

Goodison Fellowship 2020–21

Applicant information



The National Life Stories Goodison Fellowship 2020–21

Through the Goodison Fellowship series, National Life Stories aims to increase public knowledge and awareness of oral history, particularly the NLS collections built up over the last three decades.

This award of £5,000, sponsored by National Life Stories (NLS) at the British Library, is open to anyone resident in the United Kingdom who wishes to use the NLS oral history collections to reflect on life stories and memory, and share the results of their research in the public domain. Possible outcomes from the Fellowship could be a series of national newspaper or magazine articles, an in-depth radio programme or series of programmes, a book, a journal article, an exhibition, a series of podcasts or an online or printed education resource. The recipient might be a journalist, radio producer, writer, oral historian, an academic or independent scholar using oral history, or a museum, library or archive professional.

Applicants for the 2020–21 Award can draw on any of the NLS collections, but proposals using material from one or more of the following collections will be particularly welcomed:

Crafts Lives – over 160 life story interviews with British studio crafts makers recorded over the past 20 years

Architects' Lives – over 150 recordings with pioneering UK architects recorded since 1989

An Oral History of Theatre Design – 30 interviews with prominent theatre designers.

The award holder will be the National Life Stories Goodison Fellow for a period of three to twelve months, subject to agreement with the Awarding Panel. The Fellowship must commence in the period 1 February 2020 – 1 November 2020. The award will be made in two payments of £2,500. NLS recognises that with the long lead time for some public outputs, the fruits of the Fellowship may not be realised within the period of the Fellowship.

The award is entitled the Goodison Fellowship in recognition of Sir Nicholas Goodison's much-valued role as Chairman of National Life Stories from 2003–2015.

What does the Fellowship offer?

The National Life Stories Goodison Fellowship will provide the recipient the time and space to listen in-depth to oral history material. The Fellow will be provided with hotdesk space at the British Library, which will include access to interview material (plus books and journals) onsite at the British Library. No restricted or embargoed material will be accessible to the Fellow. The Fellow will need to take time at the start of the Fellowship to visit the British Library and acquaint themselves with office procedures and policies. For the duration of the Fellowship, the National Life Stories Goodison Fellow will become part of the NLS/Oral History team, which will enable privileged in-depth discussion with curators, archivists and interviewers, mining their knowledge of the collections and National Life Stories' approach to oral history.



Ed Jones and (right) Jeremy Dixon were interviewed for *Architects' Lives*. Photo: © Sandra Lousada.

Previous Fellowships have supported major new research and dissemination in the public domain, including dedicated national radio programmes, articles – both in print and online, conference talks, a playscript, an exhibition and a book on twentieth century British art. See www.bl.uk/nls/fellowships for more information on the outcomes of previous Fellowships.

Information for applicants for the 2020–21 Goodison Fellowship:

- Applicants are strongly encouraged to research across the NLS collections (search www.bl.uk/nls as a starting point), and applications with a focus on material from *Crafts Lives*, *Architects' Lives* and *An Oral History of Theatre Design* are particularly encouraged.
- Proposed outputs should highlight the orality of NLS's recordings, the life story approach and philosophy.
- Evidence needs to be shown of a clear expression of interest by an established institution/media organisation/publisher for the output to be published. NLS realises that the commissioning process for national radio can be time-consuming and take some months to complete, so for radio outputs proof of an expression of interest from a radio station and an explanation of the applicant's track record of broadcast programmes will suffice.
- The proposal should indicate how the output will promote awareness and use of NLS material.
- The Fellow will write three blogs about their research (with at least one for the British Library Sound and Vision blog) and speak at one or more public event (at the British Library or external venue). If possible the applicant will record at least one podcast for a relevant podcast series.
- In the initial application, or within one month of the award of the Fellowship, the Fellow must submit a timetable of planned activity with clear goals and deadlines to the Director of NLS.
- Every output must clearly acknowledge National Life Stories and the National Life Stories Goodison Fellowship.

About National Life Stories

As an independent charitable trust within the British Library, National Life Stories' key focus and expertise has been in-depth oral history interviewing programmes. For over three decades NLS has initiated a series of innovative interviewing projects funded almost entirely from sponsorship, charitable and individual donations.

Each collection comprises recorded in-depth interviews of a high standard, plus content summaries to assist users. Some recordings are also transcribed. Access is provided via the Sound and Moving Image Catalogue at sami.bl.uk and a growing number of interviews are made available for remote web use at sounds.bl.uk/oral-history. Each individual life story interview is at least several hours long, covering family background, childhood, education, work, leisure and later life.

For more information on National Life Stories and the collections visit www.bl.uk/nls.

Front cover: Mixed materials by Lois Walpole, interviewed for *Crafts Lives*. Photo: courtesy Lois Walpole.

This page: Architectural stencils, courtesy Bill Knight.

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www.bl.uk/nls
www.bl.uk/oralhistory
www.bl.uk/nls/fellowships

How to apply

Applications should be no more than five pages in length and should include:

- an outline of the proposed project
- a brief curriculum vitae
- a proposal of ways that the Fellow will use National Life Stories material
- an indication of how the project will increase public awareness of National Life Stories and its oral history interviews
- evidence of the clear intention by an established media organisation/publisher/radio station for the output to be published/broadcast

Applications must be received by midnight on **Monday 28 October 2019** and should be submitted by email attachment (PDF documents preferred) to nls@bl.uk.

The Awarding Panel reserve the right to request further information at a later stage of the application process and will invite selected applicants for an informal discussion in early December 2019 prior to the award of the Fellowship.

