

St John's College, Cambridge

Harper-Wood Studentship for English Poetry and Literature

St John's College invites applications for the Harper-Wood Studentship for English Poetry and Literature. The purpose of the Studentship is to encourage a project of creative writing by making it possible for the holder to engage in relevant, project-related travel and study. **Please note that the Studentship is intended primarily for unpublished creative writers who are in the initial stages of their careers.**

Previous holders include Thom Gunn, Michael Hofmann, Giles Foden, Sarah Howe, Erin Soros and Vahni Capildeo.

During the period of tenure, the Student is expected to engage in a course of study or research, not necessarily attached to a university or other institution, leading up to the production of original fiction, poetry or drama. If, however, the candidate proposes to study or research at a University or other institution, such an attachment need not be finalised before applying for the Studentship.

All or part of the period of tenure must be spent in a country of the Student's choice, outside the United Kingdom (*i.e.* England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland). The Studentship refrains from imposing too many rules and regulations in an attempt to remain faithful to its ethos of enabling a period of creative writing in English Literature. In their application, however, candidates should give a detailed outline of their projected course of study/research and travel plan, and they should make a strong case for its relevance to the creative writing project.

It is a condition of election that at the time of the election the candidate be a graduate of any University of Great Britain (*i.e.* England, Scotland and Wales), Ireland, the Commonwealth or the United States of America.

The Studentship is tenable for one year and is not renewable. The Student will be admitted to membership of the College and will normally be expected to enter upon the Studentship on 1 October 2017. The Student will be invited by the Fellows in English to visit the College either during or immediately after their tenure, to give one or more talks about their experience.

The Studentship funding will be determined by the College Council in light of the Student's qualifications and financial circumstances (including payments from other sources), up to a maximum of £14,300. This sum is intended to cover accommodation and other living expenses abroad and/or in the United Kingdom during the tenure of the Studentship. Additional financial assistance is also available to enable the Student to meet travel costs incurred.

Applications should be submitted **via email only** to Sarah Mansfield (s.l.mansfield@joh.cam.ac.uk) at St John's College, Cambridge, **by no later than 17.00 BST on Wednesday 3 May 2017.**

The application should incorporate:

- a) curriculum vitae;
- b) a plan of the proposed course of study or research and of the proposed travel and an explanation of how this plan directly relates to the creative writing project (not to exceed 2000 words);
- c) a preliminary general budget;
- d) a sample of the candidate's creative writing (not to exceed 1000 words or 50 lines of verse);
- e) the names and email addresses of two referees.

Possible referees may include, although are not restricted to, academic supervisors, editors, literary writers, and teachers of creative writing. **References are sought on receipt of the application and are requested by Thursday 8 June 2017. Candidates should ensure that their referees will be able to meet this deadline.**

Short-listed candidates will be invited to submit via email examples of their work, up to a limit of 5,000 words. These may be drawn from a longer piece of work, or they may be a selection of poems and/or prose pieces (not necessarily from the same collection). Candidates may expect to be informed whether or not they have been successful by no later than 26 July 2017.

Candidates are asked to ensure that the email address contained within their applications matches that provided in all correspondence with the College.

Please note that we are unable to respond to individual enquiries by phone.