

THE QUEEN'S FOUNDATION FOR ECUMENICAL THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION

Selly Oak Centre for Mission Studies

Visiting Scholar (3 months)

This scholarship is awarded at the Selly Oak Centre for Mission Studies (SOCMS), based at the Queen's Ecumenical Foundation in Birmingham, UK. (www.queens.ac.uk).

The Selly Oak Centre for Mission Studies

The Selly Oak Centre for Mission Studies is the successor to the United College of the Ascension, and carries out its activities as part of the Queen's Foundation for Ecumenical Theological Education on its campus in Edgbaston, Birmingham. The SOCMS is sponsored by the Methodist Church in Britain (www.methodist.org.uk) and USPG, an Anglican mission society (www.uspg.org.uk). It focuses their work on preparing and receiving mission partners, engaging in mission education and research in global contexts, and developing a network of mission focused institutions. The Centre, within the Queen's Foundation, aims to form an international community of staff and students that reflects and embodies the diversity of the world church.

The Queen's Foundation

The Queen's Foundation is dedicated to excellence in theological education, ministerial training, mission studies and personal formation in the service of God. The Foundation incorporates four constituent groups – ministerial education in a residential setting (the Queen's college); ministerial education in a part-time non-residential setting (the West Midlands Ministry Training Course); research students and projects (the Research Centre); and global mission studies and training (the Selly Oak Centre for Mission Studies). Each constituency has its own distinctive identity and focus of activity, but each understands itself as part of a unitary body – the Foundation – and is committed to working in ways that are collaborative, supportive and self-critical. The Foundation and the Centre together aim to assist Christians and the churches in understanding how to engage in ministry and mission with integrity, in the light of Christian traditions, the many perspectives of the contemporary global Christian community and the challenges posed by the modern world. They both aim to maintain a learning and worshipping community that values diversity, dialogue and critical openness in pursuing education in mission and ministry and the promotion of research activities. The Centre within the Foundation builds on this, seeking to share in the mission of God in the world through helping the Church develop theologies and practices appropriate to the 21st Century.

The City of Birmingham

The vibrant, multicultural city of Birmingham, with its unique rich, social, ethnic, religious and academic resources, offers exceptional opportunities to students to explore the range of the challenges and opportunities presented to the Church in our time. By reflection upon their own faith in the light of the variety with which they are confronted, in the College community and in the city at large, students are equipped to engage in a variety of ministries in the worldwide church with energy, insight and imagination. The Foundation and the Centre is committed to theological education which is ecumenical, inclusive, engaging, flexible and practical. Through this we aim to form passionate, creative and imaginative disciples of Christ who are able to face the challenges of our world and the church in the 21st century where people must negotiate tradition, change, justice and diversity.

The Visiting Scholar

This scholarship is offered to someone who is already involved in or who wishes to work on a piece of research within a given time. This should be specified before arrival and there should be enough evidence that it will benefit the Scholar as well as his/her home church. It may be an opportunity to work on a book or an article/s to be published. It is also a time for gaining wider exposure, with preference given to candidates who have not been overseas very frequently. Scholars are expected to play a full part in the community, its social activities and its worshipping life. This will give the scholar a chance to interact with people from all over the world. Where a scholar wishes, and by mutual agreement, s/he is encouraged to contribute to classes and short courses in the Centre and Foundation, and to take part in events, activities and worship within the British churches. Visiting scholars are also welcome to attend any courses within the Foundation.

Terms and conditions

The Visiting Scholarship is offered annually for a period of one term, normally from September to December, or January to March/April. Selection will be by the Centre staff and candidates will normally be recommended by one of the sponsoring bodies, or be known directly to staff or associates of the Centre or the Queens Foundation. A scholar will be provided with full board and lodging, a return air fare and an allowance of £50 a week for other expenses. £100 is available for internal travel which furthers the aims of the scholarship.

Applications may be submitted at any time of the year and should include:

- a detailed CV
- a plan of how you would use your time in Birmingham.
- a reference from your Bishop or church authority
- an academic reference

Applications should be sent to:

The Director, Selly Oak Centre for Mission Studies

Queen's Foundation

Somerset Road

Edgbaston

Birmingham B15 2QH

UK

Tel: 0121 454 1527 Fax: 0121 454 8171

Website: www.queens.ac.uk e-mail: enquire.missioncentre@queens.ac.uk