

Job title	Postdoctoral Research Associate
Grade	Grade 7
Salary range	£33,309 - £40,927
Staff Group	Research
Department / Institution	Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies (Department of Middle Eastern Studies)

Project Information

The Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies at the University of Cambridge invites applications for a Postdoctoral Research Associate in the field of Sanskrit Studies. This is a fixed term post of two years. The post will be funded by a Leverhulme Trust Research Grant from September 2022 until August 2024.

The Department of Middle Eastern Studies at Cambridge is part of the Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies, within the School of Arts and Humanities. The department has a focus on the major languages and cultures of the Middle East, including Aramaic, Arabic, Persian and Hebrew, as well as the languages of South Asia, in particular Sanskrit and Hindi

The Postdoctoral Research Associate will work in the research team of the Leverhulme-funded project “An Intellectual History of Late Vedānta (1750-1900)” under the direction of Professor Vincenzo Vergiani. This project, which began in September 2021, is the first large-scale investigation of the late history (1750-1900) of Advaita Vedānta, a long-lived and influential tradition of Sanskrit philosophical theology whose development has continued up to this day in India. It combines the philological analysis of selected manuscript sources and editions with a historiographical approach in order to reconstruct the scholarly networks sustaining the late production and circulation of Advaita Vedānta works and ideas, and identify its key figures, centres of learning, and topics of speculation and debate. The main output of the project will be to produce a first comprehensive survey of late Advaita Vedānta works and authors, thus encouraging further study of the work of prominent Advaita Vedānta scholars in this period.

Role-Specific Information

Role Summary

The Postdoctoral Research Associate will join the research team of the Leverhulme-funded project “An Intellectual History of Late Vedānta (1750-1900)” under the direction of Professor Vincenzo Vergiani.

The Research Associate is expected to:

- contribute to the survey of late Advaita Vedānta works undertaken in the project and input data into the project’s database of works and authors;
- participate in the project team's readings of late Advaita Vedānta works;
- read and transcribe manuscripts;
- conduct independent research on one or more prominent late Advaita Vedānta scholars, and publish this in the form of academic papers.

Candidates should have a PhD in the field of Sanskrit Studies (by September 2022) and should have expert knowledge of the history of Indian philosophy, especially Vedānta in the medieval and early modern periods, South Asian intellectual history generally, and śāstric Sanskrit literature. The candidate should have an advanced knowledge of Sanskrit, and preferably some knowledge of modern Indian languages (Neo-Indo-Aryan and/or Dravidian). Familiarity with Excel would also be desirable.

The candidate should have excellent written and oral communication skills, be committed to work together in a team, and a willingness to take on additional administrative tasks as required.

The appointee should also demonstrate commitment to contribute to the wider community of researchers in the field of South Asian studies in the University, for instance by participating in and contributing to research seminars.

Key Responsibilities

The Research Associate will report to Professor Vincenzo Vergiani. Additional guidance will be provided by Dr Jonathan Duquette and Professor Ankur Barua (Divinity).

Research as part of the Leverhulme Trust project (described above)	90%
Carry out administrative tasks	10%

Person Profile

This section details the knowledge, skills and experience we require for the role.

Education & qualifications	Candidates should have a PhD in the field of Sanskrit Studies.
Specialist knowledge & skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Expertise in Sanskrit śāstric literature, preferably in the field of Vedānta.• Expertise in Indian philosophy and generally South Asian intellectual history.• Basic IT skills (Microsoft Office, etc.) and the ability to acquire other technical skills quickly where necessary.• Excellent organisational and time-management skills, including initiative and ability to maintain a high level of research productivity.• Willingness and ability to contribute to grant-writing and fundraising efforts.
Interpersonal & communication skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Evidence of ability to work in collaborative environments and, ideally, have experience of working in a research team.• Excellent written and oral communication and presentation skills.• Fluency in English.
Relevant experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Previous participation in research projects and knowledge of databases would be an advantage.• Basic experience with reading and transcribing manuscripts, and the willingness to expand it.
Additional requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• An enthusiasm and strong commitment to the major goals of the project is expected. The Research Associate is expected to conduct most of his/her research in Cambridge and be based there but travel elsewhere for research, conferences and meetings.

Terms and Conditions

Location	Faculty of Asian and Middle eastern Studies, University of Cambridge
Hours of work	Your employment is full time. There are no formal conditions relating to hours and times of work but you are expected to work such hours and days as are reasonably necessary for the proper performance of your duties. Your times of work should be agreed between you and your head of institution.
Length of appointment	Fixed Term for 2 years.
Limited funding	The post will be funded by a Leverhulme Trust Research Grant from September 2022 until August 2024.
Probation period	6 Months
Annual leave	41 days including public holidays
Pension eligibility	Universities Superannuation Scheme (USS).

	Pension scheme details, including information about the legal requirement for the University to automatically enrol its eligible jobholders into a qualifying workplace pension scheme from 1 March 2013, is available at: http://www.pensions.admin.cam.ac.uk/ .
Retirement age	The University does not operate a retirement age for research staff.

Screening Check Requirements

We have a legal responsibility to ensure that you have the right to work in the UK before you can start working for us. If you do not have the right to work in the UK already, any offer of employment we make to you will be conditional upon you gaining it. If you need further information, you may find the Right to Work page within the 'Applying for a job' section of the University's Job Opportunities pages helpful (please see <http://www.jobs.cam.ac.uk/right/have/>).

Application Process

To submit an application for this vacancy, please click on the link in the 'Apply online' section of the advert published on the University's Job Opportunities pages. This will route you to the University's Web Recruitment System, where you will need to register an account (if you have not already) and log in before completing the online application form.

Candidates are asked to please upload a CV, Covering Letter and the contact details of two referees.

The closing date for applications is midnight (GMT) on Monday 13th December 2021. Interviews are expected to be held online during the week commencing 10th January 2022, subject to confirmation. If you have any questions about this vacancy or the application process, please contact Molly Carrick at sahhr@admin.cam.ac.uk. For any questions about the role and the project, please contact Professor Vincenzo Vergiani on vv234@cam.ac.uk. Please quote vacancy reference GU28900 on any communication about this role.

General Information

The University of Cambridge

The University of Cambridge is one of the world's oldest and most successful universities. We are a renowned centre for research, education, and scholarship that makes a significant contribution to society. The University is consistently ranked amongst the top universities in the world. Our affiliates have won more Nobel Prizes than any other University.

Our sustained pursuit of academic excellence is built on a long history of first-class teaching and research within a distinctive collegiate system. For eight centuries our ideas and innovations have shaped the world. Our principal goal is to remain one of the world's leading universities in an increasingly competitive global higher education sector. Today the University of Cambridge is at the centre of a cluster of over 4,300 businesses employing 58,000 people.

Our capital investment projects include the West Cambridge site, the North West Cambridge development and the growth of the Biomedical Campus in the south of the city. The North West Cambridge development includes the opening of a primary school – the first in the UK to be managed by a University. So we are deeply embedded in, and committed to serving, our local community. These are all conspicuous signs of a University that is not only adapting to new needs, but also anticipating the future.

About Us

The University is one of the world's leading academic centres. It comprises 150 faculties and departments, together with a central administration and other institutions. Our institutions, museums and collections are a world-class resource for researchers, students and members of the public representing one of the country's highest concentrations of internationally important collections. The University has an annual income of £2 billion. Research income, won competitively from the UK Research Councils, the European Union (EU), major charities and industry, exceeds £500 million per annum and continues to grow.

The Colleges and the University remain committed to admitting the best students regardless of their background and to investing considerable resources both in widening access and financial support. The 31 Colleges are self-governing, separate legal entities which appoint their own staff. Many academic staff are invited to join a College as a Teaching Fellow, which provides a further social and intellectual dimension. The Colleges admit students, provide student accommodation and deliver small group teaching. The University awards degrees and its faculties and departments provide lectures and seminars for students and determine the syllabi for teaching and conducting research.

Our instinct for seeking out excellence and setting up enduring and mutually beneficial collaborations has led us to establish strategic partnerships across the globe. Whether it is the successful Cambridge-Africa Programme involving universities in Ghana, Uganda and elsewhere on the African continent; or the close association with the government of India to pursue new research in crop science; or the creation, with Germany's Max Planck Institutes, of a Cambridge-based centre for the study of ethics, human economy and social change – international partnerships are now an inextricable part of the University's make-up.

Working at the University

Working at Cambridge you will join a diverse, talented and innovative community, with more than 18,000 students and over 16,000 staff from all walks of life and corners of the world. The University continually explores strategies to attract and retain the best people. It is committed to supporting its staff to achieve their best. We are a fair, diverse and inclusive society and we believe our staff are our greatest asset. There is strong commitment to developing institutional leadership and supporting and encouraging staff development at all levels.

We offer a variety of roles including academic, research, professional, managerial and support roles. We also offer extensive benefits and excellent learning opportunities within a stimulating working environment. The University's estate is undergoing the most significant transformation in its history. Cambridge has been able to create a new science and technology campus to the west of the city centre, and is now expanding further to the north west of Cambridge including investing in affordable homes for University key workers and community facilities. Even with our continued development, the University remains within walking or cycling distance across the campus. The University is a major partner on the Cambridge Biomedical Campus and we continue to redevelop our historic city centre sites demonstrating our determination to ensure that we can offer the best facilities and opportunities for our staff and students.

Equality and Diversity

The University has built its excellence on the diversity of its staff and student community. We aim to be a leader in fostering equality and inclusion, and in promoting respect and a sense of belonging for all. We encourage applications from all sections of society. All appointments are made on the basis of merit. We have an Equal Opportunities Policy, along with a range of diversity networks for women, black and minority ethnic and lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender staff. More details are available here: <http://www.equality.admin.cam.ac.uk/>.

The University has a bronze Race Equality Charter award, with framework for improving the

representation, progression and success of minority ethnic staff and students within higher education. Furthermore, the University's Athena SWAN award recognises and celebrates good practice in recruiting, retaining and promoting women.

Living in Cambridge

From beautiful University and College buildings, museums and art galleries, quaint gardens and punts on the River Cam, to a vibrant restaurant and café scene, our employees are surrounded by the wonderful features of this unique city.

You can find a wide-range of high street shops and 3 shopping centres, with independent alternatives at the historic market and nestled within the passageways in the city centre. You will find a cinema, bowling alley, a nightclub and various live performances At the Cambridge Leisure Park, with further entertainment options at the Corn Exchange, Arts Theatre and the ADC Theatre. Further information can be found on the [Visit Cambridge](#) website.

If you prefer the faster pace of life, London is a 45 minute train journey away. For those travelling from overseas, Stansted Airport is just 45 minutes away and Heathrow Airport under 2 hours away. The University is a short distance from a host of other attractions such as Ely Cathedral, Newmarket Races and various wildlife parks and stately homes. Cambridge is also within easy reach of the beautiful Broads and coastlines of Norfolk and Suffolk.

Relocation Support

The University recognises the importance of helping individuals to move and settle into a new area. We provide support and guidance to those relocating internationally or domestically to take up a post at the University of Cambridge, liaising with other University offices and selected partners to ensure comprehensive relocation support is available. This includes: accommodation, childcare, schools, banking, immigration and transport. If you would like further information, please visit <https://www.accommodation.cam.ac.uk/>. The Shared Equity Scheme and the Reimbursement of Relocation Expenses Scheme provide financial assistance to qualifying new members of staff with the costs of relocating to Cambridge.

Accommodation Service

The University Accommodation Service helps staff, students and visiting scholars who are affiliated to the University in their search for suitable accommodation in Cambridge. The dedicated accommodation team can provide access to a wide range of University-owned furnished and unfurnished properties, and has a database of private sector accommodation available for short and long-term lets. For further information and to register with this free service please visit <https://www.accommodation.cam.ac.uk/>.

What Cambridge can offer

We offer a comprehensive reward package to attract, motivate and retain high performing staff at all levels and in all areas of work.

The University offers a wide range of competitive benefits, from family leave entitlement, to shopping and travel discount schemes. Our generous annual leave package contributes to the positive wellbeing of our University employees. Sabbatical leave enables academics to focus on research and scholarship, whilst still maintaining their full salary. The University also has a [career break scheme for academic and academic-related staff](#), with additional flexible working policies for all other staff.

Pay and benefits

The University salary structure includes automatic service-related pay progression in many of its grades and an annual cost of living increase. In addition to this, employees are rewarded for outstanding contribution through a number of regular pay progression schemes. The University offers attractive pensions schemes for employees, with an additional benefit of a salary exchange arrangement providing tax and national insurance savings. Payroll giving is also a simple, tax-efficient way for employees to make monthly donations to charity.

CAMbens employee benefits

We offer a CAMbens scheme for University employees, providing access to online and in-store shopping discounts and cashback. With more than 2,000 participating retailers, employees can save money on a wide range of household expenses, from groceries and clothes, to holidays and insurance and much more. A range of local discounts are also available, helping employees to save money whilst also supporting local Cambridge businesses and a CAMbens Cycle to Work salary sacrifice scheme is also available, which enables employees to save money on transport costs. A 10% discount rate on the purchase of train season tickets, bulk buy tickets and an interest free travel to work loan are also available for staff of the University.

Family-friendly policies

The University recognises the importance of supporting its staff. We have a range of family-friendly policies to aid employees' work-life balance including a generous maternity, adoption and shared parental leave entitlement of 18 weeks full pay and emergency family care support via My Family Care. Other family-friendly support includes: Our highly regarded workplace nurseries, a childcare salary exchange scheme and a high-quality holiday Playscheme may be available to help support University employees with caring responsibilities (subject to demand and qualifying criteria). Further childcare information can be found here: <https://www.childcare.admin.cam.ac.uk/>.

The Newcomers and Visiting Scholars Group is an organisation within the University run by volunteers whose aim is to help newly arrived wives, husbands, partners and families of Visiting Scholars and members of the University to settle in Cambridge and give them an opportunity to meet local people. The Office of Postdoctoral Affairs supports the postdoctoral community within Cambridge. Further details are available here: <https://www.opda.cam.ac.uk/>.

Your wellbeing

The University's Sport Centre, Counselling Services and Occupational Health are just some of the support services available to University employees to promote their physical and mental wellbeing. There are many societies in Cambridge catering for almost every taste and interest. Whether you want to take part in a sport, participate in music or drama, pursue a hobby, or join a political group, you will almost certainly find that a society exists for this purpose. The University also hosts the [Cambridge Science Festival](#) and [Cambridge Festival of Ideas](#), as well as [Open Cambridge](#) weekend, which together attract over 50,000 visitors per year. The festivals are a great opportunity to get your first taste of public engagement, through volunteering, supporting hands-on activities or proposing a talk.

Development opportunities

We support new employees to settle in through various activities. The encouragement of career development for all staff is one of the University's values and we put this into practice through various services and initiatives. Our Personal and Professional Development Department provides development opportunities and courses for all University employees. These include face-to-face sessions, online learning modules and webinars. Employees may also apply for financial support to undertake training that will lead to a qualification. We offer reduced staff fees for University of Cambridge graduate courses and the opportunity to attend lectures and seminars held by University departments and institutions. The CareerStart@Cam programme also supports employees in assistant staff roles who do not hold higher education qualifications to develop their skills, experience and qualifications.

Information if you have a Disability

The University welcomes applications from individuals with disabilities. We are committed to ensuring fair treatment throughout the recruitment process. We will make adjustments to enable applicants to compete to the best of their ability wherever it is reasonable to do so and, if successful, to assist them during their employment. Information for disabled applicants is available at <http://www.admin.cam.ac.uk/offices/hr/staff/disabled/>.