniques of searching made newly available through technology with more traditional modes of manuscript and print scholarship.

Research Questions and Impact

The project will identify, and study closely, a limited range of periodicals of particular interest to each of the three literary inhabitants of Dove Cottage, WW, DW and TDQ. These will include social and political materials (relating to social conditions in Britain, the ongoing war with France, national and local politics); literary materials (reviews and discussions of literature and the arts); materials relating to daily life and domesticity (gardening, local interest stories, Cumbrian newspapers); 'foreign intelligence' relating to events in the Americas, India, China, and the colonies. Through immersion in such materials the candidate will seek to answer questions such as these:

- Which were some of the major periodicals that influenced these writers during this period?
- How did such periodicals shape the imaginative world of these writers during their residence at Dove Cottage?

- How do gender, class, age, and other identity variations influence these writers and their engagement with periodicals?
- How were these experiences transformed into literary texts through aesthetic considerations and through memory?

The research generated by this project will have independent academic value (in terms of publication and impact on future scholarship) as well as the potential to inform the displays and learning activities of Wordsworth Grasmere. These include working with diverse groups - in age, locality, and background - of participants in creative interaction with objects, books, architecture, and landscapes. The award will enable the candidate to work productively between HE and heritage sectors towards their doctoral project.

Provide details of any resources and facilities, including equipment, fieldwork, training, etc., that will be required to complete the project successfully. NBC has limited Research Training Support Grant funding, which may affect the feasibility of high-cost projects. Please note where you might also secure additional funding, (e.g. partner organisations; department or school). Include estimated costs:

(Maximum 200 words)

At Queen's University Belfast (QUB) the candidate will have access to the major print and digital resources available at McClay library and will be able to access materials at the Linen Hall Library, Belfast Central Library, Ulster University Library, Armagh Public library (among others). Digital resources at QUB include *British Periodicals*, *British Library Newspapers*, *Times Digital Archive*, *Eighteenth-Century Collections Online*, *Nineteenth-Century Collections Online*, among many other databases and electronic resources. QUB Library Services have subscribed to A) Gale Primary Sources and B) Gale Digital Scholar Lab, a suite of online tools that allow one to analyse these primary sources, or import one's own for analysis. These resources will provide the basis for the digital training that the student receives.

At the Jerwood Centre in Grasmere, the candidate will be embedded with the Curatorial and Learning (C&L) Team, participating in their exhibitions, outreach and interpretive activities. They will have access to the Wordsworth Trust's collection of over 68,000 manuscripts (including many by WW, DW and TDQ), paintings, books and memorabilia relating to the Romantic poets, including Wordsworth's own library, and will receive training in Collections management. Additional funding for conferences and PG training is available through the Graduate School, QUB.

Outline the arrangements for communication between the non-HE partner organisation and the academic host institution in regard to project management and monitoring academic progress:

(Maximum 200 words)

The project is envisaged as a closely monitored and interactive collaboration between Wordsworth Trust and QUB. The full supervisory team comprising the 2 QUB supervisors and the Wordsworth Trust Advisor will meet with the student twice annually via Teams to discuss progress on the project, offer advice, and plan forward. Briefer updates and exchanges will occur on a regular basis as required by email or via online meetings. As is normal at QUB, the candidate is expected to have regularly monthly meetings with their primary supervisor and will be able to contact their second supervisor at any time. They will be required to produce regular written work which will receive detailed feedback from their supervisor(s). Annual progress reviews (APR) will formally assess their progress each year with academic reviewers from outside the supervisory panel looking at their submissions. At Wordsworth Grasmere the student will remain under the supervision of the Curator, planning learning, training, and research activities in association with the C&L team, while reporting to and receiving support from the entire supervisory team.

What benefits will there be for the candidate and the non-HE partner organisation as a result of your collaboration?

(Maximum 300 words)

The project involves training and exposure to forms of learning and teaching in interlinked but distinct sectors, HE and the museum industry. The candidate will receive training pertaining to each of these sectors. At Wordsworth Grasmere they will be embedded with the C&L team and have the opportunity to develop their work towards museum display formats and media texts designed for audience interpretation. Such interventions could include the use of the Trust's online exhibition platform, developing talking points for certain groups of visitors, engaging in outreach activities, and working with museum staff and

volunteers. The results of the research would also deepen understanding of the collections held by the Jerwood centre. (E.g., one of the bedrooms at Dove Cottage has been papered over in period newspapers mimicking DW's practice of using newspapers for insulation. While it may never be possible to determine the precise issues of the newspapers used by Dorothy, this project would enable the researcher to consider modern-day audience interpretations of such material even as they study the wider implications of the periodicals culture of the period.) The research will pay full attention to the partially obscured figures of DW and TDQ who have been gaining increasing attention in recent scholarship and heritage understanding. In recent decades, gender, class, and racial attitudes of nineteenth-century figures have become increasingly problematic to the heritage sector. The student will develop their expertise in the field while learning to modulate tone and shape content for varied purposes of knowledge dissemination. Wordsworth Grasmere will draw upon the academic research of the candidate and help develop their talents in multi-directional ways.

State what financial (if any) or in-kind contribution the non-HE partner organisation will be making over the duration of the award:

*(Maximum 100 words. A financial contribution is **not** a requirement. However, the AHRC expect that **non-HE partners based overseas** will make a financial contribution to the costs of the student's return travel and accommodation when visiting.)*

The Wordsworth Trust will provide the student's training in curatorial and museum work during their residence at Grasmere (this would normally cost £375 per day for the Curator's supervision). At Grasmere the student will be housed at the multiple-occupancy house maintained by the Trust for the use of the C&L Team and Fellows (£160/2 weeks). The student will also be able to access online programmes and training from the Trust while they are at QUB. Funding for all in-house training and courses will be provided by the Trust.

Describe the nature of the collaborative arrangement and the activities the candidate will be undertaking with the non-HE partner organisation:

(Maximum 300 words)

The project is envisaged as a carefully monitored and interactive collaboration between Wordsworth Trust and QUB. It will draw upon the long-standing academic connection between the primary supervisor and the Wordsworth Trust. The candidate will be primarily based at QUB for the duration of their project, receiving workspace and regular in-person contact and personal support from the QUB supervisors. Additionally, the candidate will be expected to visit Wordsworth Grasmere for a minimum period of 4-6 weeks in each year of their project to enable an immersive experience of Dove Cottage and its environs, interacting with the Learning Team and staff there. At Dove Cottage the student will participate in the activities of the C&L team as directed by the Curator. These will include developing interpretive materials, working with community groups, joining the daily Q&A sessions with the Team, and engaging in primary research at the Jerwood Centre library and other libraries in the Cumbrian region. They will be housed with other PGR students and Fellows also engaged in research at Wordsworth Grasmere enabling discussion of their projects and sharing of knowledge. In essence, the candidate will become part of the Wordsworth Grasmere community, housed and working in the hamlet of Town End in which Dove Cottage is situated. As previous PGR students, interns, and fellows have commented, this immersive experience can be life-changing. The regular meetings of the supervisory team for progress monitoring will also be used to discuss the range and suitability of activities and courses at Grasmere available to the student. Such discussions will involve a two-way process in which the heritage and academic aspects of the project feed into each other to their mutual benefit.

SECTION 3: SUPERVISION AND EXTERNAL ADVISORS

Primary (or Co-) Supervisor: Dr Daniel S. Roberts

School or Department:	School of Arts, English and Languages	Email Address:	d.s.roberts@qub.ac.uk
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Secondary (or Co-) Supervisor: Prof Moyra Haslett

School or Department:	School of Arts, English and Languages	Email Address:	m.haslett@qub.ac.uk
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Name of the Advisor based at the Non-HE Partner Organisation: Mr. Jeff Cowton, MBE

Organisation/Institution:	The Wordsworth Trust	Email Address:	J.Cowton@wordsworth.org.uk
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Organisation/Institution:		Email Address:	
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Name of Additional Internal or External Advisors or Academic Supervisors, if any:

Organisation/Institution:		Email Address:	
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Explain how the expertise of the supervisory team and external advisor(s) will allow them to support the proposed project and the selected candidate:

(Maximum 500 words)

All three members of the supervisory team are well-established authorities in Eighteenth-Century and Romantic literature; each brings varying and relevant facets of expertise to the project.

Dr Daniel Sanjiv Roberts is the author of *Revisionary Gleam: De Quincey, Coleridge, and the High Romantic Argument* (Liverpool, 2000). He has edited, with Robert Morrison, *Thomas De Quincey: New Theoretical and Critical Directions* (Routledge, 2008) and *Romanticism and Blackwood's Magazine: 'An Unprecedented Phenomenon'* (Palgrave, 2013). He has published volumes by Thomas De Quincey and Robert Southey for the major scholarly editions of their works and has written widely on the Lake writers and Romantic orientalism among other topics. He has worked at the Dove Cottage/ Jerwood Centre library and presented his research there on numerous occasions. His work on Thomas De Quincey has involved extensive engagement with periodicals culture of the Romantic period. He is currently a member of the AHRC Research Network, 'Addressing the Histories and Legacies of Empire in Literary House Museums: Dove Cottage and Beyond', led by Prof Simon Bainbridge (PI), Prof Corinne Fowler (CI); and Jeff Cowton (Primary Partner).

Prof Moyra Haslett has published widely on Romanticism, Eighteenth-Century literature, Irish literature and song, literary theory, and women's writing. Her first book *Byron's Don Juan and the Don Juan Legend* (OUP, 1997) won the Rose Mary Crawshay Prize from the British Academy in 1998. Subsequent publications include *Marxist Literary and Cultural Theories* (Macmillan, 2000), *Pope to Burney, 1714-1779: Scriblerians to Bluestockings* (Basingstoke: Palgrave, 2003), a scholarly edition of *Thomas Amory, The Life of John Buncl* (Dublin, 2018), and *Irish Literature in Transition, Volume 1: 1700-1780* (CUP, 2020). She is currently co-editing the *Oxford Handbook of Irish Song, 1100-1850* (OUP). She has taught writing by William and Dorothy Wordsworth throughout her teaching career and has researched periodicals for women readers as part of her research on Byron and on fictions of girls' schools.

Jeff Cowton has worked at The Wordsworth Trust since 1981. He has been Curator and Head of Learning for over 15 years. This role leads in all areas of collections development, research and programming, as well as university partnerships. In May 2021, The Wordsworth Trust re-opened after a £6.5m redevelopment, including the reinterpretation of Wordsworth's home and creation of major new museum displays on Romanticism. Jeff was the interpretation lead for the project. Jeff has led the Trust's partnering in 3 CDAs to date: 2006 with Lancaster University (Prof Simon Bainbridge), 2013 with Leeds University (Dr David Higgins); he is currently leading on 2020 with University of Oxford (Prof Catriona Seth) and 2022 with University of Northumbria (Dr Andrew Richardson). Jeff has been Curator at the Wordsworth Trust for over 30 years, during which time he has developed strong relationships with universities internationally. A key part of these has been the development of students (UG/PG), including the establishment of three-month-long internships; in 2022, the Trust welcomed 6 international students. Jeff played a leading role in the establishment of sector qualifications which led to the Cultural Apprenticeships.

SECTION 4: RESEARCH ENVIRONMENT

Please provide details about the research environment the selected candidate will be joining and its suitability:

(Maximum 500 words)

The student will enter in effect two connected research environments for their project.

The School of Arts, English and Languages (SAEL) at QUB has a vibrant PGR student culture comprising more specialised elements within the English subject area and more broadly across the faculty. The SAEL Postgraduate Committee provides funding for doctoral students to attend relevant conferences, training or purchase equipment and resources. SAEL's Research Student Network, deliver a student-led series of events, including writing retreats, research skills training and an annual postgraduate conference, 'Common Ground'. Students are encouraged to get involved with the planning and to present their own work to staff and fellow students in the School. The English research seminars comprise a mix of papers and short 'work-in-progress' presentations given by PGR students, staff and visiting scholars. The Graduate School at QUB offers a full programme of events and training opportunities for PG Students. The Digital Scholarship Hub at QUB series of monthly events, workshops and opportunities for sharing digital humanities methodologies and skills.

The Centre for Eighteenth-Century Studies at QUB is an interdisciplinary initiative established in 2002 which runs a regular programme of events with participation from across the faculty (especially from History, English, Music, and Languages). It draws together expertise from across the faculty in the long eighteenth century (including Romanticism). It runs an annual PGR-staff workshop on selected topics of wide significance within the period (the last such in 2022 was on the theme of 'Charity'). The committee comprises a Director, staff members from each of the core disciplines mentioned above, and a PGR student/research fellow). The selected candidate would be encouraged to participate in the activities of the Centre and could serve on the committee. The interdisciplinary nature of the Centre allows for members to learn from the expertise of colleagues in other subject areas. Both QUB supervisors, Prof Haslett and Dr Roberts, are serving members on the Committee; Dr Roberts was the former Director until 2021.

Wordsworth Grasmere comprises the listed building of Dove Cottage itself; the Museum, Garden-Orchard and Woodland; and the state-of-the art Jerwood Centre with its library and reading room. It receives over 40,000 visitors every year and was winner of the Cumbria Tourism Award for 'Small Visitor Attraction' in 2023. Its collections are searchable online enabling researchers to commence work on arrival. Its Curatorial and learning team provides students with 'the tools to interpret the past in new and imaginative ways' providing skills which lie beyond traditional academic research. Its workshops bring poetry, people and places to life through close investigations of manuscripts, local walks, workshops and the like.

Each of the above locations in Belfast and Grasmere offers further facilities and opportunities for research in their local environments. They will enter a friendly, diverse and supportive environment for carrying out their research project.

In the event that your project is successful it will be advertised on the Northern Bridge Consortium website to aid recruitment:
<http://www.northernbridge.ac.uk/applyforastudentship/cda/>

SECTION 5: RECRUITMENT INFORMATION

Please therefore complete the following Applicant Criteria so that advertising can begin immediately following the outcome of the competition:

<i>For further information about this Collaborative Doctoral Award and to submit an Expression of Interest, please contact:</i>	
Lead Supervisor (or Alternative Contact):	Dr Daniel Sanjiv Roberts
Email:	d.s.roberts@qub.ac.uk
Expressions of Interest must be received no later than:	Thursday 15 February 2024
Expressions of Interest must take the following format:	
2-page CV including the names of 2 referees; a statement (up to 500 words) explaining the candidate's suitability for the project; and a sample of academic work (3,000 to 5,000 words in length). See also: Periodicals in the Life of a Literary House: Dove Cottage, 1799-1818 PhD Opportunities Queen's University Belfast (qub.ac.uk)	
Interviews for shortlisted candidates are expected to take place:	By the end of February 2024

APPLICANT CRITERIA

Candidates must also meet the criteria for acceptance on a doctoral programme as set out by the host institution's Postgraduate Admissions Service. The successful candidate will be required to submit a postgraduate application to their host institution following notification that they are to be awarded a conditional CDA studentship, and meet the conditions of the offer of a place on the doctoral programme.

Education and Professional Qualifications	Essential Criteria	a 2:1 or above Honours Degree in English or a related discipline
	Desirable Criteria	M.A. in English or related discipline Experience of studying Romanticism
Research and Impact Experience and Training	Essential Criteria	Excellent written and oral skills Experience of literary research Experience of teamwork
	Desirable Criteria	Experience of working with periodicals
Professional Practice and Job-related Experience	Essential Criteria	N/A
	Desirable Criteria	Experience of heritage sector
Interpersonal Skills	Essential Criteria	Good oral communication Excellent interpersonal skills Ability to work in a team

	Desirable Criteria	N/A
Other Factors	Essential Criteria	N/A
	Desirable Criteria	N/A