

Teaching Associate in Modern Chinese History

Faculty of Asia and Middle Eastern Studies

Closing Date: Sunday 20th April 2025
Job Reference: GX45463



Teaching Associate

Salary:

£35,116 - £45,413

Contract:

Fixed-Term: until 31 August 2027

Location:

Central Cambridge

Faculty

Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies

Working pattern:

Full Time

The University of Cambridge has a Hybrid Working Policy that aims to enable as many staff as possible to work in a hybrid way if they so wish, whilst recognising that some roles will include tasks that can only be performed on University premises.

Role Summary

The Department of East Asian Studies at the University of Cambridge invites applications for a two-year Teaching Associate in Modern Chinese History from any relevant field of expertise or experience. The successful candidate is expected to begin the post on 1 September, 2025.

The post-holder will contribute to teaching and supervising in modern Chinese history (defined as roughly from the mid-19th century to the 1980s). The successful candidate will primarily be expected to teach papers in a specialised area, supervise essays and dissertations at the undergraduate and MPhil levels, lecture and conduct seminars in team-taught papers, and assist in examining. Some activities in research, publication and administrative support are also expected. The successful candidate will be part of the Chinese Studies subject group while also expected to interact more widely with other colleagues in the Department, Faculty and University

We welcome applicants from all sub-fields in modern Chinese history. The successful candidate will have to travel nationally and internationally when needed.

Key Responsibilities

1. Plan, prepare and deliver lectures, seminars and classes for students on two or three courses, including lecture materials and handouts. Develop session content in response to changes in the programme or from student feedback, and modify course material following research;
2. Teach a text-reading course on Chinese-language primary sources relating to modern Chinese history or more broadly;
3. Supervise essays and dissertations at the undergraduate and MPhil levels related the Teaching Associate's field(s);
4. Set examination papers. Mark and assess course work, including undergraduate theses, write constructive essay feedback and thesis reports, provide appropriate feedback to students on assessed work via the supervisor. Participate in examinations, including Examiners' meetings and, where relevant, oral or practical examinations. Provide references for students;
5. Participate in departmental meetings, outreach/open days, and undertake some administrative duties, as commensurate with the grade of the role. Liaise with other subject teachers within the department as required so that there is co-ordination of effort;
6. Provide general and academic guidance to students including pastoral care, with more in-depth issues referred to College Tutors in the first instance;
7. May undertake supervision by a College in addition to University duties.

Person specification

	Essential	Desirable
Education and qualifications		
A PhD in a relevant field relating to modern Chinese history, including cultural history, global/transnational history (PhD in hand or thesis nearing completion at point of application);	✓	
Specialist Knowledge and Skills		
Evidence of ability to teach modern Chinese history effectively and at all relevant levels;	✓	
Demonstratable depth and breadth in knowledge of modern Chinese history that can be turned into teachable materials;	✓	
Native or near-native fluency in Mandarin Chinese and proficiency in reading and using primary sources in Chinese (including classical Chinese when relevant);	✓	
Evidence of ability to engage in high-level research in modern Chinese history, with publications and participation in scholarly activity commensurate with stage of career;	✓	
Some research experience with sufficient breadth and depth of specialist knowledge in the discipline and of research methods and techniques to design and execute a research project beyond the PhD;	✓	
Demonstratable ability to update knowledge in the specialist area and engage in continuous professional development;	✓	
Demonstrable experience of managing own workload;	✓	
Interpersonal and Communication Skills		
Patient and diplomatic with the ability to work under pressure;	✓	
Excellent written and oral communication skills (including proficiency in English and Chinese);	✓	
Excellent presentation skills;	✓	
Experience of communicating with people from all cultures and backgrounds;	✓	
Flexible attitude and ability to show initiative;	✓	
Ability to as part of a team in collaborative environments as well as independently;	✓	
Additional Requirements		
Proficiency in using up-to-date communications media (online teaching platforms; websites; social media, etc.);	✓	
Ability to play an effective role in the life and work of the Chinese Studies subject group and the Department of East Asian Studies.	✓	

Declaration on Research Assessment

The University of Cambridge is a signatory to the San-Francisco Declaration on Research Assessment (DORA), and in recruitment or promotion evaluations will assess research on the basis of its merits rather than the journal or venue in which it is published. Applicants should not include Journal Impact Factors or uncontextualized metrics in their applications. Full details are at: <https://www.research-strategy.admin.cam.ac.uk/research-policy/DORA>.

The Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies

The Faculty (FAMES) consists of two departments: the Department of East Asian Studies and the Department of Middle Eastern Studies. The Faculty combines world class scholarship with a vibrant teaching and learning environment for undergraduates and postgraduate students. Our academics are engaged in internationally recognised scholarship on the histories, cultures and societies of China, Japan, Korea the Middle East and North Africa. The work of several staff crosses traditional geographic and subject boundaries. All our work is firmly grounded in primary source and empirical research. The Faculty's work is overseen by a Faculty Board, to which a range of committees report, while financially it is underpinned by several significant trust funds. The Faculty is also home to the Centre of Islamic Studies.

The Faculty combines excellence in teaching, academic rigour and research with a strong tradition of support for its students. The Faculty Library, complements the University Library and the network of faculty and college libraries, with 70,000 monographs, nearly 2,000 DVDs, and a wide range of journal subscriptions, and is a key and comfortable facility, to which graduate students have 24 hour access.

The Faculty maintains a close relationship with the Needham Research Institute for the history of East Asian science, technology, and medicine (李约瑟研究所). The Chinese collection at the University Library is one of the strongest in Europe (<https://www.lib.cam.ac.uk/collections/departments/chinese-collections>). The Fitzwilliam Museum houses a diverse and high quality collection of Asian art, with porcelain, jade, imperial lacquers, and ritual bronzes being especially well represented.

More information on the Faculty can be found at <https://www.ames.cam.ac.uk/>.

Chinese Studies at Cambridge

The first Chair in Chinese, held by Sir Thomas Wade, was established in 1888 and marked the beginning of a long and distinguished tradition in the study of China and the Chinese language at Cambridge. We are committed to the principle that a thorough engagement with the Chinese world can only be achieved through the study of its languages, history, and cultural traditions. Given China's unrivalled linguistic, literary, and documentary record, we subscribe to the view that the Chinese past continuously informs its present; and that cultural, socio-political, religious, and intellectual developments in today's China can best be understood as manifestations of China's evolving indigenous traditions.

Undergraduates, who take Chinese as a single subject course, achieve a high level of proficiency in classical, literary, and modern Chinese (and in both traditional and simplified characters). We normally admit around 15 students per year and all spend at least one year in China during their course (most recently in Taiwan during the pandemic). They receive rigorous training in analyzing Chinese sources and conducting research in Chinese communities. Many go on to prominent careers in the private sector, government, the NGO world, education, the art world, and think tanks, increasingly often in a Chinese speaking area of the world. Our one year, highly selective, taught masters (MPhil) programme attracts students from China, Europe, the USA, and the UK. They follow either a pre-modern or modern stream, designed to prepare them for PhD study. Their formal teaching is supplemented by a weekly academic seminar series and an occasional postgraduate seminar series. There are many other seminar series around Cambridge, including at the Needham Research Institute, that cater to the interests and needs of our graduate students. We are proud that many of our PhD students, which normally number 20–30 at any one time, go on to academic careers at first rate universities in the UK, Europe, China, and the USA. They are supported by an supervisor and an academic advisor in the Department as well as by a tutor in their colleges. They have a strong sense of community and are active participants in the life of the Department, including by teaching on our undergraduate programmes.

At present, the Chinese Studies subject group consists of Professor Roel Sterckx, a specialist in the study of pre-imperial China; Dr Ling ZHANG, a specialist in environmental history; Dr Noga Ganany, a specialist on late-imperial Chinese religious and print culture; Professor Hans van de Ven, a historian of modern China; Professor Adam Yuet Chau, a social anthropologist specialising in religion; Dr Heather Inwood, a scholar of Chinese popular culture and internet literature; Professor William Hurst, a political scientist specialising on political economy and law; Dr Lucy Zhao, a linguist specialising in L2 Chinese acquisition. Ms Emma Wu and her team deliver our undergraduate Chinese-language teaching programme.

Outside of the Chinese Studies subject group within FAMES, the University of Cambridge has a large number of researchers and scholars who specialise in China or have research interests in the Chinese world working in other faculties, departments and programmes (e.g., in History, Social Anthropology, Politics, Screen Studies, History and Philosophy of Science, Architecture, Land Economy, Development Studies, Sociology, Economics, Theoretical and Applied Linguistic, and at the Needham Research Institute, the Fitzwilliam Museum, the Judge Business School, etc.). In addition, we are often joined by a few post-doctoral researchers, based either in the Faculty or in the constituent colleges of the university. Every year we also host quite a few visiting scholars and PhD students from many parts of the world. Together we form a vibrant and welcoming Chinese Studies community.

More information on Chinese Studies at Cambridge can be found at <https://www.ames.cam.ac.uk/subjects/chinese-studies>.

The School of Arts and Humanities



The School of Arts and Humanities is one of six schools in the University and its comprised of:

- Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies
- Faculty of Architecture and History of Art
- Faculty of Classics
- Faculty of Divinity
- Faculty of English
- Faculty of Modern and Medieval Languages and Linguistics
- Faculty of Music
- Faculty of Philosophy
- Centre for Research in the Arts, Social Sciences and Humanities
- University of Cambridge Language Centre
- Institute for Technology and Humanity

The School's institutions together have over 700 staff and 3,500 students, with an annual budget in excess of £45 million. The School has recently agreed a new strategic plan, which sets out its overarching vision and objectives.

Vision

The Strategic Vision of the School of Arts and Humanities is to retain its position in the world top five. We see this not as a simple metric but as a challenge for which we must foster a culture and practice of openness: to countries and traditions around the globe, to major themes, to new ways of teaching, to diversity in our student intake and staff recruitment, to inclusiveness in our career development, and to the breaking down of structures that prevent us achieving the ambitious goals we set ourselves.

Terms of appointment

Tenure and probation

Appointment will be made on a fixed-term basis until the 31 August 2027 to provide temporary cover in the absence of another staff member. Appointments will be subject to satisfactory completion of a probationary period which will be set dependant on the length of tenure.

Hours of Work and Working Pattern

The appointment is full-time working Monday—Friday. Your times of work should be agreed between you and your head of institution (i.e., the head of the Chinese Studies subject group).

Pension

You will automatically be enrolled to become a member of USS (Universities Superannuation Scheme) – a defined benefits pension scheme. If you are already a member of the NHS Pension scheme, you may be eligible to continue in the scheme and should contact the Pensions section of the University. For further information please visit: www.pensions.admin.cam.ac.uk

Annual leave

Full time employees are entitled to annual paid leave of 41 days inclusive of public holidays. For new part-time employees, annual leave will be pro rata'd based on days worked.

Pre-employment checks

Right to work in the UK

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.

Health declaration

Once an offer of employment has been made the successful candidate will be required to complete a work health declaration form.

Qualifications

The person specification for this position lists qualifications that are essential and/or desirable. Please note that if you are offered the post you will be asked to provide your relevant original certificates of these qualifications.

References

Offers of appointment will be subject to the receipt of satisfactory references.

Equality and Diversity

We particularly encourage women and /or candidates from a Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic background to apply for this vacancy as they are currently under-represented at this level within our University.

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/>.

We encourage you to declare any disability that you may have, and any reasonable adjustments that you may require, in the section provided for this purpose in the application form. This will enable us to accommodate your needs throughout the process as required. However, applicants and employees may declare a disability at any time.

If you prefer to discuss any special arrangements connected with a disability, please contact the Schools HR team who are responsible for recruitment to this position on sahhr@admin.cam.ac.uk.

The University

The University of Cambridge is consistently ranked one of the best universities in the world, achieving academic excellence through its Faculties, Departments and other Institutions, together with the 31 Colleges.

The University is renowned for its record of discovery and innovation. It is one of the great institutions, with a regional, national and global reach, attracting the very best and brightest minds. Our staff and students shape the world around us for the better: we attract and partner with like-minded people.

Whether contributing to the development of new anti-cancer drugs, adding to the understanding of how black holes are formed, revolutionising the study of ancient settlements, convening academic expertise to offer solutions to the climate crisis, or analysing public attitudes towards democracy around the world, the University's research is remarkable in its breadth, quality and impact. The University also sits at the heart of Europe's largest technology cluster and has catalysed more than 1,500 high-tech companies. And yet what inspires our 24,000 students and 13,000 staff is not what has already been achieved, but what is possible in the future.

The education and experience of our students, based on a partnership between the University's academic Departments and Faculties and the 31 Colleges, is second to none. Every student is a member of one of the Colleges, each a community of students, academics and staff drawn from across the University's comprehensive range of subject areas.



The University is a self-governing community, with a system for decision-making that provides a high degree of accountability and transparency to its members. Each Department and Faculty is part of one of six academic Schools, but each of them, and each individual academic, has a great deal of autonomy. The Colleges are independent and self-governing, working in a symbiotic relationship with the University.

The University has a number of Institutions that are independent of any Faculty or Department and are not part of the academic Schools. These include the Institute of Continuing Education (which provides high-quality education to adults throughout their lives), the Fitzwilliam Museum, Kettle's Yard (an historic house and gallery that holds important collections of modern art) and the University Library. In addition to their diverse contributions to University and public life, these non-School Institutions are also important centres of teaching and research.

Cambridge University Press & Assessment provides academic publishing, examinations and learning materials worldwide, supporting the dissemination of research, academic development at school and in higher education, and international student mobility. Legally, the Press & Assessment is a department of the University. It provides very important funds to invest in the academic purposes of the University.

The University has made truly remarkable contributions to the sum of human understanding, with breakthrough ideas and discoveries that have changed the way we understand ourselves, our planet, and the universe around us. Yet the global and national contexts in which it operates are fast-changing and increasingly filled with uncertainty. In a world that is becoming - politically, economically, socially, and technologically – ever more interconnected but even less equal, the University's mission – “to contribute to society through the pursuit of education, learning and



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 undergraduate students, provide student accommodation and pastoral support and deliver small group teaching for undergraduates.

The University awards degrees and its faculties and departments provide lectures and seminars for students and determine the syllabi for teaching.

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.

"Through its outstanding education, research and innovation, the University of Cambridge has made - and continues to make - a lasting contribution to human knowledge and is flourishing. By working at the University of Cambridge, you will be joining a vibrant community of students, scholars and professional services staff, committed to supporting and enhancing the University's mission to contribute to society."

Professor Deborah Prentice,
Vice Chancellor, 2023



Working at the University

Working at Cambridge you will join a diverse, talented and innovative community, with more than 24,000 students and over 13,000 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.

Equality & 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 groups, including the Women's Staff Network, Race Equality Network and LGBT+ Staff Network. More details are available here: <http://www.equality.admin.cam.ac.uk/>

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.



The University has a bronze Race Equality Charter award, with a framework for improving the representation, progression and success of minority ethnic staff and students within higher education. Furthermore, the University's silver Athena swan award recognises and celebrates good practice in recruiting, retaining and promoting gender equality.

Living in Cambridge

Cambridge is rich in cultural diversity. 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.

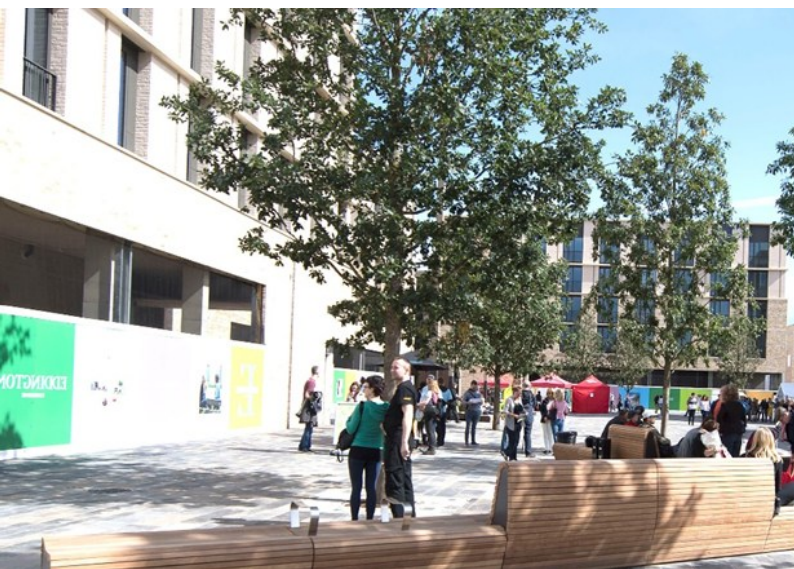
If you prefer the faster pace of life, London is a 45-minute train journey away. For those travelling from overseas, Stansted Airport is just 45 minutes away and Heathrow Airport under 2 hours away. The University is a short distance from a host of other attractions such as Ely Cathedral, Newmarket Races 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/RelocationService/>. 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.



CAMbens employee benefits

The University offers employees a wide range of competitive benefits, known as CAMbens. CAMbens offers something for everyone across a range of categories, including:

- Financial Benefits, including shopping discounts (both local and national) and a Payroll Giving scheme;
- Relocation and Accommodation Benefits, including relocation assistance and interest-free Rental Deposit Loans;
- Travel Benefits, including Cycle to Work, discounts on train season tickets and interest-free Travel to Work loans;
- Family Friendly and Lifestyle Benefits, including support with childcare and family friendly policies;
- Health and Wellbeing Benefits, including a University Staff Counselling Service, discounts at the University Sports Centre, and other local gyms, and healthcare schemes.



What Cambridge can offer

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 26 weeks' full pay, and paid emergency leave for parents and carers.

Other family-friendly support includes:

Our highly regarded workplace nurseries, a childcare salary exchange scheme and a high-quality holiday Playscheme are 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 (<https://www.nvs.admin.cam.ac.uk/>) is an organisation within the University that welcomes the partners and families of visiting scholars and new members of the University. Run by volunteers, the group offers opportunities to visit interesting Cambridge venues, learn about the community, take part in social events and gain local knowledge while developing a strong support network of both residents and other newcomers.

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. The University delivers The Festival of Wellbeing annually, which is a programme of stimulating talks and activities, which aim to promote wellbeing and good mental and physical health. The University also hosts the Cambridge Festival, which is 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 as well as supporting their professional and career development on an ongoing basis. Our Personal and Professional Development (PPD) team provide development opportunities for all University employees, including face-to-face sessions, online learning modules and webinars. All employees also have unlimited access to LinkedIn Learning to support their development. Both new and existing employees can undertake funded Apprenticeships, which lead to a range of vocational and professional qualifications. 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. A range of University training providers also offer specialist learning and development in their own areas e.g. teaching and learning, digital literacy, finance, health and wellbeing, safety.



How to Apply

Applications should be submitted online via the University of Cambridge jobs page www.jobs.cam.ac.uk by clicking “Apply online” in the job advert. You will need an email address to register for our online system.

Conversations about flexible working are encouraged at the University of Cambridge. Please feel free to discuss flexibility prior to applying (using the contact information below) or at interview if

For your application to be considered, please upload the following documents:

- your Curriculum Vitae (including a list of publications; courses taught; presentations given and events organised);
- a covering letter
- a sample syllabus for a 16-week course (32 one-hour sessions) on a thematic course in modern Chinese history that is suitable for a combined audience of fourth-year undergraduates and MPhil students in Chinese Studies (possibly with a particular emphasis on the applicant’s own area of specialisation);
- a sample reading list of up to 10 select Chinese-language passages from various genres of writing drawn from primary sources in modern Chinese history;
- one sample writing (up to 10,000 words);
- a two-page description of a research project beyond the PhD thesis, indicating the contribution of the proposed research to broader scholarly debates, and envisaged publication outputs from this project;

The deadline for applications is **midnight (BST) on Sunday 20 April, 2025**. It is anticipated that online interviews will be held in the week commencing **5 May, 2025** subject to confirmation and change.

If you have any questions about this vacancy please contact Professor Adam Chau via email at ayc25@cam.ac.uk. For questions on the application process or procedure, please contact the Schools HR team on SAHHR@admin.cam.ac.uk.