

**AHRC Collaborative Doctoral Partnership Studentship:
Queen Mary University of London and the Victoria and Albert Museum
(V&A)**

Project Title: Prince Albert, the Great Exhibition and its Aftermath in the Context of Anglo-German Cultural Relations

The Project

This research project is to investigate the role of Prince Albert in preparing the Great Exhibition of 1851 and to examine and evaluate the relevant archival material in the UK and Germany. Archive material and the extraordinary collections of the V&A will be at the heart of the study, and the student will have privileged access to this resource. They will assess the significance of the Great Exhibition in terms of vision and displayed works for the foundation of the V&A in 1852 with specific reference to historic and contemporary objects produced in the German states that were acquired during the first decades of the museum's existence.

Singling out Prince Albert's contribution for the first time, the student will have the opportunity to assess the relationship between Albert's own interests and his personal collecting in comparison to the taste displayed at the Great Exhibition and the collecting strategies of the V&A and German museums at the time.

As the project develops the student will have the opportunity to define a key area of study which will contribute to the understanding of the aftermath of the exhibition in terms of its reception in Britain and the German states.

Supervision and Training

The holder of the studentship will be registered as a doctoral candidate in the Department of German at Queen Mary, and will fulfil all the requirements of the PhD degree there under the supervision of Professor Rüdiger Görner. As well as the usual supervision arrangements, the student will be co-supervised by Dr Heike Zech at the V&A, with further input from V&A Director Professor Martin Roth; and will receive training in working with V&A collections.

Studentship Duration and Funding

This funded studentship begins in October 2016 and lasts for three years.

Subject to the standard [eligibility criteria](#) for RCUK studentships, the funding will cover tuition fees as well as a stipend towards living expenses for three years. This studentship also includes an additional six months funding which may (subject to agreement) be used to support the student to do a further placement or help them to acquire appropriate additional discipline-specific skills.

The value of the stipend for 2016/17 is yet to be confirmed, however is likely to amount to £14,296, plus a £550 additional stipend payment for Collaborative Doctoral Students.

The V&A will cover further research-related expenses of up to £1,000 which will support student activities including, but not limited to, visits to other relevant museums or to project-related conferences.

Student Eligibility

Applicants must:

- Have obtained both a First Class undergraduate degree and a Master's (with Distinction) degree in a relevant field;
- Demonstrate a strong interest in 19th century Anglo-German cultural relations; and have an interest in the material culture related to the Great Exhibition and museum foundations of the 19th century
- Have proven proficiency in the German language;
- Be able to meet the AHRC [eligibility criteria](#) regarding residency status. Students from EU countries other than the UK are generally eligible for a tuition fees-only award.

Application Process

If you are interested in applying, please contact Professor Rüdiger Görner (r.goerner@qmul.ac.uk) and Dr Heike Zech (h.zech@vam.ac.uk) to discuss your research topic further.

In order to apply, candidates must complete a **QMUL postgraduate research application form** applying to the School of Languages, Linguistics and Film, including a CV, two references, academic transcript and a 1,000-word statement of purpose explaining the proposed research. The completed application must be e-mailed to Professor Rüdiger Görner (r.goerner@qmul.ac.uk) and Dr Heike Zech (h.zech@vam.ac.uk).

Applications must be received later than **12noon 1st June 2016**. It is the responsibility of applicants to ensure that their referees write by that date.

All short-listed applicants will be interviewed and must be available for interview on **24th June 2016**. Any particular requirements for the interview will be communicated when shortlisted candidates are contacted after 1st June 2016.