

**The John Bedford Fellowship 2023**

Leeds Arts & Humanities Research Institute, in collaboration with the University of Leeds Special Collections, is pleased to announce the John Bedford Fellowship for 2023.

The John Bedford Fellowship is designed exclusively for a researcher to make use of the [John Evan Bedford Library of Furniture History](https://explore.library.leeds.ac.uk/special-collections-explore/663651/john_evan_bedford_library_of_furniture_history) in [Special Collections](https://library.leeds.ac.uk/info/1500/special_collections) at the University of Leeds. John Bedford assembled his library over a period of 45 years and gifted it in 2019 to the University of Leeds. Since Spring 2020 [a team of specialists have been working on cataloguing the collection](https://leedsunilibrary.wordpress.com/2020/04/29/cataloguing-the-john-evan-bedford-library-of-furniture-history/). Its focus is 17th-20th century furniture history, particularly British, and its intersection with other subjects, for example, garden design and history, topography, metalwork in relation to furnishings, textiles, interior design, the English home, architecture, and the Grand Tour. The library comprises some 5,000 printed items and extensive archival material, including the research notes of the furniture historians Edward T. Joy and Pauline Agius.

Particular strengths of the library are the rare books of ornament, the furniture and metalwork pattern books and related trade catalogues, the Birmingham trade directories (1770-1900) and cabinet-makers' books of prices, complemented by a [remarkable trade card collection](https://explore.library.leeds.ac.uk/special-collections-explore/678231) of more than 500 items dating from c.1680-c.1999, a significant cabinet-makers' archive, and an extensive collection of modern (post 1850) reference works.

Applicants may find relevant links to the current catalogue [here](https://explore.library.leeds.ac.uk/special-collections-explore/663651/john_evan_bedford_library_of_furniture_history).

Scholars working in and across any discipline(s) in the Arts and Humanities are eligible to apply. This collection is particularly relevant to those with research interests in Architecture and Architectural History, History of Art and Design, Book History, Business History, Collectors and Collecting, History of Printing, Social and Economic History, History of Science, and Material Culture. Research proposals in the following thematic areas/topics, utilising all aspects of the collection, are particularly welcomed:

* British, French, and German furniture makers and furniture designers of 17th-20th centuries
* Rare 17th, 18th and early 19th-century drawing books by Joseph Moxon, John Tinney, Rudolph Ackermann, and other British and continental figures.
* Rare 17th and 18th-century books of ornament by Thomas Chippendale Jnr, François Vivares, Jean Le Potre and others
* Cottage and country house architecture, and landscape gardening, including works by John Soane, Robert Adam, Edmund Bartell, William Halfpenny, and William Chambers.
* The Birmingham metalware trades and traders.
* London furniture and associated trades and traders
* Early scientific manuals and handbooks on building, carpentry, and industrial arts, such as silver casting and glass-making.
* 19th century Great Exhibitions in Europe
* Textiles and associated crafts
* 18th-century printers and engravers of rare furniture and other pattern books, for example, J. and I. Taylor, Henry Webley, Robert Sayer, Collectors and former owners

Successful applicants will be supported to spend the equivalent of two months full-time[[1]](#footnote-1) in Leeds to carry out their research activities. The Fellow will be appointed by the end of January 2023. There will be some flexibility in start date, though it is intended that the Fellowship will begin in late Spring 2023. Research must be completed by the end of August 2023.

On completion of their research, the Fellow is required to produce a scholarly output, such as an academic journal article, focused on material from the Bedford Collection. The Fellow is also required to give a lecture/seminar on the Bedford Collection and their research whilst at Leeds, hosted in Special Collections. The Fellow will also write a blog post to promote the Bedford Collection and their research for use on the Special Collections and LAHRI websites. [During 2022 our inaugural Bedford Fellow, Dr Hillary Taylor](Hillary%27s%20blogs%20needs%20this%20link%20but%20I%20cannot%20now%20add%20it%3A%20https%3A/leedsunilibrary.wordpress.com/2022/10/19/sideboards-and-socialism-jewish-contributions-to-the-british-furniture-industry/) wrote [several blogs](https://leedsunilibrary.wordpress.com/2022/10/19/sideboards-and-socialism-jewish-contributions-to-the-british-furniture-industry/) for Special Collections. Other social media activity is encouraged during the Fellowship and the Special Collections team will advise on this. There will also be an opportunity for the Fellow to contribute to a major exhibition on the Bedford Collection scheduled for 2024.

The Fellow will receive a payment of £6,000[[2]](#footnote-2) to enable them to spend time in Leeds undertaking the research.

**COVID restrictions**

The Special Collections Research Centre is open to researchers subject to government guidelines and current legislation. Details of opening hours and services are [on our website](https://library.leeds.ac.uk/info/1504/using_collections/78/plan_a_visit).

The Special Collections team is able to offer a virtual consultation session to any Bedford Fellowship applicant, to aid the submission of proposals. We expect the Bedford Fellow to spend at least half of their Fellowship in-person at the Library. Special Collections staff may spend up to three hours undertaking access photography for the Fellow to aid additional remote research activity.

**Applications should consist of electronic/email versions of:**

1. **A completed** [**application form**](http://arts.leeds.ac.uk/lhri/files/2014/01/LHRI-short-term-fellowships-application-form-2014-Final.docx) **incorporating;**
* a 500-word research proposal;
* a 200-word statement from the Leeds academic mentor confirming support for the application (applicants can consult the [Staff List](https://ahc.leeds.ac.uk/stafflist) in the Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Cultures, explore relevant researchers in individual [Schools](https://ahc.leeds.ac.uk/), or contact the LAHRI Director, [Professor James Stark](https://ahc.leeds.ac.uk/philosophy/staff/1160/professor-james-stark), for assistance in finding a suitable mentor);
1. **A 2-page CV including publications and conference papers and relevant professional/research experience;**
2. **One academic reference**

The reference should be **sent directly by the referee** via email to the LAHRI Administrator ahead of the deadline. It is the responsibility of prospective Fellows to ensure that references are sent directly to LAHRI.

**Deadlines**

The deadline for applications is **9am on Monday 09 January 2023**. The Fellowship start date will be flexible, but all research must be completed by the end of **August 2023**.

**Eligibility**

Candidates who have completed their PhD at any university are eligible. The selection of the Fellow will be based on the candidates’ ability to make full use of and promote the Bedford Collection to the wider research community.

All candidates must have passed their PhD viva by the application deadline. Exceptions to this will be considered where a strong case can be made that the applicant would still be in a position to complete the work on the above timescale.

 

**Bedford Postdoctoral Fellowship 2023 Application Form**

Please refer to the guidance above before completing this form. The form may be downloaded and completed electronically. It should be submitted by the academic mentor to the LAHRI Administrator by the relevant deadline.

SECTION 1 – Applicant Details

Title and Name:

Full Postal address:

Email address:

Phone Number:

Date of award of PhD (or of submission of thesis):

Nationality:

SECTION 2 - Project details – to be completed by the prospective Fellow

Project Title:

Project Description:

Please provide a research proposal setting out the work you would carry out during the Fellowship, explaining how you will make use of relevant areas in Special Collections (how this complements your research interests and activity) and plans for externally-funded Fellowships (500 words):

SECTION 3 – Timescales

Indicative start date of fellowship:

Indicative end date of fellowship:

SECTION 4 – Mentor’s Statement

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE MENTOR (A PERMANENT MEMBER OF ACADEMIC STAFF AT THE UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS)

Please confirm your support for this application, the candidate’s eligibility for external Fellowships, and how their work complements existing research activities at Leeds (max. 200 words):

Faculty:

School or Department:

Signature of Proposed Mentor:

Name:

Date:

THIS APPLICATION, WHEN COMPLETED, SHOULD BE FORWARDED TO LAHRI@LEEDS.AC.UK.

1. We are keen to enable flexible working, and Fellowships can also be undertaken on a part-time basis. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. This will be subject to the usual tax and National Insurance contributions at source. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)