

Job Description

Job title	Academic Programme and Events Officer
Division	Humanities
Department	Rothermere American Institute
Location	1a South Parks Road, Oxford, OX1 3UB
Grade and salary	Grade 6: £33,832 - £39,705 per annum
Hours	Full time
Contract type	Maternity leave cover / Secondment (10 months)
Reporting to	Institute Manager
Vacancy reference	175551

The role

This post is to cover the absence of the substantive postholder, who will shortly be taking a period of maternity leave.

The RAI is Oxford's centre for the study of the United States and its place in the world. Every year we host more than 100 seminars, workshops, lectures and conferences which attract leading scholars and public figures from across the world. We have a lively and friendly community made up of our small administration team plus early career researchers, graduate students, Oxford academics and visiting fellows. In this role you will be at the centre of this activity and play a key part in making it all happen.

You will lead the planning and implementation of all RAI events and communications, influence and develop our communications strategy, undertake the administration for our academic programme, and support the Institute Manager with administration, facilities management and HR as well as reviewing and improving administrative processes and overseeing the work of casual employees and student volunteers and, where appropriate, the Administrative and Operations Assistant.

You should be flexible and have the ability to work well in a team environment as well as having the competence and confidence to work independently. You will need to be a strong problem-solver, able to react calmly and resolve quickly any issues that arise, often at short notice, with events. A positive and proactive attitude is imperative and you will have excellent organisational, written, and interpersonal skills, being adept at dealing with people at all levels. You will be required to work occasional evenings during term time to support events (typically one or two



evenings per week, though not necessarily every week). Remote working opportunities will be limited, as the operational requirements of this role are such that you will need to be on site for the majority of your working week.

Responsibilities

Events and communications

- Take the lead on planning, organising and running our academic programme and a wide variety of events ensuring expenditure is in line with the departmental budget.
- Liaise with event convenors and speakers; welcome speakers, donors and other high profile guests; and engage with a range of stakeholders and audiences.
- Ensure compliance with immigration rules when arranging speakers and conference delegates who are non-UK nationals.
- Act as point of contact for less experienced team members, casual employees and student volunteers, providing day-to-day guidance and allocating tasks.
- Implement the department's communications strategy and influence and contribute to future developments and improvements.
- Write and edit a range of communications materials for broad audiences, including newsletters, news articles, briefings and reports.
- Assist the Director with creating and editing the RAI podcast, suggesting topics or speakers and identifying ways to link the podcast to the RAI's programme of events.
- Update, develop and deliver online communications for the department, including the department's website and social media channels.
- Oversee the production of promotional materials for departmental campaigns and events, including brochures, leaflets and posters.
- Build relationships with other departments and external institutions, identify appropriate internal and external audiences, and maintain mailing lists and contact databases.

Administration

- Manage the full cycle of administration related to our academic programme, such as visiting academics, postgraduate members, research grants and scholarships.
- Regularly review and revise administrative processes within the Institute and identify any changes that would improve productivity and efficiency.

- Serve as secretary to the Academic Committee.
- Act as first point of contact for students, staff and visitors and deal with a wide range of enquiries sent to departmental generic email accounts.
- Review travel risk assessments and insurance applications and provide guidance to RAI staff, students and fellows.
- Provide inductions, complete right to work checks, and arrange University cards and IT for staff, students and visitors.
- Manage external room hire bookings, in line with the RAI's room hire policy, and support the Institute Manager with facilities management and health and safety.
- Deputise for the Institute Manager occasionally, for example in administrative meetings or when dealing with contractors and overseeing building works.

Selection criteria

Essential selection criteria

- Educated to degree level or equivalent professional experience.
- Excellent organisational skills and extensive administration experience.
- Ability to work effectively as part of a small team and a willingness to work flexibly.
- Ability to problem solve both immediately and long term, and to work independently in a complex environment, taking the initiative when necessary and prioritising effectively to meet deadlines.
- Excellent interpersonal skills, including diplomacy and the ability to inspire the confidence of senior colleagues.
- Ability to motivate and guide others and delegate effectively.
- Excellent writing skills and attention to detail and demonstrable experience of print and digital communications and social media.
- Proficiency working with a range of computer-based and online applications, including website content management systems.

Desirable selection criteria

- Experience of working within a higher education institution.



- A general interest in American culture, literature, politics and history.

About the University of Oxford

Welcome to the University of Oxford. We aim to lead the world in research and education for the benefit of society both in the UK and globally. Oxford's researchers engage with academic, commercial and cultural partners across the world to stimulate high-quality research and enable innovation through a broad range of social, policy and economic impacts.

We believe our strengths lie both in empowering individuals and teams to address fundamental questions of global significance, while providing all our staff with a welcoming and inclusive workplace that enables everyone to develop and do their best work. Recognising that diversity is our strength, vital for innovation and creativity, we aspire to build a truly diverse community which values and respects every individual's unique contribution.

While we have long traditions of scholarship, we are also forward-looking, creative and cutting-edge. Oxford is one of Europe's most entrepreneurial universities and we rank first in the UK for university spin-outs, and in recent years we have spun out 15-20 new companies every year. We are also recognised as leaders in support for social enterprise.

Join us and you will find a unique, democratic and international community, a great range of staff benefits and access to a vibrant array of cultural activities in the beautiful city of Oxford. For more information, please visit www.ox.ac.uk/about/organisation.

Humanities Division

The Humanities Division is one of four academic divisions in the University of Oxford, each with a full-time Head and elected Board. The Humanities Division is distinctive for its depth and breadth. Its activity spans nine faculties, one School and two independent research institutes: the faculties of Classics; English; History; Linguistics, Philology and Phonetics; Medieval and Modern Languages; Music; Asian & Middle Eastern Studies; Philosophy; and Theology and Religion; the Ruskin School of Art; the Rothermere American Institute and the Voltaire Foundation. Interdisciplinary links within and beyond the University are strong, extending to the social sciences, medical sciences and the natural and physical sciences.

One of the largest centres for Humanities internationally, with over 800 members of academic and research staff, the Division offers world-class research and teaching, backed by the superb resources of the University's libraries and museums, including the famous Bodleian Library, with its 11 million volumes and priceless early book and manuscript collections, the Pitt Rivers Museum, the History of Science Museum and the Ashmolean Museum of Art and Archaeology. Such historic resources are linked to cutting-edge agendas in research and teaching, with an increasing emphasis on interdisciplinary study and digital Humanities.



The outstanding quality of Humanities research at Oxford is recognised globally. This reputation for research excellence contributes to the University coming top of several international rankings for Arts and Humanities, including the US News and World Report rankings and the QS World University Rankings by Subject. The Division's faculties are among the largest in the world, enabling Oxford to offer an education in Arts and Humanities unparalleled in its range of subjects, from music and fine art to ancient and modern languages.

The Division has responsibility for over 4,000 undergraduates (a third of the University's total undergraduate population), and for over 2,000 postgraduate students (over 1,100 doctoral students and some 900 Master's students). Twenty-nine undergraduate courses are offered in Humanities subjects, seven of which are offered jointly with the other academic divisions. The Doctoral and Master's programmes offered are distributed across all of the Division's faculties, along with a suite of Master's courses offered with the Social Sciences Division and a growing portfolio of Master's courses that draw from across the Humanities. The Division is part of the Open-Oxford Cambridge AHRC Doctoral Training Partnership. The Humanities Division has embarked on a major building project on the Radcliffe Observatory Quarter, supported by a £185 million gift to create the Stephen A. Schwarzman Centre for the Humanities.

Rothermere American Institute

The RAI is Oxford's centre for the study of the United States and its place in the world. At our official opening on Friday 25 May 2001, President Bill Clinton posed these questions: "Where has America come from and where does it find itself? What *is* it doing and what *ought* it to do in the world?" Today, these questions remain at the heart of the RAI's mission.

Our mission is twofold:

- We support the world-leading scholarship in this field being undertaken at Oxford;
- and we communicate that research to a wider public.

Every year, we host more than 100 seminars, workshops, conferences and lectures which attract leading scholars, students, policymakers and public figures from across the world. Recent public events with large audiences have included discussions with Michael Chabon, Joy Harjo, Richard Blackett, Elizabeth Cobbs, Tamson Pietsch, and Iwan Morgan, along with a joint conference with the NYU Brademas Center to discuss an inside look at American politics. In addition, we host regular events for our community members, like a weekly coffee morning and a twice-termly women's lunch to foster support networks and a sense of belonging at the RAI. We also have a podcast series, *The Last Best Hope?*, which regularly sits in the UK top 50 podcasts and has recently featured discussions with historians including Elizabeth Varon, Nick Witham, Dan Jackson and Sam Haselby.

We host around a dozen visiting fellows each academic year. We support two Junior Research Fellows (early career academics) and each year welcome two distinguished visiting professors, the Harmsworth Professor of American History and the John G. Winant Professor of American Government.

The RAI community includes a large number of graduate students working in the fields of History, Politics, Literature, Art History and related disciplines. It also includes early career researchers, retired colleagues and around twenty of Oxford's Faculty members who work on problems related to America and its place in the world. We collaborate wherever possible with other research institutes in the University.

We are housed in a beautiful award-winning building in the centre of Oxford. At the heart of our building is the magnificent Vere Harmsworth Library, which offers the strongest collection in US history in Europe, including a wide range of digital resources. We work closely with the VHL Librarian, currently Bethan Davies, to ensure that the aims and activities of our two institutions reinforce each other.

The RAI is largely dependent upon the generosity of individual benefactors, trusts and foundations - all of whom share the RAI's commitment to world-class research on the US.

The current RAI Director is the Edward Orsborn Professor of US Politics and Political History, Adam Smith. The RAI has a small but dedicated staff including a full-time Manager, Katy Long, a full-time Academic Programme and Events Assistant, Hannah Greiving, and a part-time Administrative and Operations Assistant, Richard Purkiss.

For more information visit: www.rai.ox.ac.uk.

How to apply

Applications are made through our online recruitment portal. Information about how to apply is available on our Jobs website <https://www.jobs.ox.ac.uk/how-to-apply>.

Your application will be judged solely on the basis of how you demonstrate that you meet the selection criteria stated in the job description.

As part of your application you will be asked to provide details of two referees and indicate whether we can contact them now.

You will be asked to upload a CV and a supporting statement. The supporting statement must explain how you meet each of the selection criteria for the post using examples of your skills and experience. This may include experience gained in employment, education, or during career breaks (such as time out to care for dependants).

Please upload all documents **as PDF files** with your name and the document type (CV, supporting statement) in the filename.

All applications must be received by midday on 16 October 2024. Shortlisting is expected to take place on 21 October and interviews on 31 October.

Queries about the post should be directed to Katy Long, Institute Manager, hr@rai.ox.ac.uk.



Pre-employment screening

Standard checks

If you are offered the post, the offer will be subject to standard pre-employment checks. You will be asked to provide: proof of your right-to-work in the UK; proof of your identity; and (if we haven't done so already) we will contact the referees you have nominated. If you have previously worked for the University we will also verify key information such as your dates of employment and reason for leaving your previous role with the department/unit where you worked. You will also be asked to complete a health declaration so that you can tell us about any health conditions or disabilities for which you may need us to make appropriate adjustments.

Please read the candidate notes on the University's pre-employment screening procedures at: <https://www.jobs.ox.ac.uk/pre-employment-checks>.

Information for priority candidates

A priority candidate is a University employee who is seeking redeployment because they have been advised that they are at risk of redundancy, or on grounds of ill-health/disability. Priority candidates are issued with a redeployment letter by their employing departments.

If you are a priority candidate, please ensure that you attach your redeployment letter to your application (or email it to the contact address on the advert if the application form used for the vacancy does not allow attachments).

If you need help

Application FAQs, including technical troubleshooting advice is available at: <https://staff.web.ox.ac.uk/recruitment-support-faqs>.

Non-technical questions about this job should be addressed to the recruiting department directly administrator@rai.ox.ac.uk.

To return to the online application at any stage, please go to: www.recruit.ox.ac.uk.

Please note that you will receive an automated email from our online recruitment portal to confirm receipt of your application. **Please check your spam/junk mail** if you do not receive this email.

Important information for candidates

Data Privacy

Please note that any personal data submitted to the University as part of the job application process will be processed in accordance with the GDPR and related UK data protection legislation. For further information, please see the University's Privacy Notice for Job Applicants



at: <https://compliance.admin.ox.ac.uk/job-applicant-privacy-policy>. The University's Policy on Data Protection is available at: <https://compliance.admin.ox.ac.uk/data-protection-policy>.

The University's policy on retirement

The University operates an Employer Justified Retirement Age (EJRA) for very senior research posts at **grade RSIV/D35 and clinical equivalents E62 and E82** of 30 September before the 70th birthday. The justification for this is explained at: <https://hr.admin.ox.ac.uk/the-ejra>.

For **existing** employees on these grades, any employment beyond the retirement age is subject to approval through the procedures: <https://hr.admin.ox.ac.uk/the-ejra>.

There is no normal or fixed age at which staff in posts at other grades have to retire. Staff at these grades may elect to retire in accordance with the rules of the applicable pension scheme, as may be amended from time to time.

Equality of Opportunity

Entry into employment with the University and progression within employment will be determined only by personal merit and the application of criteria which are related to the duties of each particular post and the relevant salary structure. In all cases, ability to perform the job will be the primary consideration. No applicant or member of staff shall be discriminated against because of age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage or civil partnership, pregnancy or maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, or sexual orientation.

Benefits of working at the University

Employee benefits

University employees enjoy 38 days' paid holiday, generous pension schemes, travel discounts, and a variety of professional development opportunities. Our range of other employee benefits and discounts also includes free entry to the Botanic Gardens and University colleges, and discounts at University museums. See <https://hr.admin.ox.ac.uk/staff-benefits>

University Club and sports facilities

Membership of the University Club is free for all University staff. The University Club offers social, sporting, and hospitality facilities. Staff can also use the University Sports Centre on Iffley Road at discounted rates, including a fitness centre, powerlifting room, and swimming pool. See www.club.ox.ac.uk and <https://www.sport.ox.ac.uk/>.

Information for staff new to Oxford

If you are relocating to Oxfordshire from overseas or elsewhere in the UK, the University's Welcome Service website includes practical information about settling in the area, including advice on relocation, accommodation, and local schools. See <https://welcome.ox.ac.uk/>

There is also a visa loan scheme to cover the costs of UK visa applications for staff and their dependants. See <https://staffimmigration.admin.ox.ac.uk/visa-loan-scheme>

Family-friendly benefits

With one of the most generous family leave schemes in the Higher Education sector, and a range of flexible working options, Oxford aims to be a family-friendly employer. We also subscribe to the Work+Family Space, a service that provides practical advice and support for employees who have caring responsibilities. The service offers a free telephone advice line, and the ability to book emergency back-up care for children, adult dependants and elderly relatives. See <https://hr.admin.ox.ac.uk/my-family-care>

The University has excellent childcare services, including five University nurseries as well as University-supported places at many other private nurseries.

For full details, including how to apply and the costs, see <https://childcare.admin.ox.ac.uk/>

Disabled staff

We are committed to supporting members of staff with disabilities or long-term health conditions. For further details, including information about how to make contact, in confidence, with the University's Staff Disability Advisor, see <https://edu.admin.ox.ac.uk/disability-support>



Staff networks

The University has a number of staff networks including the Oxford Research Staff Society, BME staff network, LGBT+ staff network and a disabled staff network. You can find more information at <https://edu.admin.ox.ac.uk/networks>

The University of Oxford Newcomers' Club

The University of Oxford Newcomers' Club is an organisation run by volunteers that aims to assist the partners of new staff settle into Oxford, and provides them with an opportunity to meet people and make connections in the local area. See www.newcomers.ox.ac.uk.

Oxford Research Staff Society (OxRSS)

A society run by and for Oxford University research staff. It offers researchers a range of social and professional networking opportunities. Membership is free, and all researchers employed by Oxford University are welcome to join. Subscribe at researchstaff-subscribe@maillist.ox.ac.uk to join the mailing list to find out about upcoming events and other information for researchers, or contact the committee on committee@oxrss.ox.ac.uk. For more information, see www.ox.ac.uk/oxrss, Twitter @ResStaffOxford, and Facebook www.facebook.com/oxrss.

