



Fully Funded European Research Council (ERC) Collaborative PhD Studentship 'The European Qur'an', in collaboration with the University of Copenhagen and the British Library, London

The University of Copenhagen and the British Library in London are delighted to invite applications for a 3-year full-time Collaborative PhD Studentship commencing no earlier than 1 January 2021.

The PhD studentship is fully funded through a Synergy Grant from the European Research Council (ERC) and embedded in the international research project “The European Qur’an: Islamic Scripture in European Culture and Religion (1150-1850)” (EuQu). The PhD student will be registered with the University of Copenhagen, but will also spend a substantial amount of time at the British Library and travel frequently between other partner institutions in Europe.

The PhD project will be supervised by Jan Loop (University of Copenhagen), with Nur Sobers-Khan (British Library, London) as the co-supervisor.

Context

The European Qur’an: Islamic Scripture in European Culture and Religion (1150-1850) (EuQu)

“The European Qur’an: Islamic Scripture in European Culture and Religion” (EuQu) is a six-year research project funded by the European Research Council (ERC). Its four principal investigators (and host institutions) are Mercedes García-Arenal (Centro de Ciencias Humanas y Sociales, CSIC, Madrid, Spain), John Tolan (Université de Nantes), Jan Loop (University of Copenhagen) and Roberto Tottoli (Università di Napoli l’Orientale).

The EuQu project studies the ways in which the Islamic Holy Book is embedded in the intellectual, religious and cultural history of Medieval and Early Modern Christians, European Jews, freethinkers, atheists and European Muslims. We conduct research on how the Qur’an has been translated, interpreted, adapted and used in Christian Europe from the Middle Ages through to early modern history, in order to understand how the Holy Book has influenced both culture and religion in Europe. EuQu looks at the role of the Qur’an in interactions with Islam, in debates between Christians of different beliefs and in critiques of Christianity during the Enlightenment.

The six-year project is producing interdisciplinary research through scientific meetings across Europe, a GIS-database of Qur’an manuscripts, translations and other works in which the Qur’an is discussed, and through PhD theses and monographs. It will bring the fruits of this research to non-academic audiences through a number of exhibitions on the place of the book in European cultural heritage.

Candidates should consult the full description of the project, available via the following links:

http://proyectos.cchs.csic.es/corpi/sites/default/files/attachments/euqu_project_description.pdf
<https://euqu.eu>

The British Library: Exhibition on Islam in Europe

In collaboration with EuQu, the British Library is preparing a major exhibition exploring and critiquing the history of how Islam has been represented in cultural and artistic production in Europe, from the early modern period to contemporary times, to be held in 2023-2024. The exhibition will in part showcase early modern printed materials from the British Library's collections that illustrate the complex history of representations of Islam in European intellectual history and their relationship with the present.

The PhD Project

The PhD student will be part of the EuQu international team of researchers. The PhD project will make a significant contribution to the themes explored by the six-year EuQu project described above, using the British Library collections as a starting point.

In addition, the student is expected to be actively involved in the research leading toward the British Library exhibition on the representation of Islam in Europe. The PhD student may for example identify and research early modern printed and manuscript materials that are relevant to the exhibition, write catalogue entries, label and wall texts about the material for the exhibition, contribute to shaping the content of learning programmes, outreach and community-involvement events, and develop digital resources, such as blogs or on-line catalogues.

This is an exciting opportunity for aspiring researchers and curators to be involved in developing a highly visible exhibition in a major cultural institution in the UK, as part of an international collaborative research project. We offer involvement in research and curatorial activities, flexible work conditions, a competitive stipend, funded travel opportunities and options for prolonged stays at partner universities. You will be conducting research under the supervision of leading scholars and curators and have the opportunity to collaborate and exchange with colleagues from a wide range of disciplinary, institutional backgrounds.

Research Proposal

Interested candidates are invited to submit a research proposal that fits the themes and structure of the EuQu project. The proposal should indicate which material from the British Library collection will be used in the research, and how this material can be contextualised in contemporary Europe.

Possible fields of research include:

- Collecting the Qur'an (manuscripts and printed editions)
- The Printing of Arabic in Europe: The Qur'an and Islamic Texts
- A History of Qur'an Manuscripts in Europe
- The Qur'an in European material culture
- The Qur'an in European literature and thought
- The Qur'an in European Jewish culture and scholarship
- Colonial Expansion and the European Qur'an

Further Information

Studentship Arrangements and Funding Notes

The PhD studentship is fully funded for 3 years full time through a Synergy Grant from the European Research Council.

The stipend will be administered through the University of Copenhagen, where the student will be registered. For the academic year 2020-21 this will be approx. DKK 26,000 per month (please note that taxes and living costs in Copenhagen are high).

In addition, the British Library will provide a research allowance of up to £1,000 per financial year directly to the student for agreed research-related costs. Additional research and travel support is available from the UCPH and the ERC project.

It is envisaged that the PhD student will be mostly based in Copenhagen during their first year, and that they will relocate to London for their second year, to be more closely involved with preparations for the exhibition at the British Library. The third year can be spent according to requirements of the research project. In addition there will be frequent travel for conferences, workshops, funded research trips and visits to other European partner institutions throughout the duration of the studentship.

The candidate will be employed and paid in accordance with the agreement between the Danish Ministry of Finance and the Danish Confederation of Professional Associations (AC).

The student will be supervised by Prof. Jan Loop, Principle Investigator EuQu, and Dr Nur Sobers-Khan, Lead Curator for the South Asian Collections at the British Library.

The University of Copenhagen / EuQu

The University of Copenhagen (UCPH) is the oldest university and research institution in Denmark, It is consistently ranked as the best university in Scandinavia and among the top universities in Europe.

The granting of a scholarship carries with it enrolment as a PhD student in the PhD school of the Faculty of Theology at the University of Copenhagen (https://teol.ku.dk/english/research/phd_programme/). After selection through the recruitment panel, the successful candidate will have to formally enrol as a PhD student at the Faculty of Theology.

The thesis of max. 250 pages is the core substance of the PhD education. It is important that applicants for this collaborative PhD studentship are aware of the mandatory elements for PhDs undertaken at universities in Denmark.

The PhD programme at the University of Copenhagen stipulates that a PhD studentship is undertaken full time over 3 years and that it includes 30 ECTS of course work. Course work includes a range of generic and specific assignments, as well as conferences and similar activities, and should mostly be completed over the course of the first year. In addition, PhD students are required to gain some teaching experience and spend some time at other academic institutions abroad. They may also be asked to contribute more generally to the work of the department in which they are based.

Full details of all necessary requirements applicable to PhD students at the University of Copenhagen can be found here: <https://phd.ku.dk/english/>

The British Library

The British Library is the national library of the United Kingdom. Its collections encompass many fields of knowledge and a wide range of formats in hundreds of languages, covering 3500 years from some of the earliest written records to the digital collections of the present day. The Library's

collections are particularly rich in early modern printed and manuscript material, which the student will research during their time in London.

The Library is actively involved in a range of collaborative doctoral research programmes across several disciplines and provides a broad range of professional development opportunities for students with an interest in collections and cultural heritage management.

You will become part of a cohort of [postgraduate researchers at the British Library](#) and benefit from staff-level access to the Library's collections, resources and training programmes. During your time at the Library, you will have a dedicated workspace and access to necessary office equipment and services. You will be working closely with our curatorial experts, in particular your British Library supervisor, and with the exhibition project team, and will have opportunity to be involved in various aspects of the research and events of the exhibition.

The British Library is committed to promoting an inclusive culture and research environment. Further information and the Library's Equality & Diversity Policy can be found here: <https://www.bl.uk/about-us/governance/policies/equality-and-diversity>

Qualifications

We are keen to encourage applications from a wide range of candidates with suitable qualifications and/or experience regardless of personal background.

Candidates should have a Master's degree in a relevant discipline, ideally with specialisation or a strong interest in early modern religious history in Europe. Relevant disciplines include, but are not limited to History, Art History, Near Eastern Studies, Arabic philology, Theology, and Islamic Studies.

Due to the nature of the materials to be researched, candidates should also be able to demonstrate a high level of competence in reading the languages relevant to their research proposals. This is likely to include Arabic and Latin.

How to Apply

To apply for this studentship, please submit your CV and a Research Proposal of no more than 5 pages, including time table, reference to material at the British Library, together with documentation of MA degree to Jan Loop and Nur Sobers-Khan at the following email address:

eugu@cchs.csic.es

Applications must be submitted by 15 September 2020. Applications received after this date cannot be considered.

Shortlisted candidates will be invited to interview on **1 October 2020. Under the current circumstances interviews are likely to be held as video conferences. Full details on the interview process will be sent to short-listed candidates at least one week before the interview date.**

Eligibility

The University of Copenhagen is committed to equality of opportunity and to creating an inclusive working environment that reflects the diversity of society and therefore encourages all qualified candidates to apply, regardless of personal background, gender, age, disability, ethnicity etc.

In order to be awarded a PhD scholarship the applicant has to enrol as a PhD student at the Faculty of Theology, in accordance with the rules of the Danish Ministerial order No 1039 of 27 August 2013.

In order to be eligible for a scholarship in the 5+3 PhD study programme the applicant must have completed a two year Masters degree programme, or have earned 120 ECTS credits at an equivalent academic level before starting his or her employment. Applicants should check the study programmes for more detailed descriptions of the entry requirements. PhD students are paid a salary in accordance with the agreement between the Ministry of Finance and the Danish Confederation of Professional Associations (AC). The PhD student has a work obligation of up to 840 hours over the 3 year period of time without additional pay.

Informal Enquiries

If you are interested in applying, you are welcome to send informal enquiries to:

Prof Jan Loop, jlo@teol.ku.dk or euqu@cchs.csic.es

For questions about the British Library collections and exhibition please contact:

Dr Nur Sobers-Khan, nur.sobers-khan@bl.u.k

EuQu Project Partners <https://euqu.eu>



Università degli Studi di Napoli
"L'Orientale"

