



Research Assistant (part-time, fixed-term)

Vacancy reference no.:	GC05199
Salary:	£23,449 - £26,391 pro rata per annum
Hours:	Half-time (18.5 hours per week)
Limit of tenure:	2 years
Closing date:	18 June 2009

The Department of Architecture at the University of Cambridge is seeking to appoint a graduate with suitable qualifications to undertake research for Dr Wendy Pullan and to carry out fieldwork and assist in the running of workshops and seminars in Jerusalem.

The candidate will live in Jerusalem and research in the city. Some work at home will be necessary and candidates will need to use their own computer. The post will be part-time for two years; some flexibility may be possible.

Interviews with short-listed candidates will be held in Jerusalem on 25 June 2009.

This post is available from 1 October 2009.

The research project

This work will be part of a 5 year ESRC-funded research project entitled: "*Conflict in Cities and the Contested State: Everyday life and the possibilities for transformation in Belfast, Jerusalem and other divided cities*". Starting in October 2009, the project focuses on divided cities as key sites in territorial conflicts over state and national identities, cultures and borders. The research objectives are to analyse how divided cities in Europe and the Middle East have been shaped by ethnic, religious and national conflicts, and conversely, how such cities can absorb, resist and potentially play a role in transforming the territorial conflicts which pervade and surround them. The project seeks to understand the cities as arenas of intensified ethno-national conflicts, particularly with respect to the role that architecture and the urban fabric play as a setting and background for everyday activities and events. Phenomena related to creating, maintaining, crossing, transcending or ignoring ethnic and territorial borders, both physical and symbolic, are central to the study.

The main research sites are Belfast and Jerusalem, two very distinctive cities - one firmly embedded in the West and one central to the Middle East - and both at

different stages of national conflict and peace-building. A team of researchers from three UK universities, Cambridge, Exeter and Queen's Belfast, will lead the multi-disciplinary initiative that includes: architecture, urban studies, politics, geography and sociology. Teams reflecting the divisions being researched will carry out work *in situ* in Belfast and Jerusalem. Seven PhD students will be attached to the programme and, in conjunction with an international network of academics and practitioners attached to the project, will consider other divided cities, such as Nicosia, Mostar, Berlin, Brussels, Beirut and Kirkuk. Within this overall project framework a contextual and comparative approach will be developed to explore wider issues of urban conflict and the possibilities for resolution.

Conflict in Cities and the Contested State is funded by the Economic and Social Research Council of Great Britain. It builds on earlier projects begun in 2003 and supported by the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC).

Project leaders:

- Dr Wendy Pullan, Architecture, University of Cambridge
- Professor James Anderson, Geography, Queen's University Belfast
- Professor Mick Dumper, Politics, University of Exeter
- Professor Liam O'Dowd, Sociology, Queen's University Belfast

For further information please see the website: www.conflictincities.org

Main duties

The post-holder will work under and assist Dr Wendy Pullan in a variety of ways:

- Undertaking research and data-collection on the modules allocated to Dr Pullan, including fieldwork in Jerusalem.
- Involvement in writing research reports and articles.
- Editing and preparing material for publication or presentation, including visuals and PowerPoint.
- Contributing to the development of multi-disciplinary research methods.
- Assisting in the administration of the project in Jerusalem, organizing of project management meetings, project workshops, graduate workshops and panels of an international conference.
- Liaising with project investigators, project partners and researchers.

The Research Assistant would be expected to have some previous knowledge of urban studies research, preferably in Jerusalem or related parts of the Middle East and have experience in research methodology to ensure that they are able to balance the demands of their research and administrative duties and meet deadlines. The Research Assistant will be expected to cooperate with the Research Assistant appointed by Professor Mick Dumper, University of Exeter.

Other duties arising during the course of the project will be allocated as appropriate.

Person Specification

Qualifications, experience and skills:

- Degree in a relevant social science, architecture or urban studies discipline
- Ability to communicate effectively in writing and orally in Arabic and English
- Ability to research in libraries, archives and Internet, including the monitoring of a range of sites
- Good organisational and management skills
- Evidence of some experience of fieldwork, preferably in Jerusalem
- Skills in qualitative methods (including good interviewing technique) and data analysis
- Capacity to contribute effectively to the project and workshops of the research project
- Hebrew and/or another European language will be an advantage

Terms and conditions

This is a part-time post for 18.5 hours per week and is available for a fixed term of two years, subject to successful completion of an initial probation period. The successful candidate will take up appointment from 1 October 2009, and appointment will be at Research Assistant level (Grade 5 on the University's pay scale; current full-time equivalent salary £23,449 - £26,391 per annum).

Further information about terms and conditions of work can be found on the University's website at www.admin.cam.ac.uk/offices/hr/staff/guide/.

The post-holder will be entitled to join the Universities Superannuation Scheme. Further information on employee benefits can be found at www.admin.cam.ac.uk/offices/hr/staff/benefits/.

The University of Cambridge is committed in its pursuit of academic excellence to equality of opportunity and to a pro-active and inclusive approach to equality, which supports and encourages all under-represented groups, promotes an inclusive culture, and values diversity. The University's Equal Opportunities Policy and Codes of Practice can be found at www.admin.cam.ac.uk/offices/hr/policy/equal.html.

Further information and application procedure

Further information about the Department is available from its website at www.arct.cam.ac.uk. Before submitting an application you may wish to discuss the post further by contacting: Dr Wendy Pullan by email at wap10@cam.ac.uk.

Applications should consist of:

- a completed form PD18 (Parts I and II only), available on the Department's website at <http://www.arct.cam.ac.uk>. Please include the names and contact details of two referees and note that we will assume these can be contacted at any time, unless you indicate otherwise on the form.
- a covering letter of application, stating why you believe you are suitable for this position
- a full *curriculum vitae*, including a list of any publications or other dissemination of research (e.g. exhibition, reports, etc.)

These should be sent to Ms Karen Smith, Department of Architecture, 1-5 Scroope Terrace, Trumpington Street, Cambridge, CB2 1PX (fax +44 (0)1223 332960, email ks466@cam.ac.uk) in order to arrive no later than Thursday 18 June 2009. Emailed applications are acceptable, subject to receipt of a signed hard copy should you be shortlisted for interview. The vacancy reference number (GC05199) must be clearly marked on your application.

Interviews for the post will be held in Jerusalem on 25 June 2009. The interviews will be held in conjunction with interviews for a parallel post in this project but responsible to Professor Mick Dumper of the University of Exeter. (Enquiries: mick.dumper@exeter.ac.uk) Applicants may wish to check their suitability for the Exeter post as well.