

**The University of Manchester**

**Particulars of Appointment**

**John Rylands Research Institute/The University of Manchester Library**

**Research Fellow/Cataloguer  
(1 post)**

1. **The University invites applications for the above post which is fixed term of 7 weeks (commencement date to be agreed)**
2. **Salary will be £31,706 (pro rata) according to relevant skills and experience**
3. **Informal inquiries may be made to Mr. John Hodgson, Joint Head of Special Collections at [john.hodgson@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:john.hodgson@manchester.ac.uk)**
4. **Applications should be made via the application form and returned to [jrri@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:jrri@manchester.ac.uk)**
5. **The University of Manchester values a diverse workforce and welcomes applications from all sectors of the community**

**Job Title:** Research Fellow/Cataloguer, Persian Collections  
**Salary:** Grade 6 (£31,076) pro rata  
**Start/Duration:** March 2017 for 7 weeks  
**Based at:** John Rylands Library Deansgate  
**Responsible to:** John Hodgson, Joint Head of Special Collections  
**Application deadline:** 10 February 2017

## Overview

The John Rylands Research Institute is a unique partnership, led by The University of Manchester's Faculty of Humanities and The University of Manchester Library, in which humanities scholars, scientists, curators, conservators and digital imaging specialists are brought together to uncover, explore, unravel and reveal hidden ideas and knowledge contained within the Library's world-leading Special Collections.

## The Persian Collections

The Library is home to an outstanding collection of Persian Manuscripts. The collection contains almost one thousand items, including a number of unique texts. Dating from the 13th to the 19th centuries CE, they encompass a wide range of subjects and cultural traditions. Poetry is especially well represented with a number of works of great academic interest, including rare Divans of lesser-known poets, and very early or autograph copies of well-known works. The collection is also important for the study of language, history, art history, religion and theology, philosophy, and the history of science. There are numerous calligraphic and lavishly illustrated texts and decorated bindings. Produced across the Persianate world, these manuscripts are a tangible demonstration of the widespread significance of Persian culture.

Outline descriptions of the Persian Manuscripts are available online via the Fihrist union catalogue, [www.fihrist.org.uk](http://www.fihrist.org.uk).

## The Post

This seven week research fellowship, funded by the Soudavar Memorial Foundation, is an opportunity to conduct research on and catalogue the Library's outstanding Persian language manuscripts.

Applicants are required to propose a research and cataloguing project focussing on a subset of the collection relevant to their experience and expertise. We particularly welcome proposals which focus on Zoroastrian and Old Iranian material.

## Assessment of applications

All applications are assessed by the Institute Directors in consultation with curators and academics.

Successful candidates will receive:

- A seven week paid contract;
- Support from expert curators, conservators and imaging specialists;
- Support from the Institute grant writer;
- Workspace and reading room provision;
- A warm welcome into the life of the Institute and invitations to take part in its activities.

## Essential Criteria

- Applicants must have advanced language skills suitable for the manuscripts selected for study;
- Applicants must have experience working with manuscripts, preferably of cataloguing manuscripts in TEI;
- All activity must have clear outputs and be deliverable within the proposed timescale;
- The outputs of the project should include full catalogue descriptions of at least twenty of the Library's manuscripts (in TEI format using Library created templates) based on research undertaken during the project;
- Proposals that also include additional research outputs are welcomed;
- Priority will be given to proposals focusing on old Iranian and Zoroastrian manuscripts;
- Projects which lead to collaborative research and collaborative grant capture with University of Manchester academics will be welcomed.

### **Visiting Research Fellow/Cataloguer Application Process**

Applicants are required to complete and submit an application form to: [JRRI@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:JRRI@manchester.ac.uk) to include:

- Personal details;
- Project details to include: title of project, proposed start and end date, objectives, methodology, an outline of the material to be consulted/catalogued and proposed outputs;
- Future plans including collaboration, partnership and grant capture with University of Manchester academics;
- Professional details to include: including a current CV (maximum 2 pages); an up to date list of relevant publications;
- Details, including e-mail addresses, of two referees who can be contacted should the application be shortlisted.

### **What will the Institute expect from the applicant?**

- The Fellowship is to be taken at a mutually agreed time within the 2016/17 academic year;
- A short report will be presented at the end of the Fellowship, to include plans for future collaboration, publication and grant capture;
- The Fellow will spend the seven week contract at the John Rylands Library;
- The Fellow will produce at least twenty catalogue records in TEI, according to the Library's guidelines;
- The Fellow will acknowledge the support of the John Rylands Research Institute and the Soudavar Memorial Foundation in any publications (whether online or hard-copy) arising out of the Fellowship.