



The Centre for the study of the **Legacies of British Slavery**

[ucl.ac.uk/lbs](http://ucl.ac.uk/lbs)

## Funded PhD studentship: Legacies of British Slavery

Department: UCL History

Post reference: 1876430

Location: Bloomsbury

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### Reports to

Professor Matthew J. Smith (UCL History)

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The Centre for the Study of the Legacies of British Slavery in the History Department of University College London is pleased to announce a funded 3-year doctoral studentship beginning in September 2021. The successful candidate will have the opportunity to work collaboratively with academics from the Centre and benefit from involvement in our public engagement activities.

### *The Research Centre*

Over the past twelve years the Centre for the Study of the Legacies of British Slavery has succeeded in making the history of slavery more widely known in Britain by building a publicly accessible evidence base. Our collective and individual publications have been a major part of our analysis of this material and added greatly to public and scholarly knowledge on British slavery.

Our database on the compensation payments of £20 million made to British slave-owners for the loss of their human property after emancipation in 1834 has contributed monumentally to the

national conversation on slavery, rights, justice, empire, memorialization and how we reckon with uncomfortable truths. We have also completed a second project on the structure and significance of slave ownership, by linking slave-owners to Caribbean estates for the period 1763-1833 and connecting them to cultural, political, industrial, imperial and religious activities in Britain.

Our Centre is now embarking on a larger and pivotal phase of research on the experiences of enslaved people in the Caribbean. Through a fulsome and rigorous analysis of the extant slave registers, this research project will offer details on the lives of the men, women and children who made the British sugar empire function. This will be joined to our earlier work to provide the most expansive, publicly available data on British imperial slavery. For current work of the Centre, please visit [www.ucl.ac.uk/lbs](http://www.ucl.ac.uk/lbs).

### *The Studentship*

The awardee will conduct a trans-Atlantic historical investigation of legacies of the history of British slavery and abolition in Britain and/or the Caribbean for a doctoral project.

The studentship will be full-time and run for 3 years from October 2021. The scholarship will cover full-time tuition of Home Fees at the Doctoral Level (£5,365 p.a. currently) plus a Stipend (£20,000 for first year with increases for the other two years) and additional research expenses. We also expect the student to apply for overseas field work expenses.

For further details about postgraduate research in the History Department at UCL see <http://www.ucl.ac.uk/history>

### ***Supervision***

Doctoral supervision will be undertaken by Professor Matthew J. Smith at UCL with a secondary supervisor also at UCL. Supervision meetings will take place at least monthly.

The student will participate in the Research Training programme in the department and will have the opportunity to contribute to the research and public engagement activities which form an important part of the Centre for the Study of the Legacies of British Slavery.

### ***Qualifications and Eligibility***

We are looking for a Black British student of Caribbean heritage or a Mixed Black British applicant of Caribbean heritage with relevant training in History, particularly of Britain and Empire in the 18<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> centuries.

Candidates should have completed a relevant MA and must fulfill the normal academic requirements for acceptance for postgraduate study at UCL.

Please see statement below regarding UCL's use of positive action under the Equality Act (2010).

**Start date:** the start date is September 2021.

### ***Application Procedure***

Applications for the position should be made online at [www.ucl.ac.uk/hr/jobs](http://www.ucl.ac.uk/hr/jobs).

Applications should include, in addition to the standard application form the following three file attachments\*:

1. a curriculum vitae (maximum length 5 pages).
2. a 1-2 page outline of the proposed area of research and a statement of how it fits with the aims of the LBS Centre.
3. Transcripts of study from your first degree and postgraduate qualifications.

\*to be consolidated into one or two attachments for upload.

For enquiries relating to the application process and requirements please contact the LBS Centre Administrator, Rachel Lang ([lbs@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:lbs@ucl.ac.uk)).

### **Closing date for applications:**

Monday 21 May 2021 at 5pm.

### **Interview date:**

Monday 7 June 2021.

## **Statement on the use of Positive Action**

Positive action describes special measures aimed at alleviating disadvantage or under-representation experienced by those with a protected characteristic under the [Equality Act 2010](#). Section 159 of the act allows the use of positive action in certain circumstances: To lessen disadvantage for those sharing a protected characteristic and reduce under-representation in particular activities. Any such measures are to be a proportionate way of achieving a relevant aim.

### **The forms of positive action allowed under the Equality Act (2010):**

- General positive action, for example, reserving places for a protected group on training courses or providing mentoring to increase representation at senior levels
- Positive action specifically relating to recruitment and promotion, also known as the 'tie-break provision'
- The availability of scholarships and bursaries to students sharing a protected characteristic
- in relation to disabled people

Therefore, where UCL reasonably thinks those sharing a protected characteristic experience a disadvantage connected to that characteristic; and may have needs that are different from the needs of persons who do not share it; or participation in an activity is disproportionately low the use of positive action initiatives is considered. UCL will ensure appropriate procedures to allow continuous review for the impact of and need for its actions, to ensure these actions continue to fall within the scope of positive action.

<https://www.ucl.ac.uk/human-resources/learning-development/career-support-opportunities/race-equity-projects>