

Greek Papyri of Late Antique Egypt

Reference: 2019-1-TOT

Supervisor	Peter Toth, Curator of Ancient and Medieval Manuscripts
Department, Location	Western Heritage Collections - St Pancras, London
Start date/timeframe	Ideally this placement would start in late April/May 2019, though there is some flexibility.
Duration	3 months (or part-time equivalent).
Remote-working	It is not possible to work remotely on this placement.
Context for placement	
<p>The British Library houses one of the most important collections of Greek papyri in the world. Unique fragments of Greek classical literature, biblical and scientific pieces are held here together with a large and significant amount of documentary material. In the course of the Library's digitisation projects, this collection of more than 3000 Greek papyri has now been fully digitised and will be published online with new catalogue entries.</p> <p>The PhD research placement would contribute towards the cataloguing associated with this project, enabling the digitised images to be described and published in the Library's online catalogue and viewer. The placement student will also contribute to blogposts, tweets, and to other library events in order to promote the collection and its international importance for the study of Classical and Late Antiquity.</p>	
Expected tasks and outcomes	
<p>Cataloguing: The student will learn how to catalogue papyri according to the Library's standards for its online catalogue. This will also entail reviewing existing descriptions, comparing them with those in other international databases and publications, updating records and adding bibliography. The student will provide assistance with the selection and delivery of the material, liaising with colleagues in the Library's conservation and photo studios, and checking image quality. Realistic targets for the amount of cataloguing work to be completed during the placement will be discussed and agreed with the student as part of the induction process.</p> <p>Promotion: The student will contribute blog posts to the Library's Medieval Manuscripts blog and tweets about newly added/identified pieces. There will also be opportunities to contribute to internal and external library events with specialist knowledge of papyri. This is likely to include contributing to 'show-and-tell' events about the collection and to other research or public engagement events. Depending on the timing of the placement in relation to exhibition schedules, there may also be the opportunity to write labels for any items that are selected to feature in displays or exhibitions in the Library's Treasures Gallery.</p> <p>Research: The student will be encouraged to undertake their own research relating to the Library's collection of papyri and to publish articles on their finds and discoveries for submission to peer-reviewed journals. Potential areas of research will be discussed with candidates at interview stage and refined and agreed with the supervisor at the start of the placement.</p>	
Training and experience expected to be gained by student through the placement	
<p>The student will receive training in handling, imaging and cataloguing of papyri, as well as gain first-hand practical experience of their conservation.</p> <p>An induction into the Library's manuscript cataloguing system (IAMS) will be provided by our internal specialists. Handling training will be provided by the Library's Preventive Conservation Team. The placement supervisor will provide advice on how to accommodate external papyri cataloguing standards to the Library's internal requirements.</p> <p>Contributing to events, tours, show-and-tells etc. will provide experience of public engagement,</p>	

whilst writing blog posts will help to develop expertise in communicating with a wide public audience. More broadly, this is an opportunity to experience the everyday life of a living collection. The student will be developing and applying their knowledge of Ancient Greek language and literature in collaboration with a team of colleagues of varying backgrounds.

Required knowledge and skills

- Excellent knowledge of Ancient Greek and Latin languages and literature
- Some experience in papyrology and Greek palaeography
- Familiarity with the history, culture and religion of Late Antique Egypt
- Strong IT skills (Word, Excel etc.)

This is a training and development opportunity open to current PhD students only. It is not intended to lead to a permanent post at the Library. Please note that the Library is unable to provide a stipend for PhD research placements. Applicants must obtain the support of their PhD supervisor in advance and, as part of their process, consult their HEI to ascertain what funding is available to support them.

Application deadline: 5pm on Monday, **18 February 2019**. Information on how to apply is available on our website: <https://www.bl.uk/news/2019/january/phd-research-placements-2019>