

UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE
FACULTY OF HISTORY

PhD Studentship
Colombo: Layered Histories in the Global South City

Closing date: 31 August 2025

Eligibility

- This studentship is only open to international applicants (excluding UK, including EU and EEA).
- Candidates applying from Sri Lanka are especially encouraged given the grant's formal aim to generate dialogue on these research questions between Sri Lanka and Europe.
- Preference will be given to candidates demonstrating competence in both Sinhala and Tamil, with competence in one of these language for research purposes being an essential requirement for the successful candidate.
- Applicants should have or expect to receive a relevant Masters-level qualification or be able to demonstrate equivalent experience in a professional setting. The project is expected to attract students with a background in history or a cognate discipline although other disciplines will be considered.
- The candidate should submit an innovative research proposal for a particular area of research in the social and/or political history of Colombo since 1800. The proposal should represent a realistic research programme for a doctoral project to be housed within the Faculty of History at the University of Cambridge.
- The candidate should show the skills necessary to work in a team of researchers in what is a new collaborative project.

How to Apply

Please apply through the [University Application Portal](#) for a PhD in History (HS21) with the following:

- **Two academic references**
- **Transcript**
- **CV/resume**
- **Evidence of competence in English**
If required - you can [check using our tool](#)
- **Personal development questionnaire**



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- **Sample of Work (2) (document upload) (mandatory)**

Applicants should provide two samples of written work in English with a

maximum 20,000 word count. We recommend that students select two pieces of work that best represent their writing style. It is sensible (but not obligatory) to choose a piece of work which is at least roughly in the subject area in which you plan to do research.

- **Research Proposal (document upload) (mandatory)**

Applicants should provide a research proposal of 1,000-1500 words on the environmental and/or cultural history of Columbo in either the early modern or modern period. Please include the following: a simple and descriptive title for the proposed research, a rationale for the research, a brief historiographic context, and an indication of the sources likely to be used. Please title this document 'Statement of Intended Research'. Evidence of your language competence in Sinhala and/or Tamil;

- **Evidence of Masters' level qualification or equivalent.**

Further information on the Faculty of History's PhD programme can be found here:

<https://www.postgraduate.study.cam.ac.uk/courses/directory/hihipdhis> and

<https://www.hist.cam.ac.uk/course/phd-history>