

British Library Translator-in-Residence Job Description

The British Library is offering a twelve-month opportunity for a translator to become the Library's first ever Translator-in-Residence. The residency is offered in collaboration with the Arts and Humanities Research Council's [Translating Cultures](#) theme. This is a collaborative venture between the resident and Library and we envisage working with the post-holder to shape the role and activities in accordance with his/her individual interests and skills. Within this framework, the focus of the residency is to engage with the act of translation and develop ideas that are rooted in the Library's unparalleled collections in this area.

We are particularly looking for someone who will engage imaginatively with the idea of "residency": with the Library's buildings and spaces as well as with the extensive and diverse community of languages represented by the Library's staff and readers, the wider public and local communities.

The residency will include the following principles and activities:

- Be rooted in the British Library's collections
- Working with British Library staff to develop public events to extend and enhance the Library's current offering
- To contribute to International Translation Day 2017
- Working with British Library and/or AHRC projects in the area of translating cultures and with an interest in multilingualism, translation and creativity, including those which are part of the [Open World Research Initiative](#)
- To contribute online content through the Library's blogs and social media to promote the Library's collections, raise awareness of the residency and the value of translation and multilingualism
- Seek opportunities for engagement with British Library staff, researchers and users and the wider public and local communities
- Publish an article about the experience of the residency at the British Library

The residency may include some or all of the following:

- Contribute to the co-curation of events beyond the British Library's St Pancras site, in conjunction with the Library's Living Knowledge Network
- Contribute to the British Library's community engagement programme
- Develop and deliver workshops for schools and adult learning courses in conjunction with the Library's Learning Department
- Contribute to collaborative events and activities associated with the AHRC Translating Cultures theme
- Present at relevant conferences
- Creative commissions
- Development of future collaborative research projects

Personal Specification

Essential:

A practicing literary translator, working with any language(s)

An interest in and enthusiasm for the process of translation and cross-cultural dialogue

Excellent influencing and communication skills

A commitment to public engagement and the ability to work with a wide range of participants and audiences

An interest in the role of British Library as a research and cultural institution and some knowledge of its collections and how use of these collections and research based on them can inform the process of translation

An interest in professional development

Excellent verbal and written skills

Desirable:

Experience of curating events

Experience of facilitating educational workshops

Experience of publishing written and online content

A fee of £10,000 is available as remuneration for the residency, along with a small budget to support developing activities.

The resident will be expected to spend one day a week at the British Library's St Pancras site (this may increase during periods of activity leading up to particular events or initiatives).

Applicants will need to demonstrate that they have the right to work in the UK for the duration of the residency.

We anticipate that the Translator-in-Residence will start in March 2017. **To apply** please send your CV and a covering letter explaining why you are interested in becoming a translator-in-residence at the British Library, along with a proposal (not more than 600 words) outlining what ideas and activities you would plan to pursue during your time as resident. Please send your application by 13.00 on Thursday, 5 January (either by email or hard copy) to:

Rachel Foss (Head of Contemporary Archives and Manuscripts)
The British Library
96 Euston Road
London NW1 2DB

rachel.foss@bl.uk