SEAHA CENTRE FOR DOCTORAL TRAINING IN SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING IN ARTS HERITAGE AND ARCHAEOLOGY

SEAHA Studentship: Lighting Policies for Collections using Microfadeometry

The EPSRC Centre for Doctoral Training in Science and Engineering in Arts, Heritage and Archaeology at University College London, University of Oxford an University of Brighton (www.seaha-cdt.ac.uk), in collaboration with the Wellcome Collection and Townshend and Thomas LLP, are seeking applications for one fully funded studentship on the topic "Lighting Policies for Collections using Microfadeometry". Funded by the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) through the Centre for Doctoral Training and co-funded by the Wellcome Collection, the four year doctoral research programme will be supervised jointly by UCL Centre for Sustainable Heritage (http://www.bartlett.ucl.ac.uk/graduate/csh/csh-home/), Wellcome Library (http://wellcomelibrary.org/), and Townshend and Thomas LLP.

This a very exciting studentship focusing on decisions on lighting policies in collecting institutions worldwide. These are often made based on implicit knowledge of instability of a work of art or of a collection, e.g. light budget guidelines as available in the BSI PAS198 "Specification for managing environmental conditions for cultural collections". Such decisions often err on the side of caution as some objects (even within the same vulnerability group) may be more sensitive than others, which leads to exhibitions being limited in terms of duration of display or lighting levels. However, scientific tools have been developed that enable us to test the colour stability of a particular object: a (portable) microfadeometer both illuminates the object (~0.5 mm) and measures the resulting colour change simultaneously, which allows collection care specialists to develop object-specific or collection-specific exhibition guidelines. The doctoral project will address the following research questions:

(i) Can suitable lighting guidelines be developed using microfadeometry, taking into account different types of objects and light sources?
(ii) Using the principles of sustainability, can suitable guidelines be developed for the choice of light sources, as well as for what could be the acceptable level of light damage in the long-term?
(iii) Can an online tool be developed to assist in decision making about light levels during exhibitions?

The research project will require the use of an exciting range of research methods: from microfadeometry to surface and other material characterisation techniques, as well as engagement with practitioners and development of online tools. This highly cross-disciplinary project will enable you to seek employment in any number of diverse environments: from academia to conservation, as well as engineering and industry.

As a SEAHA student, you will have unparalleled access to research infrastructure and expertise across three universities and almost 50 heritage, research and industrial partners. In addition to the university doctoral training requirements, SEAHA students take part in an exciting range of cohort activities, ranging from residential events and group projects, to conferences and careers events. Please visit the SEAHA website (www.seaha-cdt.ac.uk) for details.

You will have a good first degree in a relevant discipline: preferably material science or chemistry, but also conservation, heritage science, physics or engineering. For further details contact Dr. Matija Strlic, m.strlic@ucl.ac.uk.

SEAHA is a Doctoral Training Centre at University College London (UCL), University of Oxford, and University of Brighton. SEAHA is funded by the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC).

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The SEAHA Studentship will cover home fees and a stipend of up to a maximum of £16,726 per year (current rate) for eligible applicants (http://www.seaha-cdt.ac.uk/opportunities/eligibility-criteria/), and a substantial budget for research, travel, and cohort activities.

The application should include:

- A covering letter clearly stating your motivation
- The UCL graduate application form which can be downloaded via UCL's web site: http://www.ucl.ac.uk/prospective-students/graduate/apply/apply-now/ucl-graduate-application-form.pdf
- Two academic references
- A copy of your degree certificate(s) and transcript(s) of degree(s),
- Proof of meeting the UCL English language proficiency requirements where necessary. For SEAHA candidates, an advanced level certificate is normally required (details of English language proficiency requirements can be found at http://www.ucl.ac.uk/prospective-students/graduate/apply/english-language/index)
- A short research proposal (max. 2000 words) written by taking into consideration the above research questions.

The award will be subject to Grant Agreement between Wellcome Collection, Townshend and Thomas LLP and UCL.

The applications should not be submitted by UCL online admissions system. Instead, they should be sent directly to:

SEAHA Manager
manager@seaha-cdt.ac.uk
UCL Centre for Sustainable Heritage
Faculty of the Built Environment
UCL
14 Upper Woburn Place
London WC1E 0NN

UCL Taking Action For Equality.

Application deadline: 15 July 2014; Interviews: 22 July 2014

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