Postdoctoral Affiliates

The College

Newnham College was founded in 1871 to promote excellent academic education for women, and is still the largest women’s College in Cambridge. There are circa 60 Senior Members, 375 undergraduate and 270 postgraduate students, and over 80 non-academic staff. The College is located on a single 18-acre site, most of the buildings being listed. It is directly opposite the University’s Sidgwick Site Faculties and Libraries, and close to many other Departments. Newnham remains a pioneer in further education for women and admits only female undergraduates and graduates. The College continues to be a thriving intellectual community, and to be an excellent springboard for all that the University of Cambridge has to offer.

The College is a registered charity: it aims to advance women’s education, learning and research.

The Post

Postdoctoral Affiliates are intended to strengthen the already significant community of postdocs among the Newnham community. Applicants must hold an established and salaried postdoctoral research position or personal fellowship in the University of Cambridge or one of its associated research institutes, with tenure for at least two years. Applicants must be physically based in Cambridge for the duration of their affiliation and must have completed a PhD.

These positions involve no formal teaching requirement, although undergraduate teaching and postgraduate student mentoring opportunities may be available in some subjects, in which case incentives to supervise/mentor may be offered. It is expected that appointees will contribute to the academic and social life of the College.

Postdoctoral Affiliates are members of the College’s Senior Combination Room (SCR) through which they will have access to a lively interdisciplinary fellowship and receive invitations to attend events and to give lectures and talks. Each Postdoctoral Affiliate will be allocated a College contact.

Postdoctoral Affiliates will not be members of the College’s Governing Body but may be eligible for appointment to serve on College Committees and Working Groups, subject to the terms of reference for those bodies.

Term

Affiliation would be granted for one year in the first instance, renewable annually at the discretion of the College Council (but not normally renewed beyond three years).
Appointments process and criteria

Applications are welcome from women in any subject; the College aspires to achieve a balance between arts and sciences. Applications may be made in reply to a biannual open advertisement in the Reporter, on the College’s website and on the Postdocs of Cambridge Society website.

Applications should be sent electronically to the College Secretary, Ms Holly Adams (Holly.Adams@newn.cam.ac.uk), and should include:

- a CV;
- summaries (to total no more than 300 words) of the applicant’s research achievements and current research in Cambridge, explaining its importance;
- a brief statement of what the applicant will bring to Newnham’s academic community; and
- two academic reference letters, at least one of which must be from a senior academic in the applicant’s institution and which must confirm that the applicant holds a current contract of employment within the University (or associated research institute).

Applicants seeking re-appointment will be invited to submit an updated CV and summary (as above), and a brief statement demonstrating their involvement with the College since appointment.

There will be a maximum of 25 Postdoctoral Affiliates at any one time. Appointments will be made on the basis of academic distinction and potential contribution to the intellectual, educational and social life of the community at Newnham. Applications will be assessed against the above criteria by the Fellows who form the College’s Research Group, and applicants may be invited to an informal lunch meeting with Fellows of the College. Appointments and re-appointments will be made by the College Council on the recommendation of the Research Group, and of any other Fellows involved in the assessment process.

Entitlements

Postdoctoral Affiliates are entitled to three meals per week at College expense, and additional meals and guest meals may be taken against payment. They may also use the College Library during the Librarian’s office hours; borrowing rights may be made by separate arrangement with the Librarian.

The affiliation is non-stipendiary and will not normally carry entitlement to rooms in College or College accommodation, nor IT or research expenses, although Affiliates may use the College as a mailing address.

College Council
February 2017