



The Ax:son Johnson Centre for the Study of Classical Architecture

Faculty of Architecture and History of Art

One, or two fully funded PhD studentships

Start date: 1 October 2025

The deadline for applications is 5pm (BST) 20 June 2025

Interviews will be held week commencing 30 June 2025

The University of Cambridge's Ax:son Johnson Centre for the Study of Classical Architecture (CSCA) is pleased to announce the availability of either one or two fully funded doctoral studentships from October 2025, for research on the history of the classical tradition in architecture of any time from the Renaissance to the twentieth century.

The award(s) will be held in either the Department of History of Art or the Department of Architecture, which jointly form the Faculty of Architecture and History of Art. The projects will be supervised by one of: Dr Frank Salmon (CSCA Director); Dr Elizabeth Deans (CSCA Assistant Director); and Professor James Campbell.

The successful candidate(s) will have defined their own topics and questions, appropriate to the primary research material available and to the research interests, broadly defined, of one of the three specified supervisors (who should be named in the application), as well as to the CSCA mission statement – see <https://csc.aha.cam.ac.uk/mission-statement/>

Given the international range of classical architecture of the past 600 years, visual and archival research may involve travel and time spent abroad, for which official permission from the University to Work Away would be needed, in addition to the agreement of the Centre's Director.

Please note that a CSCA Studentship can only be held for 3 years full-time (part-time study is not possible under the fixed term of the CSCA's Research Grant from the Axel and Margaret Ax:son Johnson Foundation for Public Benefit).

Financial and other details of the Award(s)

The studentship(s) will be fully funded for 3 years full-time and it is expected that successful candidate(s) will reside in Cambridge. The University and College Composition Fee will be paid by the Centre at the rate for UK citizens or EU citizens who meet the residency requirements for Home Fees (£10,356 in 2025-26). For international candidates (for whom the University and College Composition Rate is £31,230 in 2025-26), the Centre will be

prepared to work with proposals from external funders to supplement the Home Fees rate up to the required International Fees level, or, for an exceptional candidate, to explore the possibility with the Ax:son Johnson Foundation of meeting the International Fees rate itself.

The student(s) will receive an annual maintenance stipend from the Centre. For the academic year 2025-26 this is expected to be £19,237. Further support (for example with the expenses of IT provision and travel) may be available by negotiation with the Director of the Centre, or from the college where membership is obtained (see below). Any undergraduate supervision (small-group teaching) undertaken, by agreement with Director, would be remunerated directly by the colleges and would be additional to the stipend.

The award holder(s) will initially be probationary postgraduate student(s) in either the Department of History of Art or the Department of Architecture at Cambridge, moving to full PhD registration subject to satisfactory progress at the end of the first year. They will be subject to the normal regulations governing postgraduate students at Cambridge, and will benefit from all the usual opportunities of a Cambridge research student. This includes access to the unrivalled library resources in the University Library, the Faculty of Architecture and History of Art, and the individual Cambridge colleges. The University of Cambridge also has excellent IT facilities and a Language Centre, as well as professional development courses, run both centrally by the University and within the two constituent Departments of the Faculty. The opportunities for wide intellectual engagement across the faculties and other institutions of the University are many – including seminars, public lectures, symposia and conferences.

The CSCA community the student(s) would join currently comprises the Director, the Assistant Director, two Postdoctoral Research Associates, one current CSCA-funded PhD student, a number of associated PhD students funded by other bodies, and five Visiting Professors.

Person Specification

We are looking for one or more highly promising and suitably qualified student(s) who will value the opportunity of carrying out academic research on an aspect of the architectural history of the classical tradition, broadly defined, within the Renaissance to twentieth-century timeframe.

Candidates will be expected to:

1. have a First or Upper-Second Class Honours degree, or equivalent;
2. have completed or be about to complete a Master's-level qualification at a good standard (equivalent to BA First Class) in architectural history, focused on the classical tradition;
3. meet UK Home Fees status (though see above);
4. have a broad general knowledge of the history of classical architecture;

5. have experience of working with archival and secondary sources related to the proposed research topic;
6. have reading knowledge of any language central to the proposed research topic;
7. have appropriate IT skills for the research proposed;
8. be prepared to support the Centre's academic activities, in practical as well as intellectual ways.

Studying at the University of Cambridge

General information on studying as a postgraduate at the University of Cambridge is available here:

<https://www.graduate.study.cam.ac.uk/>

Information if you have a disability

The University welcomes applications from individuals with disabilities and we are committed to ensuring fair treatment throughout the admissions 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 study. Information for disabled students is available at <https://www.disability.admin.cam.ac.uk/>

How to apply

Please include in your application:

- a personal statement (maximum 1,500 words) explaining what you would propose to research were you to be offered a studentship, how you would propose to research it and with which of the three named possible supervisors you would propose to work;
- a CV (maximum 2 pages);
- a sample of writing (maximum 10,000 words). This could be a piece of academic writing (e.g., a Master's dissertation, or part of one) or a text written in the course of any current or previous professional work;
- names and email addresses of two referees – who have agreed to write in support to postgraduate.admin@aha.cam.ac.uk by the closing date;
- transcripts of university-level grades and qualification certificates.

The successful applicant will be expected to apply formally through the University of Cambridge following notification of the interview outcome. They will be expected to apply to Downing College (where the CSCA is housed). College membership brings with it the benefits of college accommodation and of a thriving intellectual and social community, as well as of welfare and other pastoral support.

All prospective students are strongly advised to first make informal contact with the CSCA Director, Dr Frank Salmon (fes11@cam.ac.uk)

Please send your application by **20 June 2025** to: postgraduate.admin@aha.cam.ac.uk