

Harold Vyvyan Harmsworth Visiting Professorship of American History in association with The Queen's College

The Harmsworth Visiting Professorship is an exciting opportunity for a highly distinguished researcher working in the field of American History. Applications are now invited for the academic years 2027-28, 2028-29 and 2029-30. The tenure of each professorship is for 12 months.

History of the Professorship

The Harmsworth Professorship, inaugurated in 1922, was established by the 1st Viscount Rothermere in memory of his son Vyvyan, who died in the First World War. Since then it has been held by a series of distinguished historians of the United States. Recent holders of the Harmsworth Visiting Professorship include Professor Lisa McGirr (Harvard), Professor Elizabeth Varon (University of Virginia), Professor Bruce Schulman (Boston University), Professor Patrick Griffin (Notre Dame), Professor Peter Mancall (University of Southern California), and Professor Barbara Savage (University of Pennsylvania). A list of [previous holders of the Harmsworth Professorship](#) is available on The Queen's College website.

The Professor will be made a Fellow of The Queen's College and a Senior Fellow of the Rothermere American Institute (RAI), which is Oxford's research centre for the study of the United States and its place in the world.

Duties of the Harmsworth Visiting Professor

The duties of the Harmsworth Professor are to engage as fully as possible with the intellectual life of the Rothermere American Institute and the Faculty of History. In particular, we look forward to your presence and leadership at graduate student workshops and research seminars in American history. You will be expected to deliver the equivalent of thirty-six lectures or classes through teaching on one or more Masters or undergraduate class. Past Harmsworth professors have played a vital role in supporting graduate students and post-doctoral researchers. You will discuss the details of your contribution with relevant colleagues in advance of your arrival in Oxford. We will expect you to be present in Oxford during full term, although we also encourage Harmsworth professors to accept invitations to speak at other UK universities during their tenure.

You will be required to give a prestigious public lecture on a topic of your own choosing. The details in respect of this lecture will be agreed between yourself, the Electors to the Harmsworth Professorship, and The Queen's College. The lecture is normally held during the Michaelmas (Fall) Term.

You will be given an office in the RAI.

Stipend

You will be paid a salary of £79,245 for the academic year (at current rates). Most previous holders' tenure have coincided with a period of sabbatical leave from their home institution.

Eligibility

You will be a highly distinguished academic working in the field of American History. We invite expressions of interest across all historical periods and methodological approaches, although the electors may take these into account to achieve a balance across the three appointments to the Harmsworth Visiting Professorship in each recruitment cycle.

The Board of Electors to the Harmsworth Professorship will consider all expressions of interest submitted in advance of the closing date and also reserve the right to approach suitably qualified candidates directly. Election to the post of Harmsworth Professor will not be limited to those candidates who have submitted expressions of interest materials.

If you will require a visa in order to take up this position in the UK, it will be your responsibility to obtain a visa, although the University will provide advice and assistance as necessary.

How to apply

To express your interest in the Harold Vyvyan Harmsworth Visiting Professorship of American History, please send the following documents by email to hr@rai.ox.ac.uk. The closing date is **31 August 2025**.

- a two-page curriculum vitae
- a covering letter including:
 - an outline of your research interests
 - an indication of how your teaching and research would complement that of the History Faculty and Rothermere American Institute
 - your availability for the academic years (2027-28 / 2028-29 / 2029-30) and any preferences

Contact details

For an informal discussion about this post, please contact Dr Daniel Rowe, Director of Academic Programmes, Rothermere American Institute, at daniel.rowe@rai.ox.ac.uk.

The Faculty of History

The Faculty of History in Oxford is the largest in the United Kingdom and one of the largest in the world. It has a very strong international reputation for its scholarship and its teaching of undergraduate and graduate students, with particular strengths in the history of the British Isles, continental Europe, imperial and global history, the United States, economic and social history, intellectual history and the history of science, medicine and technology. Within the Faculty there is also the highly-regarded Department of History of Art and a number of dedicated research centres. The Faculty holds a bronze Athena Swan award to recognise advancement of gender equality: representation, progression and success for all.

The Faculty is currently located in the Old Boys' High School, George Street, but in Summer 2025, the Faculty, including the Department of History of Art, will move to the new, purpose-built Schwarzman Centre for the Humanities: <https://www.schwarzmancentre.ox.ac.uk>

With the size of its History Faculty, its lively and varied research seminars and the major resources for research, which include, among others, the outstanding collections of the Bodleian Libraries and the University museums, Oxford offers a uniquely attractive research environment.

The Faculty provides a robust and supportive framework for research, including:

- Financial support for research travel, research assistance, and editorial help
- A standard sabbatical leave system, with the possibility of additional special leave
- Peer mentoring and career development review of research plans and progress
- Research collaborations with other institutions
- Energetic encouragement and support of externally-funded research projects, and for internal and interdisciplinary collaborations, through research centres
- Support of, and engagement with, interdisciplinary teaching
- Assistance in the formulation of research plans and funding bids

The Faculty enables all its postholders to request up to £800 per year for research expenses, and makes additional funds available for organising conferences and research seminars in Oxford. Biennial career development reviews identify those staff who may need extra support in achieving their research objectives, e.g. through relief from teaching or administrative burdens.

More information about the Faculty can be found at: www.history.ox.ac.uk

The Rothermere American Institute (RAI)

The RAI is Oxford's centre for the study of the United States and its place in the world. Its mission is to support research in Oxford and beyond, to act as a catalyst for interdisciplinary work and research collaboration, and to engage non-university audiences, all with the aim of improving the scholarly and public understanding of America. The RAI's activity falls into three broad areas: hosting/supporting academic and public events, hosting Visiting Fellows, and directly supporting research. Its public programmes include a podcast, online and in-person lectures, and an annual event for schools.

The RAI community includes a large number of graduate students; the academic post-holders in US History, American Literature and US Politics; two Career Development Fellowships in US history; several Fellows-in-Residence; a group of Distinguished Fellows; and a wide group of early career researchers, retired colleagues and many others. The RAI collaborates widely with other research institutes in the University. The RAI's Vere

Harmsworth Library offers the strongest collection in US history in Europe, including a wide range of digital resources for the study of twentieth-century US history.

The current RAI Director is the Edward Orsborn Professor of US Politics and Political History, Adam Smith. The RAI has a small but dedicated team including a full-time Director of Academic Programmes; a full-time Manager; a full-time Academic Programme and Events Officer; and a part-time Operations Assistant. Opened by President Clinton in 2001, the RAI and its sister institution the Vere Harmsworth Library are housed in a magnificent modern building in the centre of Oxford.

For more information please visit: www.rai.ox.ac.uk.

The Queen's College

The Harmsworth Visiting Professorship carries with it an entitlement to a non-stipendiary Professorial Fellowship at The Queen's College. As a result you will be able to participate in the academic, intellectual and social life of the college. You will be a member of the Senior Common Room and will have dining rights (free of charge) at the Common Table.

The Queen's College is one of the oldest colleges in the University of Oxford and is conveniently and prominently situated on Oxford's High Street. Founded in 1341, it consists of splendid 17th- and 18th-century buildings, which replaced those of its mediaeval foundation, as well as more modern residential buildings in nearby parts of the city.

In addition to approximately 45 Fellows, 160 graduate students and 330 undergraduates, the College has two Tutorial Fellows in History, Conor O'Brien and Meleisa Ono-George. Dr O'Brien researches the early Middle Ages, with a particular interest in religious history and in the histories of Ireland and Britain. Dr Ono-George is a social-cultural historian of race and gender, with a focus on Black women's histories in Britain and the Anglo-Caribbean and a particular interest in community-engaged and Caribbean research methodologies.

More information about The Queen's College can be found at www.queens.ox.ac.uk.

About the University of Oxford

Oxford's departments and colleges aim to lead the world in research and education for the benefit of society both in the UK and globally. Oxford's researchers engage with academic, commercial and cultural partners across the world to stimulate high-quality research and enable innovation through a broad range of social, policy and economic impacts.

Oxford's self-governing community of international scholars includes Professors, Associate Professors, other college tutors, senior and junior research fellows and a large number University research staff. Research at Oxford combines disciplinary depth with an increasing focus on inter-disciplinary and multi-disciplinary activities addressing a rich and diverse range of issues.

Oxford's strengths lie both in empowering individuals and teams to address fundamental questions of global significance, and in providing all staff with a welcoming and inclusive workplace that supports everyone to develop and do their best work. Recognising that diversity is a great strength, and vital for innovation and creativity, Oxford aspires to build a truly inclusive community which values and respects every individual's unique contribution.

While Oxford has long traditions of scholarship, it is also forward-looking, creative and cutting-edge. Oxford is one of Europe's most entrepreneurial universities. It consistently has the highest external research income of any university in the UK (the most recent figures are available at www.ox.ac.uk/about/organisation/finance-and-funding), and regularly creates spinout companies based on academic research generated within and owned by the University. Oxford is also recognised as a leading supporter of social enterprise.

Oxford admits undergraduate students with the intellectual potential to benefit fully from the small group learning to which Oxford is deeply committed. Meeting in small groups (known as 'tutorials') with their tutor, undergraduates are exposed to rigorous scholarly challenge and learn to develop their critical thinking, their ability to articulate their views with clarity, and their personal and intellectual confidence. They receive a high level of personal attention from leading academics.

Oxford has a strong postgraduate student body, who are attracted to Oxford by the international standing of the faculty, by the rigorous intellectual training on offer, by the excellent research and laboratory facilities available, and by the resources of the museums and libraries, including one of the world's greatest libraries, the Bodleian.

For more information please visit www.ox.ac.uk/about/organisation

University Benefits, Terms and Conditions

Details of University policy in the following areas can be found at the links provided.

Salary

[Academic staff pay | HR Support \(ox.ac.uk\)](#)

Pension

<https://finance.web.ox.ac.uk/uss>

Sabbatical leave

[Council Regulations 4 of 2004 | Governance and Planning \(ox.ac.uk\)](#)

Outside commitments

<https://hr.admin.ox.ac.uk/holding-outside-appointments>.

Intellectual Property

<https://governance.admin.ox.ac.uk/legislation/council-regulations-7-of-2002>

Managing conflicts of interest

<https://researchsupport.admin.ox.ac.uk/governance/integrity>

Membership of Congregation

<https://www.ox.ac.uk/about/organisation/governance>
<https://governance.admin.ox.ac.uk/legislation/statute-iv-congregation>

Family support

<https://hr.admin.ox.ac.uk/family-leave-for-academic-staff>.

<https://childcare.admin.ox.ac.uk/home>.

<https://www.newcomers.ox.ac.uk/>.

Welcome for International Staff

<welcome.ox.ac.uk>.

[Home](#) | [Staff Immigration \(ox.ac.uk\)](#)

Relocation

<https://finance.admin.ox.ac.uk/relocation-scheme-arrangements#collapse1094916>

Promoting diversity

<https://edu.admin.ox.ac.uk/home>

Other benefits and discounts for University employees

[Staff benefits](#) | [HR Support \(ox.ac.uk\)](#)

Pre-employment screening

<https://jobs.ox.ac.uk/pre-employment-checks>.

Length of appointment

Appointments to Associate Professorships at Oxford are confirmed as permanent on successful completion of a review during the first five years. See [Academic posts at Oxford | HR Support](#)

Retirement

The University operates an employer justified retirement age for academic posts of 30 September immediately preceding the 70th birthday. See <https://hr.admin.ox.ac.uk/the-ejra>

Data Privacy

<https://compliance.admin.ox.ac.uk/job-applicant-privacy-policy>.

<https://compliance.admin.ox.ac.uk/data-protection-policy>.