



ASHMOLEAN



Arts and
Humanities
Research Council

AHRC Collaborative Doctoral training grant:

Creating the first Europeans. Tracing the development of Sir Arthur Evans' vision of Minoan civilisation through documents and objects

The University of Bristol (School of Humanities, Department of Classics and Ancient History) and the Ashmolean Museum of Art and Archaeology, University of Oxford (Department of Antiquities), are pleased to announce a fully funded doctoral grant from October 2020 to conduct research on the Sir Arthur Evans Archive and related Aegean Bronze Age collections in the Ashmolean Museum.

This doctoral training grant is funded through the AHRC's Collaborative Doctoral Partnership scheme see <https://www.ahrc-cdp.org/cdp-consortium/>. Collaboration between a Higher Education Institution and a museum, library, archive, or heritage organisation is the essential feature of these doctoral training grants. The doctoral training grant is fully funded subject to residency rules: see below.

This studentship is funded for 3 years and 9 months (45 months) full-time or part-time equivalent. The studentship has the possibility of being extended for 3 months to provide further professional development opportunities, or up to 3 months of funding be used to pay for the costs the student might incur in taking up professional development opportunities. For stipend levels see <https://www.ukri.org/skills/funding-for-research-training/>.

These doctoral training grants are covered by standard AHRC eligibility, rules, and guidance for research students who they fund and support.

This project will be supervised by Professor Nicoletta Momigliano and Dr Shelley Hales, University of Bristol and Dr Andrew Shapland and Dr Eleanor Standley, Ashmolean Museum, University of Oxford. The student will be expected to spend time at both the University of Bristol and the Ashmolean Museum, as well as becoming part of the wider cohort of CDP funded students across the UK.

The successful candidate will commence their PhD in October 2020. They will hold their doctoral training grant in the department of Classics and Ancient History, School of Humanities, University of Bristol and will work in partnership with the Department of Antiquities of the Ashmolean Museum.

The doctoral training grant is available on either a full-time or part-time basis.

The Project

Over 100 years ago Sir Arthur Evans started to excavate 'The Palace of Minos' at Knossos and discovered a Bronze Age culture on Crete that he dubbed 'Minoan'. His vision of

Minoan Crete remains dominant in both the public and scholarly imagination to this day. He presented Minoan Crete as the first European civilisation, a modern, sophisticated, imperialistic society, where women played a significant role, and with Knossos at its centre. This vision was set out in numerous publications, especially *The Palace of Minos* (1921-35), and disseminated through contemporary displays in the Ashmolean Museum and a 1936 exhibition in London. The Palace of Minos was the name Evans gave to the monumental building he excavated and then reconstructed in reinforced concrete. Both publication and archaeological site still stand as a monument to Evans' reconstruction of the Minoan civilisation, but over the last 20 years many of his ideas have come increasingly under scrutiny.

By examining Evans' unpublished writings, held in the Sir Arthur Evans Archive at the Ashmolean, alongside his publications and the objects he acquired, the student will assess how Evans' vision of the Minoans developed over the decades either side of World War I. Photographs, plans, press cuttings and other documents in the archive will be used to help trace how his vision was materialised in his reconstructions of the palace and narratives about Minoan civilisation. The student will also assess how important Evans' large collection of Minoan artefacts was in the formation and dissemination of his vision of the Minoans. Many of the objects in Evans' possession (donated to the Ashmolean at various times) were illustrated in *The Palace of Minos* and exhibited in 1936. Thus, the thesis will help to re-establish the links between the objects in the Ashmolean, the archival material, and his written works, and in doing so will produce innovative research on the history of early 20th-century archaeology, the Ashmolean collection, and the Sir Arthur Evans archive. The main research questions to be investigated are: To what extent did Sir Arthur Evans' vision of the Minoans change over time and why? What was the role of the objects in Evans' possession in the formation of this vision? Conversely, how did his vision affect the presentation and publication of Minoan material culture (including the restored site of Knossos)?

As part of their work during the project, the student will improve the Ashmolean's database records for the relevant objects in the Aegean collection and for the documents in the archive. Relevant training will be provided. The CDP also offers the possibility of skills training including working on an exhibition and organising public events. Beside the work on the archive and object collection, this CDP will provide the successful applicant with a wide range of transferable museum skills and an in-depth academic specialisation in Aegean archaeology.

Eligibility

We are looking for an excellent, highly promising and appropriately qualified student who will embrace the opportunity to bring together academic research with experience and training in a leading British museum. We want to encourage the widest range of potential students to study for a CDP doctoral training grant and are committed to welcoming students from different backgrounds to apply for our doctoral training grants. Applicants may come from a variety of relevant disciplinary backgrounds (e.g. archaeology, anthropology, history, heritage studies, natural history, history and philosophy of science, museum studies, archive and information studies, geography, cultural studies), but it is expected that the successful applicant will be able to clearly

explain the relationship between their existing training/experience and the topic of the doctoral training grant, and indicate how their present research interests relate to the proposed topic area. Students who are able to show evidence of experience working on museum collections or archival material (e.g. through previous work placements or work experience, etc.) would be particularly welcomed to apply.

NB. All applicants must meet the AHRC's academic criteria and residency requirements. See:

<http://www.ahrc.ac.uk/documents/guides/research-funding-guide/>

Candidates should:

1. *EITHER* hold (or expect to receive before October 2020) a master's-level degree *OR* demonstrate that equivalent experience has prepared them for doctoral research. The AHRC recognises that research students approach a doctorate from various different routes, and that not all research students complete a research preparation master's-level degree first. Doctoral applicants who have not completed a master's-level degree are therefore eligible to apply for AHRC funding providing they can demonstrate that they have equivalent experience, skills and knowledge that has prepared them for doctoral research. Equivalent experience might include, but is not restricted to, extended non-paid or paid work experience in museums or archives.
2. Meet the language proficiency requirements. If English is not your first language, you need to satisfy the academic and language entry requirements outlined of the Classics PhD prospectus page (<http://www.bristol.ac.uk/study/postgraduate/2020/arts/phd-classics-ancient-history/>).
3. Be a resident of the UK or European Economic Area (EEA).

Funding available

In general, full doctoral training grants are available to students who are settled in the UK and have been ordinarily resident for a period of at least three years before the start of postgraduate studies. **Fees-only** awards are generally available to EU nationals resident in the EEA. International applicants are normally **not** eligible to apply for this doctoral training grant.

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Further information

For informal enquiries relating to the research aspects of this doctoral training grant, please contact Professor Momigliano (n.momigliano@bristol.ac.uk) or Dr Shapland (andrew.shapland@ashmus.ox.ac.uk).

Questions regarding the application process should be addressed to the Graduate School Admission Officer of the University of Bristol (artf-gradschool-admissions@bristol.ac.uk).

Questions relating to the CDP programme within Oxford University's Gardens, Libraries and Museums can be sent to Dr Harriet Warburton (harriet.warburton@glam.ox.ac.uk)

How to apply

Please apply online at <http://www.bris.ac.uk/pg-howtoapply>. Please select 'Classics and Ancient History PhD' on the Programme Choice page and September 2020 as your start date. You will be prompted to enter details of this studentship in the Funding and Research Details sections of the form. You must submit all the documents outlined in the Classics and Ancient History PhD Admissions Statement before the application deadline in order to be considered:

<http://www.bristol.ac.uk/study/media/postgraduate/admissions-statements/2020/phd-classics-ancient-history.pdf>.

Closing date for applications: The application deadline is midday BST on **Monday 30 March**. Only complete applications received by the deadline can be considered.

Interview date: Interviews will take place at the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford on Monday 11 May.