

## **Doctoral studentship in history**

### ***Constitution-making in Sudan***

Applications are invited from eligible candidates for a doctoral studentship on the history of constitution-making in Sudan since the 1950s. The doctorate will be supervised by Justin Willis (Durham University) and Willow Berridge (Newcastle University). This funded doctoral studentship is supported by the Northern Bridge Doctoral Training Centre and will run for 42 months (with a possible 6 months extension) from 1 October 2021.

This is a Collaborative Doctoral Award, offered in partnership with the Research Analysts Department of the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) and the Rift Valley Institute. The studentship includes payment of tuition fees, a maintenance award at UK Research Council standard levels and fund for fieldwork and other associated costs.

#### ***Summary***

In 2019, the regime of Omer el Beshir in Sudan crumbled in the face of mass popular unrest. A new transitional government was created, pledged to a far-reaching programme of reform including a constitutional conference and agreement on the principles of a permanent constitution. This is the third time since Sudan's independence that an authoritarian government has been overthrown and hope for the future has been placed on constitutional change to end chronic violence and persistent inequality: in 1964 and again in 1985 there were similar moments of political opening and optimism. That constitution-making has an unhappy record. On both those occasions, the process was bitterly contested and became mired in disagreements until military governments seized power.

This studentship will support a programme of doctoral research into the history of those earlier constitution-making attempts, with the explicit aim of informing the current process. In addition to undertaking historical research for a doctorate in history, the student will spend time with Research Analysts Department and with RVI, gaining experience in providing research-based knowledge to policy audiences in government and in civil society.

## ***Eligibility criteria***

The successful candidate must meet the criteria for the acceptance on a doctoral programme as set out by Durham University: <https://www.dur.ac.uk/study/pg/apply/>. The following further criteria apply to this studentship:

<b>Education and Professional Qualifications</b>	<i>Essential Criteria</i>	1. Undergraduate degree in History or a related discipline, with at least a strong upper second AND 2. Masters degree in History or a related discipline, with at least a Merit
	<i>Desirable Criteria</i>	Previous study of African history and politics
<b>Research and Impact Experience and Training</b>	<i>Desirable Criteria</i>	Previous research experience relevant to modern African history; previous experience of advocacy
<b>Professional Practice and Job-related Experience</b>	<i>Desirable Criteria</i>	Previous experience in research analysis and/or civil society
<b>Interpersonal Skills</b>	<i>Essential Criteria</i>	Strong communication skills; an ability to engage audience attention and to establish relationships of trust with interlocutors
<b>Other Factors</b>	<i>Essential Criteria</i>	International students may apply, but please note that in order to apply for FCDO security clearance, applicants must have a minimum of two years' residence, including 12 months of continuous residence, in the UK in the preceding ten years. The student will need to sign an agreement with FCDO covering standards of behaviour, propriety, values and confidentiality
	<i>Desirable Criteria</i>	Speaking/reading ability in Arabic; previous knowledge of Sudan and Sudanese history

## ***Application process***

Applications should be made by email to [Justin.Willis@durham.ac.uk](mailto:Justin.Willis@durham.ac.uk) by 4 pm on 11 January 2021. These should include:

1. A personal statement of not more than 500 words explaining why you are interested in this opportunity, and how you think your skills and experience are appropriate.
2. A CV setting out your qualifications and relevant experience
3. The names and email contacts of two referees who are able to comment on your suitability for the studentship.

Those shortlisted as a result of this process will be contacted by 25 January 2021, and interviewed online in the week beginning 1 February 2021.

***Enquiries***

All enquiries about the studentship should be directed to [Justin.Willis@durham.ac.uk](mailto:Justin.Willis@durham.ac.uk)