

PETER J. BRAAM JUNIOR RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP IN GLOBAL WELLBEING AT MERTON COLLEGE, OXFORD

FURTHER PARTICULARS

1. GENERAL

Merton College proposes to elect a Peter J. Braam Junior Research Fellow in Global Wellbeing for three years commencing on 1 October 2021 or as soon as possible thereafter. This is a career-development post which will provide a promising academic with the opportunity to develop as a researcher; as such, it is for a fixed term and not renewable.

The successful candidate will be required to work as an independent researcher, in collaboration with other researchers, in a department within the University of Oxford, on a topic contributing to the solution of the global welfare problems. These problems might be humanitarian, natural or political, and can be broadly interpreted. The College will consider applications from a broad range of fields of study, including but not limited to international politics and development, economics, history, philosophy, medicine (e.g., epidemiology, virology, mental health), artificial intelligence and machine learning, etc., as long as a genuine case is made as to how the proposed research contributes specifically to the advancement of Global Wellbeing. The Fellow may also teach up to six hours a week and, with the permission of the Governing Body, may undertake a limited amount of lecturing for the University. Successful applicants will normally be required to spend most of their time in Oxford during the tenure of their Fellowship.

2. MERTON COLLEGE

Merton is one of the oldest colleges in Oxford, having been founded in 1264. Merton has a strong commitment to excellence in research and teaching (see <http://www.merton.ox.ac.uk/>). Among the Fellows are researchers in Economics, History, Law, Medicine, Philosophy, Politics and other relevant fields. Information on the Fellows of Merton and their research interests can be found at <http://www.merton.ox.ac.uk/fellows>.

Merton has about 300 undergraduates across a range of Humanities, Social Science, and Science subjects. Competition for places is intense. Merton also has a sizeable graduate community (c.300) representing a range of interests and experiences and contributing to a vibrant research environment.

On average, the College has about 15 Research Fellows at any one time. A number of Merton Fellows and graduates take part in the College's interdisciplinary discussion groups, more details of which can be found at <http://www.merton.ox.ac.uk/research>.

One Governing Body Fellow serves as Research Convener and research talks are scheduled throughout the year. Merton fosters international collaboration through active Visiting Research Fellow and Visiting Scholar schemes including provision of accommodation for scholars who wish to come to Oxford to work with Merton Fellows.

3. RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE PETER J. BRAAM JUNIOR RESEARCH FELLOW

Research Responsibilities

The aim of the Peter J. Braam Junior Research Fellowship is to provide an opportunity for the holders to devote their time to producing high-quality independent research. The successful candidate will be required to:

- (i) Undertake independent research on a topic satisfying the description at the beginning of this document;
- (ii) Contribute to the wider academic research projects in the University in the field of their research;
- (iii) Submit a report to the Research Committee of the College on his or her research activities in June of each year.

College Responsibilities

The main responsibilities of the Peter J. Braam Junior Research Fellow will be as follows:

- (i) To perform the duties of a member of the Governing Body of Merton College. The College is a registered charity; members of the Governing Body are its trustees and must act in accordance with English charity law.
- (ii) To participate fully in the life of the College. Attendance is strongly encouraged at College events such as the College Admission Dinners (for fresher undergraduates and graduates), Postmasters' Dinner (a dinner for undergraduate scholars), and the Shrove Tuesday Dinner (a dinner for undergraduate finalists).

A more detailed guide to these responsibilities will be communicated to the successful candidate by the Sub-Warden following election as a Peter J. Braam Junior Research Fellow.

4. CRITERIA FOR APPOINTMENT

To be successful, candidates will need to demonstrate that they meet the following selection criteria:

- (i) An excellent academic record;
- (ii) High achievement, commensurate with the candidate's career level, in a relevant field of research, as demonstrated by a completed doctoral thesis and/or published or forthcoming books, or articles in refereed journals, as appropriate to the candidate's field;
- (iii) The ability to present research findings effectively to fellow professionals at national and international conferences or in professional research seminars;

- (iv) Demonstration of a coherent plan of research for the duration of the Fellowship which promises to make a valuable contribution to the candidate's field and to have relevance to the solution of societal problems;
- (v) Willingness to undertake the wider duties and obligations of a Fellow of the College, as set out in Section 3 above.

Candidates will not normally be considered who on 1 October 2021 will have accumulated more than seven years of full-time post-graduate study or research, excluding periods of professional training or preparation for a second undergraduate degree. A candidate who feels that there are special factors that should be brought to the College's attention should state them briefly in the application.

5. REMUNERATION AND CONDITIONS OF THE JUNIOR RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP

The current stipend for the career-development researcher elected to the Peter J. Braam Junior Research Fellowship is £23,754 p.a. This figure will normally be adjusted if the Fellow is in receipt of other emoluments.

Please note that the College is reviewing the stipend for this post and may also need to adjust the balance of salary and housing allowance to be paid, but the new combined total will be no less than the total advertised.

- (a) The following conditions will apply:
 - (i) The Peter J. Braam Junior Research Fellow will have the right to free meals at the Common Table of the College when the kitchen is open;
 - (ii) A Peter J. Braam Junior Research Fellow who wishes to live in College may be provided with single accommodation free of rent, subject to availability. Accommodation may be available only in a flat, for which the occupant would be responsible for utility bills and council tax charges. Depending on availability, the College may be able to offer accommodation for partners without children;
 - (iii) A Peter J. Braam Research Fellow who does not wish to live in College, he or she will receive a housing allowance of £10,000 p.a.;
 - (iv) The Fellow will be auto-enrolled in the Universities Superannuation Scheme, with the possibility of opting out;
 - (v) The College insures members of the Governing Body, their co-habiting partners, and dependent children under the age of 21, with a private Medical Insurance company free of charge (the premium is assessable as a taxable benefit);
 - (vi) There is a possibility of reimbursement of qualifying research expenses from the Research Fund of up to £3,800 p.a.;

- (vii) The College provides for sick leave and family related leave on the same basis as the University of Oxford, taking into account the fixed term nature and particular circumstances of the employment;
- (viii) The Fellow will not be eligible for sabbatical leave;
- (ix) The appointment will be for three years. A notice period of one Full Term will be required should the postholder wish to resign the Fellowship at an earlier point.

Appointment is conditional on verification of the successful candidate's availability for employment in the United Kingdom.

(b) Sundry other information concerning both academic facilities and domestic arrangements in the College (e.g., ordinary meals and College official dinners, arrangements for access, Senior Common Room and Guest Room facilities, use of parking, telephones and photocopying, etc.) will be communicated to the successful candidate following election as the Peter J. Braam Junior Research Fellow.

6. PROCEDURE FOR APPLICATION AND APPOINTMENT

Applications

Those wishing to apply for this post should complete the online application form at <http://www.merton.ox.ac.uk/vacancies> and upload:

- a brief *curriculum vitae* incorporating a publications list and stating the titles of two short pieces of written work which they would submit in support of their application if shortlisted
- a research proposal, not exceeding 1,500 words, for the three years covered by the Research Fellowship.
- Equal Opportunities Monitoring Form. The information collected on the Equal Opportunities Monitoring Form does **not** form part of the selection process and will **not** be circulated to the selection panel. It will be used solely to monitor the effectiveness of the College's Equality Policy which is published at <http://www.merton.ox.ac.uk/college-policies>.

Applicants should arrange for three referees to write directly to the Warden of Merton by **noon** on the closing date of **Friday 4 December 2020**.

References should be sent electronically to the Sub-Warden's Secretary, Mrs Lesley Walsh, lesley.walsh@merton.ox.ac.uk. Hard-copy signed references may be required for the successful candidate. Applicants are requested to inform each referee that, under the General Data Protection Regulation 2016/679 and the Data Protection Act 2018, the reference provided may be regarded as disclosable to the subject of the reference unless it is clear that the reference has been given in confidence. The College asks that a reference given in confidence should be marked "**strictly confidential**" on the letter of reference itself and not just on the envelope in which the letter is contained.

Short-listed candidates will be invited to submit written work samples in advance of interview and will be required to make contact with a relevant department or

faculty of the University to demonstrate synergy between their project and the existing research interests of the department.

It is anticipated that interviews will be held in **February 2021**. Shortlisted candidates may be invited to submit written-work samples in advance. Unless the interviews are held remotely (which is the most likely possibility), reasonable interview expenses will be reimbursed and overnight accommodation will be available for candidates who require it.

The policy and practice of Merton College require that all staff are afforded equal opportunities within employment. Entry into employment with the College and progression within employment will be determined only by personal merit and the application of criteria which are related to the duties of each particular post and the relevant salary structure. In all cases, ability to perform the job will be the primary consideration. Subject to statutory provisions, no applicant or member of staff will be treated less favourably than another because of age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage or civil partnership, pregnancy or maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, or sexual orientation.

7. RIGHT TO WORK IN THE UK

Applicants who would need a work visa if appointed to the post are asked to note that under the UK's points-based migration system they will need to demonstrate that they have sufficient points, and in particular that:

- (i) they have sufficient English language skills (evidenced by having passed a test in basic English, *or* coming from a majority English-speaking country, *or* having taken a degree taught in English), *and*
- (ii) that they have sufficient funds to maintain themselves and any dependents until they receive their first salary payment.

Further information on the current immigration system is available at <https://www.gov.uk/tier-2-general/overview>

Applicants should note that there will be changes to the UK immigration system with effect from 1st January 2021. We will be able to provide more information on changes to visa requirements once details have been published by the UK Home Office.

Any enquiries related to these Further Particulars should be directed in the first instance to Professor Alexander Schekochihin, the Secretary of the Harmsworth Trust for the election of the Peter J. Braam Junior Research Fellow (email alex.schekochihin@merton.ox.ac.uk).

Merton College is an equal opportunities employer