

AHRC Collaborative Doctoral Partnership Studentship: Collecting UK Digital Comics

Project Title: Collecting UK Digital Comics: Social, cultural and technological factors for cultural institutions

Location: London

Duration: 3 years full-time/6 years part time

Requirements: Undergraduate and postgraduate qualification in relevant subject, or equivalent experience working in libraries or publishing related to comics.

University of the Arts London and the British Library are both committed to encouraging applications from the widest range of potential students. Our research and collections reflect the diversity of life and culture in the UK, and we welcome applications from candidates that help to broaden our collective knowledge and experience.

Desirable: Active interest in reading and/or creating digital comics

Application deadline: 31 May 2019

Programme start: 01 October 2019

The British Library (BL) and University of the Arts London are delighted to offer a fully-funded PhD studentship (including fees and living allowance) on the research theme of *Collecting UK Digital Comics: Social, cultural and technological factors for cultural institutions*.

The research theme

This PhD will focus on content policy: the questions that shape decisions taken by cultural institutions in building digital collections. Your research will look at cultural, social and technological factors that influence what libraries collect and how they build collections and make them available. This will include:

- Research into definitions for digital comics and web comics, taking into account the differences between digital comics. For example, comics that are adaptive, hypertextual, interactive, multimedia, motion-based and experimental, as well as more conventional examples.
- An analysis of how form and features interact with (and influence) subject matter, and how this reflects social and cultural change.
- Research into practice across different cultural institutions, including how ethical questions raised by the content of digital comics are resolved.
- Strategies and rationales for collecting within cultural institutions.

Your research will include engagement with digital comics creators and publishers, as well as with collecting institutions and readers.

You will become part of a [vibrant cohort of collaborative doctoral researchers](#) and benefit from **staff-level access to BL collections**, resources and training programmes, including the opportunity to participate in courses run by the in-house Digital Scholarship Team. You will also benefit from the dedicated programme of professional development and networking events delivered by the Library in tandem with the other museums, galleries and heritage organisations affiliated with the [AHRC CDP scheme](#).

This is one of two Collaborative PhDs on digital comics that will run concurrently at the British Library. The Library is also working with the City University of London on a PhD, which will conduct research on information and publishing practices in the creation, dissemination and consumption of UK digital comics: <https://www.bl.uk/news/2019/february/ahrc-cdp-2019>

Applications should include the below:

- Completed UAL online PhD Application submitted to Central Saint Martins, UAL via <https://www.arts.ac.uk/research/research-degrees>. Applicants should follow the Guidance on How to Write a Research Proposal available [here](#) and link their proposal to the themes and concerns outlined in this document.
- CV to be uploaded to the online application system
- Statement of up to one side of A4 demonstrating what they will bring to the project, how it fits with their previous experience and interests and how they will shape it to be uploaded to the online application system.

Applications will be selected for interview considered by a panel convened at the British Library and the selected applicant will be offered a place at UAL. Practice-based or practice-led approaches to research will be considered for this studentship.

The offer will include full supervision, mentoring and support from both UAL and the British Library for the duration of studies.

Eligibility

1. Academic Requirements

- *Essential:* Undergraduate and postgraduate qualification in relevant subject, or equivalent experience working in libraries or publishing related to comics.
 - University of the Arts London and the British Library are both committed to encouraging applications from the widest range of potential students. Our research and collections reflect the diversity of life and culture in the UK, and we welcome applications from candidates that help to broaden our collective knowledge and experience.
- *Desirable:* Active interest in reading and/or creating digital comics

2. Type of Award

- A fully funded studentship award that covers the cost of approved tuition fees and provides a stipend, plus an additional amount p/a for research expenses.

3. Residency Criteria

- British nationals who have lived in the UK and Islands all their lives are eligible.
- Also eligible are non-British nationals who have settled status AND have been resident in the UK for 3 years immediately prior to the date of the start of the course.
- EU nationals who have been ordinarily resident in the UK and Islands for three years immediately prior to the date of start of the course are eligible.
- EEA and Swiss nationals (EEA migrant workers) should refer to the full RCUK guidelines to check eligibility and may be eligible for a fees only award.

Please refer to pages 17-18 of the [RCUK Training Grant Guide](#)

Funding Information

The studentship is available for full-time study (or part-time equivalent), and applicants must be able to commence their studies on 1 October 2019.

The **Studentship** is awarded for 3 years initially and will cover tuition fees and a [stipend at the standard UKRI rate](#) (£17,009 in 2019/20 or part-time equivalent) plus an additional £550 p/a (or part-time equivalent) awarded by the AHRC for collaborative PhD students. This is supplemented by an expenses allowance of up to £1,000 p/a from the British Library for research-related costs. **Student Development Funding**, equivalent to an additional 6 months of funding, is available to support further training and skills development opportunities that are agreed as part of the PhD programme (e.g. indigenous language courses, as suggested above) and may be used to extend the studentship accordingly.